#### The Regional Municipality of York

Housing York Inc. November 3, 2016

Report of the General Manager

#### Achieving New Heights Through Innovation and Sustainability Housing York Inc.'s 2017 to 2020 Plan

#### 1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Board approve, Attachment 1, Achieving New Heights Through Innovation and Sustainability, Housing York Inc.'s 2017 to 2020 Plan.

#### 2. Purpose

This report seeks approval of Achieving New Heights Through Innovation and Sustainability, Housing York Inc.'s 2017 to 2020 Plan, which sets strategic directions and highlights actions to be implemented over the next four years.

#### 3. Background

#### Housing York Inc. (Housing York) is the seventh largest housing provider in Ontario providing affordable housing to more than 4,000 residents

Housing York was formed in 2003 through the amalgamation of the York Regional Housing Corporation and the Region of York Housing Corporation. Since the amalgamation, Housing York has grown by more than 945 units and now provides affordable housing options in all nine local municipalities. With 37 housing sites and more than 2,600 units, it is home to over 4,000 tenants, including seniors and families.

#### Housing York's current strategic plan ends in 2016

Housing York's existing strategic plan was approved in 2012 and will conclude in December 2016. The existing plan guided the corporation through a period of growth while implementing enhanced supports and services for tenants such as:

- The Creating Communities initiative which celebrates the diversity and multiculturalism of Housing York tenants
- The creation of a Housing York office in Richmond Hill to improve customer service
- An updated governance framework which defines the relationship between Housing York and the Region through a shareholder direction

The 2017 to 2020 Plan sets Housing York's strategic directions and describes actions that will be taken to achieve them

In May 2016, the Housing York Board approved an update on the development of the 2017 to 2020 Plan and approved the following five strategic directions:

- Strengthening community health
- Building long-term financial sustainability
- Effectively managing assets
- Providing good governance and strengthening organizational capacity
- Guiding and informing regional housing initiatives

## The Plan was developed with input from the Housing York Board, tenants, staff and community partners

Strategic directions for the Plan were confirmed and proposed actions were refined through a collaborative process that included:

- Three Housing York workshops held in December 2015, and January and February 2016
- Focused discussions with more than 100 tenants from 10 Housing York communities, including sessions hosted in Cantonese and Russian
- Consultations with housing staff and community organizations that offer tenant supports in partnership with Housing York

#### 4. Analysis and Implications

#### The Plan focuses on initiatives that enhance business practices and foster innovation

The 2017 to 2020 Plan will lead Housing York in exploring new initiatives while continuing to build and sustain strong, healthy, and affordable communities throughout the Region. The Plan's mandate will be implemented through a series of actions in each of the five strategic directions, as outlined in Attachment 1. These actions will advance the objectives described in Table 1 and progress will be achieved through the related key deliverables for each strategic direction.

Strategic Direction	Objective	Key Deliverables
Strengthening community health	Tenants are engaged in their communities and connected to supports that enable them to maintain successful tenancies	<ul> <li>Tenant diversity and inclusion strategy</li> <li>Partnership framework with community support agencies</li> <li>Resources to support tenant resiliency in areas such as personal emergency preparedness</li> </ul>
Building long-term financial sustainability	Housing York is in a strong financial position to meet the needs of its tenants	<ul> <li>Consolidated long-term financial plan, with a reserve fund strategy, retained earnings policy and investment policy</li> <li>Tiered rent subsidy program</li> <li>Program framework to manage Housing York's role in emergency housing facilities</li> </ul>
Effectively managing assets	Tenants enjoy well- maintained and sustainable buildings that optimize expected building life cycles and costs	<ul> <li>Portfolio management strategy</li> <li>Emergency management plan</li> <li>Strategic partnerships that support portfolio growth</li> </ul>
Providing good governance and strengthening organization capacity	A workplace that continuously innovates to improve business practices and tenant services	• Refresh the corporation's Statement of Principles through the creation of new mission and vision statements that align with the Regional strategic framework

## Table 1Key Housing York Actions Between 2017 to 2020

Strategic Direction	Objective	Key Deliverables		
		<ul> <li>Risk management framework to better measure, monitor and mitigate risk</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Performance management framework</li> </ul>		
Informing and implementing regional housing initiatives	Housing York provides leadership for new housing initiatives for the broader	<ul> <li>Inform income and asset limit policies for Council approval</li> <li>Home ownership program</li> </ul>		
	housing sector in York Region	<ul><li>options</li><li>Equity-leveraging opportunities</li></ul>		

