

City of Belleville

Report No: CAO 2024-02

Meeting Date: March 25, 2024



To: Mayor and Members of Council
Department: CAO's Office
Staff Contact: Rod Bovay, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: Proposed Detox Centre

Recommendation:

That Report No. CAO 2024-02, Proposed Detox Centre, be received.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Community Health, Safety and Security: Support and advocate for the establishment of responsive public health services and accessible medical care.

Community Health, Safety and Security: Encourage development of a viable social safety net.

Background:

For some time there have been calls from local social service agencies and the Belleville Police Service for the development of a detox centre to serve the increasing needs in the City of Belleville and surrounding region. With the City's declaration of emergency, discussions have occurred with the Provincial government, Mayor Ellis, and local social service agencies on how best to respond to the inter-related issues of homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health.

The development of 'The Bridge' hub at the former Banquet Centre is considered a first step in an integrated continuum of care model necessary to successfully address the issues affecting so many in our community. A detox centre would be an additional important step in such a model. Currently, a group representing local social service agencies, Public Health, and Quinte Health are developing a care model for Belleville and region and will be submitting the model to the Ministry of Health in early April.

Parallel to the discussions noted above, the Mayor and city staff have met with representatives of a private company that builds and operates detox centres in Ontario. They are looking at

potential buildings and sites in Belleville for a detox centre and have had preliminary discussions with the Ministry of Health and potential local partners.

Financial/Analysis:

As council is aware, the City has provided substantial funding to 'The Bridge' for the purchase of the former Banquet Centre property, and for the necessary capital improvements. This is the first step in developing a proper model to provide the necessary supports and programs that will be needed to address the most pressing social issues affecting Belleville. Although the City has provided funding to take the first steps, there will be an ongoing need for the Provincial government to provide substantial capital and operating funding to develop the full model of care required and to maintain the funding over the long term.

Conclusion:

The development of a detox centre in Belleville is in the early stages and will be part of a much larger model of care to attempt to deal with the range of social issues that have become so pronounced in the community. City staff will continue to work with all parties involved with a view to finding solutions to our most pressing social issues. Updates will be provided to Council regularly as plans take shape and approvals are granted.

Approved by:

Katy Macpherson, Deputy City Clerk
Rod Bovay, Chief Administrative Officer

Status:

Approved - 21 Mar 2024
Approved - 21 Mar 2024