



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Committee

MINUTES

Date: Monday, November 24, 2025
Time: 9:17 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Hunter, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Sebben, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: André Morin - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services and Interim Director of Human Resources, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Will Mason – Maintenance Rent Receivables Clerk

Also Present: Krista Robinson - Chief Executive Officer, Stratford Public Library, Members of the Public and Media

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence

from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest made by a Member at the November 24, 2025 Social Services Committee meeting.

3. Sub-committee Minutes

Sub-committee minutes were provided for background regarding the discussion held at the November 12, 2025, Sub-committee meeting.

5. Report of the Supervisor of Social Services - Housing

5.1 Implementation of Seniors Designated Housing Pilot Project within the Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation (SOC25-017)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Implementation of Seniors Designated Housing Pilot Project within the Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation" (SOC25-017), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to make and update local eligibility rules for the purpose of seniors designated housing pertaining to the Housing Services Act, 2011;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the Director to make and update local eligibility rules for the purpose of seniors designated housing pertaining to the Housing Services Act, 2011.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Implementation of Seniors Designated Housing Pilot Project within the Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation" (SOC25-017), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to make and update local eligibility rules for the purpose of seniors designated housing pertaining to the Housing Services Act, 2011;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the Director to make and update local eligibility rules for the purpose of seniors designated housing pertaining to the Housing Services Act, 2011.

Committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services provided an overview of the report.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

Committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Implementation of Seniors Designated Housing Pilot Project within the Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation" (SOC25-017), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to make and update local eligibility rules for the purpose of seniors designated housing pertaining to the Housing Services Act, 2011;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the Director to make and update local eligibility rules for the purpose of seniors designated housing pertaining to the Housing Services Act, 2011.

Members of the Committee held a discussion regarding the motion.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- staff being thanked for their work on this pilot project;
- there being a high number of seniors who are on the waitlist for rent-geared-to-income housing while there is a limited number of units available;
- this issue becoming more significant as provincial and federal agreements related to these projects are coming to a close; and
- the program addressing a specific kind of need in the community.

The Chair called the question on the motion.

Carried

6. Report of the Manager of Children's Services

6.1 The Early Development Instrument (EDI) in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County (SOC25-013)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "The Early Development Instrument (EDI) in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-013), be received for information.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "The Early Development Instrument (EDI) in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-013), be received for information.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

Committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "The Early Development Instrument (EDI) in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-013), be received for information.

Carried

7. Report of the Manager of Ontario Works

7.1 Partnership with The Local Community Food Centre (SOC25-014)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Partnership with The Local Community Food Centre" (SOC25-014), be received for information.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Partnership with The Local Community Food Centre" (SOC25-014), be received for information.

Committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services provided an overview of the report.

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

Committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Partnership with The Local Community Food Centre" (SOC25-014), be received for information.

Members of the Committee held a discussion regarding the motion.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- the Local Community Food Centre being thanked for the work that they do for the community;
- the Local having a program on Fridays where a public health paramedic and nurse are present to provide health care services to individuals who may have difficulty accessing them;

- the Local's programs having a significant impact to the community; and
- companionship being one of the significant benefits that is offered by the organization through their programs.

The Chair called the question on the motion.

Carried

7.2 Sports and Leisure Program - Outcomes and Impact (SOC25-015)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Sports and Leisure Program – Outcomes and Impact" (SOC25-015), be received for information.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Sports and Leisure Program – Outcomes and Impact" (SOC25-015), be received for information.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

Committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Sports and Leisure Program – Outcomes and Impact" (SOC25-015), be received for information.

Carried

7.3 Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County Employment Ontario Services (SOC25-016)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County Employment Ontario Services" (SOC25-016), be received for information.

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County Employment Ontario Services" (SOC25-016), be received for information.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Seconded by Councillor Hunter

Committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County Employment Ontario Services" (SOC25-016), be received for information.

Carried

8. For the Information of Committee

8.1 Department Update

The following Department Update Infographics of September, 2025 were provided for the information of Committee:

- Monthly Children's Services Report
- Monthly Homelessness Report
- Monthly Housing Report
- Monthly Ontario Works Report
- Monthly Social Services Stratford Report

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

Committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 9:17 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 9:27 P.M.