## Housing York's 2017 to 2020 Plan supports Vision 2051, the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan, the Regional Official Plan, and the 10-Year Housing Plan

Housing York's Plan is consistent with strategic Regional Council objectives as reflected in:

- Vision 2051 in 2051, York Region has housing to match the needs of its residents and workers. Housing choices support affordable and sustainable living and address the needs of a diverse and aging population
- 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan to increase the range of available and affordable housing choices in support of the Region's community health and well-being strategic priority
- Regional Official Plan to promote an appropriate mix and range of acceptable housing to meet the needs of residents and workers
- 10-Year Housing Plan to increase and sustain existing rental housing supply

#### 5. Financial Considerations

Building the long-term sustainability of Housing York is a key strategic direction in the Plan. Proposed actions with cost implications will be presented to the Board for consideration as part of the annual budget process.

#### 6. Local Municipal Impact

Housing York has buildings in all nine local municipalities. Implementation of the Plan will benefit Housing York tenants across the Region as Housing York continues to strengthen the health of its communities.

#### 7. Conclusion

The attached plan outlines the strategic directions for Housing York Inc. from 2017 to 2020 and the actions that will be taken to achieve them. The Plan was developed with input from the Housing York Board, tenants, staff and community partners. It will guide Housing York in leading meaningful change through innovation while creating strong, healthy and affordable housing communities throughout York Region. The Plan will be implemented through Housing York's annual business plan and budget.

For more information on this report, please contact Rick Farrell, General Manager, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72091.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

Recommended by:

Approved for Submission:

Rick Farrell General Manager Adelina Urbanski President

October 20, 2016

Attachment (1)

#6904025

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

## Achieving New Heights Through Innovation and Sustainability

## Housing York Inc.'s 2017 to 2020 Plan





York Region







Attachment '



#### York Regional Council and Housing York Inc.'s Board of Directors and leadership team

With the support and contributions of York Regional Council, Housing York Inc.'s Board of Directors, leadership team and staff work to build strong, healthy and affordable housing communities.

York Regional Council appoints 10 Board members. Housing York's Board of Directors sets operational policies and oversees management of the corporation.



Regional Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson



Regional Councillor City of Markham Jack Heath (Chair)



Regional Councillor City of Vaughan Gino Rosati (Vice Chair)



Regional Councillor City of Markham Nirmala Armstrong



Mayor Town of Aurora Geoffrey Dawe



Mayor Town of East Gwillimbury Virginia Hackson



Regional Councillor Town of Richmond Hill Brenda Hogg



Mayor Town of Georgina Margaret Quirk



Regional Councillor Town of Richmond Hill Vito Spatafora



Regional Councillor Town of Newmarket John Taylor

Housing York is part of The Regional Municipality of York's Community and Health Services department. Through a Management Agreement, Housing York provides executive and support staff to manage the day-to-day operations of the corporation.



Adelina Urbanski President



**Rick Farrell** General Manager



Michelle Willson Chief Financial Officer



Denis Kelly Secretary



Joy Hulton Solicitor

## A message from the Housing York Chief Executive Officer and Chair

We all aspire to be a part of exceptional communities. At Housing York Inc., we believe this is possible and are pleased to play an important role in creating a York Region everyone can proudly call home. By working with various partners to provide a mix of housing options, York Region is creating the foundation for complete communities that meet the needs of all residents.

York Region has evolved into a progressive industry leader in the not-for-profit housing sector. Our ability to build on our strong foundation and embrace new ideas and new ways of thinking will lead us in creating stronger communities today and tomorrow.

