



## Committee of the Whole Report

### For the Meeting of December 8, 2022

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** December 8, 2022

**From:** Karen Hoes, Director, Sustainable Planning and Community Development

**Subject:** Council Briefing on Housing in Victoria: Needs, Strategy, and Response

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### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive for information this report summarizing the content of the upcoming briefing regarding Victoria's housing needs and the City's policies, regulations, and initiatives that work to address these needs.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a high-level agenda and background information to accompany a briefing focused on housing need in Victoria; actions of the *Victoria Housing Strategy*; and key housing policies, regulations and initiatives that work together to help Victorians find a home that is safe, affordable, and appropriate, now and into the future. Relevant policies, bylaws, guidelines, and information are provided as linked attachments.

### SUMMARY OF BRIEFING

#### Introduction: Framing the issues and opportunities

- Housing is a defining challenge for Victoria
- Root causes of the issue
- Need for a holistic and collaborative approach to our housing crisis
- Solutions can provide opportunities to support climate action and complete communities

#### Topic 1: Victoria's Housing Future Report – Housing need & land use capacity

- Defining housing need in Victoria
- Catching up: Housing needs today
- Keeping up: Future housing needs
- Understanding the housing continuum
- Land use capacity assessment

#### Topic 2: Victoria Housing Strategy – Roadmap for housing actions

- Housing strategy and housing targets
- Strategic actions and achievements
- Progress on targets

### **Topic 3: Affordable Housing Supports and Response – Current efforts to facilitate affordability**

- Defining affordable rental housing
- Delivery of affordable rental housing
- Key challenges facing affordable housing
- City efforts to support affordable housing development

### **Topic 4: Tenant Support Work – A tenant-oriented approach**

- Focus on renters
- Supporting and protecting tenants
- Engaging renters

### **Wrap-up and final takeaways**

- Understanding the current housing crisis
- Role of the City as a housing champion, actor, and partner
- Need for urgency and on-going action
- Role of housing policy in relation to other City objectives

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This report provides background information for a briefing that will describe Victoria's housing needs alongside City policies and strategies to address the housing crisis. The briefing will provide a first step in understanding Victoria's housing ecosystem. In the coming months staff will continue to bring forward housing policy reports that will expand on and provide nuance to our current understanding of housing needs and solutions and provide opportunity for Council consideration. This ongoing conversation will reflect the City's current and potential efforts to respond to the housing availability and affordability crisis.

Respectfully submitted,

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Senior Planner

Karen Hoese, Director  
Sustainable Planning and Community  
Development Department

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.**

### **List of Attachments**

- Attachment A: [Victoria's Housing Future](#) Report (2021)
- Attachment B: [Victoria Housing Strategy Phase II: 2019 - 2022](#)
- Attachment C: [Housing Strategy Annual Review 2021](#)
- Attachment D: [Victoria Housing Reserve Fund Guidelines](#)
- Attachment E: [Rapid Deployment of Affordable Housing](#)
- Attachment F: [Inclusionary Housing and Community Amenity Policy](#)
- Attachment G: [Tenant Assistance Policy](#)
- Attachment H: [Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw](#)