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## Council Report 2020-54

**Title:** Community Safety and Well-being Plan Update

**Prepared by:** Sarah Tanner, Community and Customer Services Manager

**Reviewed by:** Lisa Horne, Director, Community and Social Services

**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, Chief Administration Officer

**Strategic Plan:** Thriving and Inclusive Communities

**Council Date:** June 17, 2020

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### Recommendation

**“Whereas** the Council of the County of Northumberland received Report No. 2020-54 (Community Safety and Well-being Plan Update); and

**Whereas** and it has been approved by the Council of the Corporation of the County of Northumberland that the Northumberland Community Safety and Well-being Plan implementation will be administered and led from a County level as per Resolution 2019-04-17-64 dated April 17<sup>th</sup> 2019; and

**Whereas** on April 14, 2020, the government passed the *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020*, which amends the PSA to allow the Solicitor General to prescribe a new deadline for the completion and adoption of CSWB plans past January 1, 2021;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved That** the Council of the Corporation of the County of Northumberland receives the following update identifying new tools to ensure engagement of local residents and community groups encouraging consultation while respecting physical distancing and other COVID-19 related protocols and approves the updated implementation timeline and steps to establish the initial Northumberland Community Safety and Well-being Plan and maintain compliance with the amendment to the *Police Services Act, 1990*.”

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update the Council of the Corporation of the County of Northumberland of the amendment to the date for completion in preparing and submitting a Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plan as legislated by the *Police Services Act* amendment which came into effect on January 2019.

This report is also seeking endorsement from the Council of the Corporation of the County of Northumberland for the use of Bang the Table as an online tool to support and ensure Community Engagement in this process during the COVID 19 pandemic.

## **Background**

On April 14, 2020, the government passed the *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020*, which amends the PSA to allow the Solicitor General to prescribe a new deadline for the completion and adoption of CSWB Plans past January 1, 2021. The amendments came into force immediately upon Royal Assent. This change is designed to help ensure municipalities are able to meet the legislative requirements and complete their CSWB Plans.

Planning for Community Safety and Well-being requires taking an integrated approach to service delivery by working across a wide range of sectors, agencies and organizations (including, but not limited to, local government, police services, health/mental health, education, social services, and community and custodial services for children and youth).

While recognizing that the plan requires developing and implementing evidence-based strategies and programs to address local priorities related to crime and complex social issues on a sustainable basis, it is essential that we include the experiences and priorities for our local communities. It is important to provide an easy and secure way for Northumberland residents to participate in the conversation and contribute to setting priorities and solution development.

Bang the Table is a dedicated online platform offering participants opportunities to learn, engage and give honest feedback when and where it's convenient for them. This supports the stated objective of co-design, which is central to ensure we move away from reactionary incident driven responses.

## **Consultations**

Consultations and information sessions will be ongoing through 2020, including conversations and online information sessions with strategic partners including the Northumberland CAOs' Committee, Fire Services, Police Services, Inter-Municipal Clerks and Records Management Committee, Ontario Health Team of Northumberland and others.

The extension to the completion date ensures that Northumberland County can continue to dedicate the necessary capacity and resources to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, while also providing adequate time to effectively undertake consultations, work collaboratively with partners, and develop meaningful and fulsome plans following the provincial emergency. Other forms of virtual engagement will be considered as required.

Bang The Table is a new resource with the County, and allows Northumberland County to commence consulting Community groups and local residents. This will include the opportunity for members of the public, businesses and community partners to complete a questionnaire identifying the top priorities to enhance community safety and well-being in Northumberland. The platform also asks for questions and feedback from residents and groups, and encourages idea and solution creation as part of the site

The data manager who coordinates the current risk driven reporting (for the Situation Table) who is situated in the Port Hope Police Service is supportive of this approach to develop virtual engagement opportunities across Northumberland and will offer support with analysis.

## **Legislative Authority/Risk Considerations**

The legislative requirement for Community Safety and Well-being Plans has come from the Police Services Act 2018 amendment which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

## **Discussion/Options**

Bang the Table offers a tool which supports Northumberland County to complete the development of a Northumberland County Community Safety and Well-being Plan will further enhance communication and collaboration among sectors, agencies and organizations and encourage increased understanding of and focus on local risks and vulnerable groups.

This engagement platform, Bang The Table, will enable feedback data and project updates to local residents to keep them informed and involved in progress. There is an option for a built-in newsletter which will help to close the feedback loop.

Bang the Table will also support the County to engage with diverse groups of people. This platform offers us the opportunity to reach out to those groups and people that have been previously hard for us to connect to.

Bang the Table also enables the County to analyze community feedback among different demographics, and create reports that will help us understand the participants responses. The Province have not determined the new date for the completed Northumberland County Community and Safety Plan to be submitted to the Ministry. Northumberland County will continue with development of the advisory group and for community participation. With the current COVID-19 outbreak, and the unprecedented circumstances in our community we acknowledge the delay in the previously agreed planning and engagement processes. It is currently estimated that the plan will be completed within 6 months of the original required submission date. This will be determined when further information and guidance from the Ministry is available.

The County-wide plan will help to build on the modernization and transformation of service delivery, including realignment of resources and responsibilities to better respond to priorities and needs in our community, thus reducing the financial impact of social determinants of health and crime.

## **Financial Impact**

It is anticipated that the financial impact to the Council of the Corporation of the County of Northumberland to lead the development of the plan within the legislated timeline incurs costs of staff time and minimal associated costs for consultation and administration. Future costs are not yet determined.

## **Member Municipality Impacts**

This opportunity to share the required activity including consultation, the development of the plan and the collection and analysis of the data and reporting that will be required will be most effective and efficient on a County-wide basis.

Member Municipalities will have critical influence on the advisory committee and subsequent planning and implementation groups. All municipalities will be involved and have a role in the required community consultations and identifying their local priorities and risks. Other stakeholders across Northumberland are also required to be involved.

## **Conclusion/Outcomes**

The creation of a Northumberland plan will help address identified risks and opportunities through evidence-based programs and strategies, focusing on social development, prevention and risk intervention.

It is recommended that the Council of the Corporation of the County of Northumberland support this update including the amended timeline and the use of Bang the Table to 'virtually' engage with Northumberland residents, business and community groups.

County staff will continue to lead and coordinate the planning, development and required reporting of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan and ensure compliance with provincial legislation.

## **Attachments**

N/A