City of St. Albert **CITY COUNCIL POLICY**	Social Development			
AUTHORITY City Council	**APPROVED**	**Res. No.** C-04-2015	**mm dd** 01 12	**REVISED**	**Res. No.** **mm dd**

Purpose

The Community's Social Master Plan "Cultivating a Community for All", reflects the identified key social issues and themes, providing a roadmap to address priorities. This Council Policy comprises a set of values that will be used as a tool for planning, resource allocation and decision-making.

Policy

The City of St. Albert believes in the advancement of a fair and equitable society that promotes respect for all ~~citizens~~ residents, strengthens the community, reduces causes of disadvantage and inequality and ensures that all ~~citizens~~ residents in St. Albert thrive and enjoy the best quality of life possible.

The City and the community have a role in social sustainability to ensure that all residents of St. Albert are knowledgeable with respect to the priority social issues and furthermore are empowered to contribute to the social fabric of the community.

The Social Master Plan and its initiatives shall continue to ~~align to the Province of Alberta's Social Policy Framework.~~ ensure compliance with the Family and Community Support Services Act.

Definitions

"Bullying" means when an individual or a group of people with more power, repeatedly and intentionally cause hurt or harm to another person or group of people who feel helpless to respond.

"Discrimination" means a distinction, whether intentional or not but based on grounds relating to personal characteristics of the individual or group, which has the effect of imposing burdens, obligations or disadvantages on such individual or group not imposed upon others, or which withholds or limits access to opportunities, benefits, and advantages available to other members of society (see Diversity).

"Diversity" means to encompass acceptance and respect, understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing individual differences ~~in terms of~~ in accordance with the protected grounds enumerated in the Alberta Human Rights Act, including race, colour, ~~ethnicity~~ place of origin, ancestry , gender, gender identity or expression, source of income, age, ~~physical~~

disability, mental disability, religious beliefs, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or other ideologies.

"Financial Security" means a condition whereby individuals and families have the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain economic self-sufficiency and participation in society.

"Preventative Social Services" means services that enhance the social well-being of individuals and families through promotion or intervention strategies provided at the earliest opportunity.

~~"Province of Alberta's Social Policy Framework" means a document completed in 2013 that is a vision for social policy defining who we are as people and communities and reflecting aspirations for its citizens' highest possible quality of life.~~

"Service Providers" means non-profit, government-funded organizations that provide a service or a resource to the community.

"Social Engagement" means including residents in a way that will ensure that community members have access to valued social settings and activities, feel that they are able to contribute meaningfully to those activities, and develop functional skills that enable them to participate fully.

"Social Master Plan" means a high level plan that represents the views and ideas of the people who live in St. Albert and works to guide the creation of a thriving, caring and connected community that takes care of its most vulnerable while providing opportunities for everyone to realize their full potential.

"Social Policy" means the laws, actions, regulations, values and guidelines designed and used to protect vulnerable people, reduce inequality and create a system of supports for individuals and communities for the good of society. It influences how members ~~in~~ of a society live, work and spend their time and determines how human needs are met in areas such as housing, basic needs, employment, education, recreation, leisure, mental and physical health, safety and the care of children

"Social Sustainability" means the ability of a community to develop processes and structures which not only meet the needs of its current members but also support the ability of future generations to maintain a healthy community.

"Stakeholders" means any individual or organization that has an interest in the delivery of services to the community.

"Values" means an ideal or value that is actively pursued through goals, actions and ultimately outcomes.

Responsibilities

1. City Council is responsible for:

a. Using the ~~identified~~ Social Master Plan values and expected outcomes to guide its decision-making with respect to the funding of current and future operations, initiatives and projects within its purview.

b. Advocating to the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta and the St. Albert community in order to further the outcome of increased social sustainability in St. Albert.

c. Measuring the impact of work undertaken to further the values identified in the Social Master Plan "Cultivating a Community for All".

d. ~~Ensuring that any Community Services Advisory Board~~ approves ~~recommendations to Council with respect to~~ Ensuring that Family and Community Support Service ~~f~~Funding allocations ~~and or Policy that~~ are aligned with the values of the Social Master Plan and in consideration of the Community Services Advisory Committee recommendations.

2. ~~City Manager~~ Chief Administrative Officer or designate(s) is responsible for ensuring that:

a. ~~A c~~Comprehensive Corporate priorities and business ~~action~~ plans are in place within the resources allocated to support implementation of the Social Master Plan.

b. The development and on-going review of policies and procedures that are required to guide and support the Social Master Plan's values and initiatives.

c. An annual engagement symposium or consultation is undertaken with residents, partners, service providers, community groups, local businesses and residents to realize the goals of the Social Master Plan.

d. An annual report is provided to Council with respect to outcome achievements, the implementation of actions identified within the Social Master Plan and recommendations for updates to the Plan.

Standards

1. Values

City Council supports and is committed to the following values as identified in the Social Master Plan:

a. Sense of Community and Connectedness: Communities are strongest when residents know their neighbours and feel connected to the community. As residents become better connected, an increased sense of belonging and a reduction in isolation occurs. Through fostering a better awareness of one's neighbours and surroundings, people feel safe~~r~~, they have a sense of belonging and take greater pride in their community.

b. Diversity and Inclusion: Communities are strongest when they bring together a diverse set of voices, perspectives and backgrounds. There are long-term impacts when people are excluded from participating in the community, be it a result of social, societal or economic pressures. St Albert is a part of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities initiative and the National Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

c. Social Responsibility and Engagement: Communities are strengthened when residents have access to basic needs, are actively involved and feel that they have an opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the community and to be involved in the decisions that impact their lives. All residents have a role to play in addressing the issues that we face as a community; residents need to be informed of the many ways in which they can get involved in building a vibrant community.

d. Healthy Lifestyle and Well-Being: The overall well-being of the community is impacted by the physical, emotional and mental health of its members. As community members move through the various stages of life, it is important that a strong system of supports is in place to ensure all residents remain active and are able to engage in the community.

e. Capacity Building and Social Engagement: Social Programs do not simply respond to immediate crises but must build the skills and strengths that an individual will need to better manage any future crisis. By building capacity within our community through residents, service providers and community groups, we build a social safety net that is strengthened over time – building a community where residents feel supported, know where to turn for help and are able to offer support to their neighbours and fellow community members.

2. Expected Long Term Outcomes

The five values that comprise this Policy and which are identified in the Social Master Plan will provide direction to Administration and the community with respect to future plans and initiatives. The long term expected outcomes of such work include the following:

a. St. Albert is a community where residents know their neighbours, feel safe and have a sense of belonging.

b. St. Albert is a community where Diversity is embraced, where residents are able to live free from Bullying and Discrimination, where all residents have a place to live, and where accessibility for all is ensured.

c. St. Albert is a community where individuals and families are able to can meet their basic needs and achieve financial security, where appropriate housing is available, where residents are engaged and participate in a vibrant community and where all residents are free from domestic violence.

d. St. Albert is a community where residents are actively engaged and supported in healthy living, are provided with foundations necessary to succeed and have timely access to services.

e. St. Albert is a community where residents are aware of the social issues, ~~trends,~~ and ~~successes that exist in our community~~ available resources and have access to a coordinated network of resources and services~~. and where t~~The Social Master Plan "Cultivating a Community for All" is a catalyst for action.