In our 2017 to 2020 plan, *Achieving New Heights Through Innovation and Sustainability*, Housing York sets the course for future growth and sustainability. This roadmap highlights where we are heading and how we will get there through the following five strategic directions:

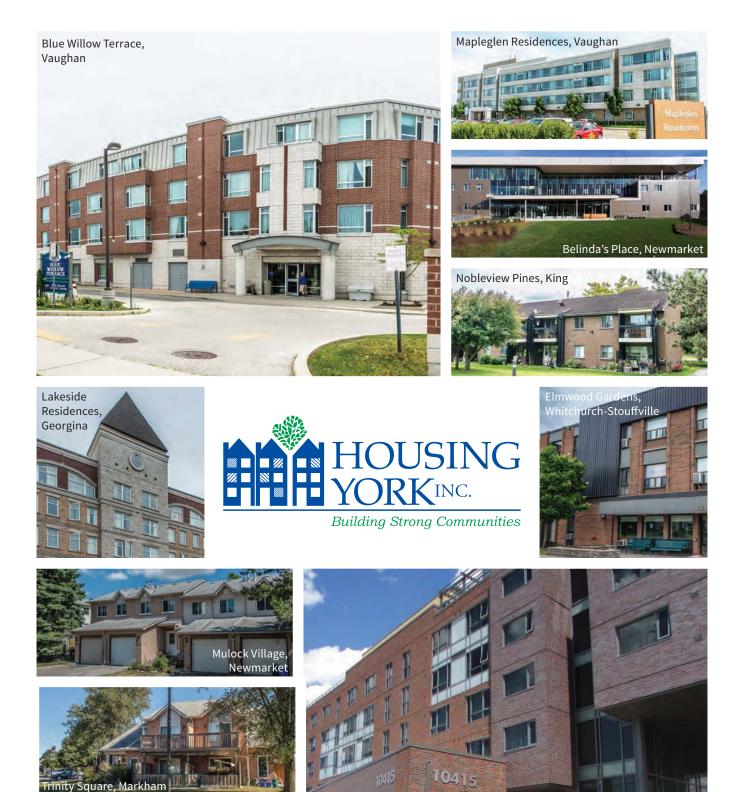
- 1. Strengthening community health
- 2. Building long-term financial sustainability
- 3. Effectively managing assets
- 4. Providing good governance and strengthening organizational capacity
- 5. Supporting and informing Regional housing initiatives

As we move forward with a focus on providing high quality housing across the Region, we will continue to manage our properties and finances proactively and develop opportunities to engage even more tenants – after all, our tenants are at the heart of everything we plan to achieve.

At the same time, we recognize the complex challenges of dealing with increasing demand, aging infrastructure and higher costs. The next steps in Housing York's journey call for innovation, creative thinking and multi-level funding. Renewed commitments to housing by the Federal and Provincial governments will help create more affordable housing options here in York Region.

Wayne Emmerson CEO, Housing York Inc.

Jack Heath Chair, Housing York Inc.





HYI Plan | 2017 to 2020

Richmond Hill Hub, Richmond Hill

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Richmond Hill

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# Welcome to Housing York Inc.

歡迎 Chào mừng 어서 오십시오 Добро пожаловать Каλωσορίζω Willkommen Welkom

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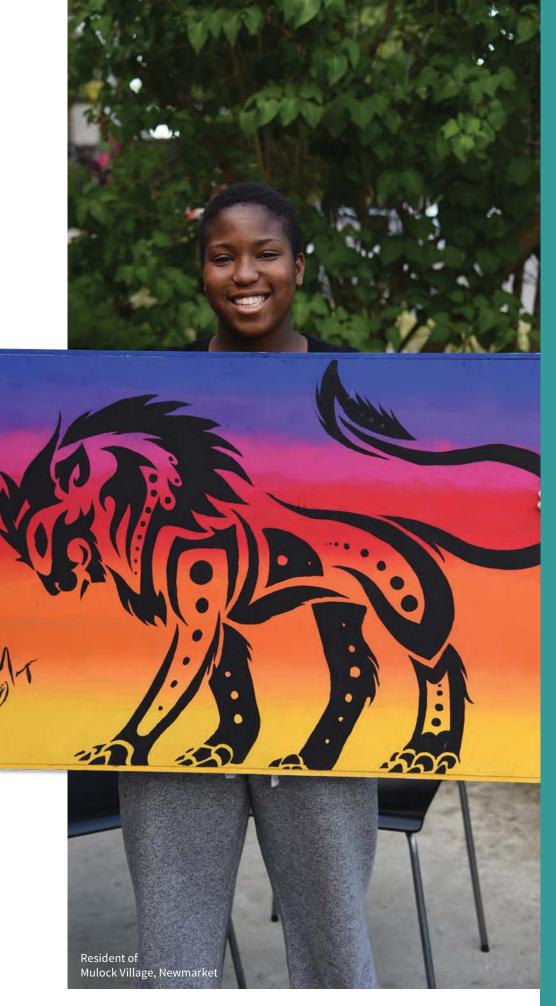
Residents attending the Creating Communities campaign at Mapleglen Residences, Vaughan

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We shape our dwellings, and afterwards our dwellings shape us.??

