

May 2, 2025

Attention: York Region Housing and Homelessness Committee

RE: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE - MANDATE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Regional Council, at its meeting held on April 24, 2025, adopted the following:

1. Council establish a Housing and Homelessness Committee as a Special Committee of Council.
2. Council refer the proposed mandate and Terms of Reference for the Housing and Homelessness Committee as outlined in Appendix A to its first meeting and direct the Committee to report back with any further recommended changes.

Attached is Appendix A - Terms of Reference, for consideration.

Also attached, for information, is Appendix B – 2025 Proposed Schedule.

Sincerely,



Christopher Raynor
Regional Clerk

CR/cc

Attachments (2)



The Regional Municipality of York
Housing and Homelessness Committee
Terms of Reference

Purpose	What will the Committee do?
	<p>The Housing and Homelessness Committee is a Special Committee of Council to inform development of the Region's next 10-year housing and homelessness plan, with a focus on addressing supply-related challenges across the Region's overall housing and homelessness system. This includes accelerating development of emergency and transitional, affordable and community housing with heightened Federal and Provincial funding.</p> <p>As Service Manager for housing and homelessness services, the Region is required under the <i>Housing Services Act, 2011</i> to have a 10-year housing and homelessness plan that addresses local needs and matters of Provincial interest. The mandate of the Housing and Homelessness Committee is to guide the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Region's next 10-year housing and homelessness plan. This will include affordable and community housing, emergency and transitional housing, supply-related challenges, policy approaches, program responses, and investment strategies.</p> <p>Key responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying, prioritizing, and recommending solutions to Council to address needs across the housing system to inform the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan. This includes increasing and accelerating new supply of affordable and community housing, and emergency and transitional housing, as well as supporting capital needs to sustain existing supply • Supporting coordination with key partners, such as local municipalities, non-profit and private sectors to advance shared housing and homelessness priorities • Advocating for investment from all levels of government and supporting the Region in securing relevant funding opportunities that advance the Region's housing goals • Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of housing strategies, policies, and programs to ensure they advance the Region's goals and adapt to changing local needs • Other responsibilities identified by the Housing and Homelessness Committee and approved by Council
Background	Why was it created?
	<p>In February 2021, Regional Council declared a housing affordability crisis in York Region and in response, established the Housing Affordability Task Force. The Task Force discussed opportunities to increase affordable housing supply, with a focus on the private rental market. In accordance with the Region's Procedure Bylaw 2024-52, the Task Force will be deemed to be discharged on March 30, 2025.</p>

Addressing York Region’s housing and homelessness challenges is a priority for Council and housing affordability is a top concern for residents. A Special Committee of Council is needed to help prioritize and recommend solutions with a focus on the broader housing and homelessness system to guide development of the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan, including accelerating development of emergency and transitional, affordable and community housing with heightened funding from senior governments.

As Service Manager for community housing and homelessness programs, York Region is required to have a 10-year housing and homelessness plan. Council approved York Region’s first plan in 2014. Development of the next plan is underway, to be completed pending release of new Provincial requirements for 10-year plans. The Housing and Homelessness Committee will advise on commitments under the next 10-year plan, ensure alignment across the housing and homelessness system, and support coordination and collaboration at the local municipal level.

Committee Composition	Who is on the Committee?
<p>Composition of the Housing and Homelessness Committee is to be determined by Regional Chairman and CEO.</p> <p>As determined by the Regional Chairman and CEO, for 2025 and 2026, composition will include the Regional Chairman and CEO, and Mayors from the nine local municipalities to maintain consistency and build on the work of the Task Force.</p> <p>The Housing and Homelessness Committee will appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting.</p> <p>Quorum will be a majority of members of the Housing and Homelessness Committee.</p> <p>The Housing and Homelessness Committee will be supported by representatives from senior management and the following Departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the CAO • Community and Health Services • Corporate Services • Finance • Legal Services • Public Works 	
Term of Membership and Meetings	How long is the commitment for the Committee?
<p>Membership on the Housing and Homelessness Committee will coincide with the term of Council. As a new term of Council commences, the Regional Chairman and CEO will determine membership.</p> <p>The Housing and Homelessness Committee will be scheduled to meet at least three times per year, with specific dates and times for meetings to be determined. The Chair of the Committee may call additional meetings and/or cancel any meetings. Meetings of the Housing and Homelessness Committee will not conflict with the regular meetings of Council.</p>	
Responsibilities	How will the Committee work together to meet its purpose?