WINSTON CHURCHILL



This plan outlines Housing York Inc.'s (Housing York) strategic directions for 2017 to 2020 and the actions that will be taken to achieve them. The plan was developed under the leadership of Housing York's Board of Directors with input from residents, staff and community partners. It will continue the momentum of Housing York's successes while leading meaningful change through innovation in building strong, healthy and affordable housing communities throughout York Region.



## Introduction

Welcome to *Achieving New Heights Through Innovation and Sustainability: Housing York Inc.'s 2017 to 2020 Plan.* This plan builds on Housing York's strong foundation as a modern, progressive and innovative housing provider, and reflects our bold ambition. It is the beginning of a journey that will shape our future as we embrace new ways of thinking.

Our profit for purpose approach will help us provide affordable housing options and quality services that reflect the rich diversity of our residents while maintaining high quality, healthy and inclusive communities. As we transition to new ideas, we remain focused on providing the right supports to residents, engaging them in decisions that affect them, ensuring revenues are maximized and maintaining the existing portfolio. While these goals are ambitious and demand creative solutions, we are grounded on a foundation of success that enriches our communities.

We understand the importance of strategic planning to support portfolio growth, building maintenance, resident needs and evolving business practices. Our future will capitalize on opportunities presented in our changing environment, including:

- Shifting senior government policy directives
- Evolving housing markets
- Changing resident demographics
- Technological advancements in building design, construction and maintenance
- Leveraging existing assets
- The need to be financially prudent and responsible

## **Summary** of strategic directions

This plan will be implemented through Housing York's annual business plan and budget, and focuses on five strategic directions:



#### Strengthen community health

Residents are engaged in their communities and connected to supports that enable them to maintain successful tenancies.



#### Build long-term financial sustainability

Housing York is in a strong financial position to meet the housing needs of our residents.



#### **Effectively manage assets**

Residents enjoy well-maintained and sustainable buildings that optimize expected building life cycles and costs.



## Provide good governance and strengthen organizational capacity

A workplace that continuously innovates to improve business practices and resident services.



#### Inform and implement Regional housing initiatives

Housing York provides leadership for new housing initiatives for the broader housing sector in York Region.

## The Housing York Inc. story

Remembering our past, living our present and planning our future

Housing York was formed in 2003 through the amalgamation of the York Regional Housing Corporation and the Region of York Housing Corporation. Since this time, Housing York has grown by more than 945 units and is now the seventh largest housing provider in Ontario. The following timeline highlights Housing York's growth and our plans for the near future.

## Our past

#### **Region of York Housing Corporation**

(owned by York Region)

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 Mixed income communities with market and subsidized units 9 buildings and 823 units built between the mid 1980's and the mid 1990's

#### **York Regional Housing Corporation**

(owned by the Province of Ontario) 100 per cent subsidized public housing 17 buildings and 872 units built between the mid 1960's to the early 1980's

#### Transferred to York Region in 2000



Housing York Inc. formed

HYI Plan | 2017 to 2020

**Our present and future** 

## New builds and acquisitions

2004	Armitage Gardens built   Newmarket (58 units)
2005	Woodbridge Lane acquired   Vaughan (14 units)
2006	<b>Blue Willow Terrace built</b>   Vaughan (60 units) <b>Trinity Square acquired</b>   Markham (100 units)
2008	Tom Taylor Place built   Newmarket (50 units)
2011	Thornhill Green acquired   Markham (101 units) Kingview Court expanded   King (39 units)
2012	Mapleglen Residences built   Vaughan (84 units)
2013	Mackenzie Green   Richmond Hill (140 units)
2014	Lakeside Residences built   Georgina (97 units)
2015	Belinda's Place built   Newmarket
2016	Richmond Hill Hub built   Richmond Hill (202 units)