Housing and Homelessness Committee members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings. The Committee may provide feedback to Regional staff, request information, inform actions and strategies to advance the Region’s housing and homelessness priorities, and make recommendations to Council.

Key deliverables include development of the Region’s next 10-year housing and homelessness plan targeted for December 2025, pending the release of Provincial requirements. Following approval of the 10-year plan by Regional Council, the Housing and Homelessness Committee will continue to meet over 2026 to guide early implementation of approved commitments. A final report on work of the Committee and progress made will be provided to Council in December 2026.

As a Special Committee of Council, the Housing and Homelessness Committee will report directly to Regional Council. . Following each meeting, Housing and Homelessness Committee minutes will be provided to Regional Council for adoption, as well as any recommendations to advance the Region’s housing priorities for approval.

Responsibilities related to Housing York Inc. will continue to be governed by the Housing York Inc. Board of Directors.

Accountability	What needs to be done and by whom?
	<p>The Regional Clerk, in consultation with Housing Services and Social Services, within the Community and Health Services Department, will solicit agenda items and prepare meeting agendas and minutes.</p> <p>The Housing and Homelessness Committee is subject to the <i>Municipal Act, 2001</i>, and all applicable rules of procedure and policies that govern Council, including public access to meetings.</p>

Housing and Homelessness Committee 2025 Proposed Schedule

Timeline	Proposed Subjects	Details and Deliverables
May 2025	<i>Setting the Stage:</i> Housing and homelessness challenges, governance structure and looking ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Housing and Homelessness Committee proposed mandate and Terms of Reference Receive information on challenges and recent work in York Region’s housing system, and update on 2024-2027 Homelessness Service System Plan/Rapid Deployment Actions Provide feedback to inform future discussions on opportunities to address housing and homelessness challenges
June 2025	<i>Identify Opportunities:</i> Accelerate emergency & transitional, affordable and community housing, overcome barriers, and leverage innovative solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive Housing Supply and Affordability update (Measuring and Monitoring Report) Provide feedback on leveraging Regional, local municipal, and private lands to advance site selection for Regional housing priorities, including emergency a transitional, affordable and community housing Identify strategies and methods to accelerate housing projects and priorities with heightened senior government funding, building on Council’s request in January 2025 to explore options for increasing housing affordability
September 2025	<i>Identify Opportunities:</i> Learn from experience and explore a pilot project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review direction and implementation of actions to increase the supply of affordable and community housing presented to Council on October 2024, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing development coordination program (“conciierge”) that supports connection to funding opportunities, system navigation, and connects non-profits and private developers Non-profit pre-development supports and rent supplement opportunities Alignment and coordination with local municipalities on actions Provide feedback on work to advance emergency and transitional housing sites Receive information on barriers, opportunities, and lessons learned from panel on municipal, non-profit, and private affordable housing projects Inform approaches to accelerate housing projects through private and non-profit partnerships using innovative and rapid building techniques, and identify a pilot project that offers acceleration options
October 2025	<i>Moving Forward:</i> Advance a pilot project in York Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive update on development of the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan Recommend a pilot project for Council’s consideration

Topics for Housing and Homelessness Committee meetings may be subject to change based on progression of projects. A special event may also be considered in November 2025 in recognition of National Housing Day to highlight accomplishments, work underway, and support advocacy to all levels of government.