Belinda's Place, Newmarket Photo courtesy of Danielle Koren

Mackenzie Green, Richmond Hill

## Future development

- 2019 Redevelopment of 275 Woodbridge Avenue and Woodbridge Lane Vaughan (proposed 160 units)
- 2020 New seniors housing | Markham (proposed 250 units)

#### Woodbridge Redevelopment, Vaughan

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## Housing York Inc. at a glance

## A non-profit housing provider

regulated by the *Housing Services Act*, 2011 and incorporated under the *Ontario Business Corporations Act* and owned by York Region 7<sup>th</sup>

largest social housing provider in Ontario



Increasingly

diverse

residents

## Provides affordable housing options

in all nine of the Region's local cities and towns





## 37

housing communities and more than 2,600 units



More than **4,000** residents

More than 1,500 units for seniors

















HYI Plan | 2017 to 2020

## Leading innovation through collaboration

Under the leadership of Housing York's Board of Directors, the guiding principles in this plan were informed through consultations with nearly 270 stakeholders, including residents, housing staff and community support agencies.

Development of the plan included:

- Three Housing York Board workshops held in December 2015, and January and February 2016
- Focused consultations in English, Cantonese and Russian with more than 100 residents from 10 Housing York communities, including seniors and families
- Focus groups with staff
- A discussion with community organizations that offer resident supports in partnership with Housing York

## How the plan supports key Regional strategies

As the largest housing provider in York Region and home to more than 4,000 residents, Housing York plays a key role in advancing the Region's strategic housing priorities. This plan supports Regional housing policy objectives and goals, such as:



Vision 2051

In 2051, York Region will have housing to match the needs of its residents and workers. Housing choices will support affordable and sustainable living and address the needs of a diverse and aging population.



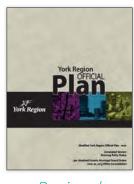
#### 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan

Increase the range of available and affordable housing choices in support of the Region's community health and well-being strategic priority.



#### 10-Year Housing Plan

Increase and sustain existing rental housing supply.



#### Regional Official Plan

Promote an appropriate mix and range of acceptable housing to meet the needs of residents and workers.



## **Strengthen community health**

Residents of Thornhill Green, Markham



### Creating vibrant communities and homes

Housing York understands that social, cultural, economic and environmental factors influence overall resident well-being. We strive to create and maintain vibrant communities where residents are engaged, take leadership roles and are connected to each other in healthy and inclusive communities. We will continue connecting residents to programs and supports through effective partnerships with community organizations.

## Why it's important

We provide quality homes and healthy communities for more than 4,000 residents. It is important for us to understand our residents so we can provide them with appropriate housing and connect them to the right supports.

## What we heard during consultations

- Expand partnerships with community agencies that offer supports to residents
- Ensure communication between residents and Housing York is responsive
- Better understand our changing resident demographics and promote resident diversity through new communication techniques
- Create opportunities for increased resident engagement and enable residents to provide input into policies and programs
- Explore social enterprise opportunities to support residents
- Create resources that support resident economic self-sufficiency



### **Our long-term objective**

Residents are engaged in their communities and connected to supports that enable them to maintain successful tenancies.

## What we will do

Actions	2017	2018	2019	2020
Initiate use of a Community Health Report Card to monitor and evaluate community health initiatives	•			
Create a partnership framework with community support agencies	•			
<ul> <li>Develop a strategy to support diversity and inclusion for residents</li> </ul>		٠		
• Develop and implement a communication plan that leverages technology to encourage greater interaction between residents and Housing York		•		
<ul> <li>Identify and share communication resources to help residents build their resiliency, such as personal emergency preparedness</li> </ul>			٠	



## Build long-term financial sustainability

Tom Taylor Place, Newmarket

## Responsible stewards of public resources - exploring new revenue streams

The strength of Housing York's future depends on the financial decisions we make today. We are aligning efforts around profit for purpose initiatives that generate revenues to support social mandates. We will continue to search for new revenue opportunities that support future growth plans, enhance resident services and help maintain existing buildings. To advance our efforts we will explore new rent models and financing opportunities. We will also develop a financial plan that takes a balanced approach to growth, capital repairs, investments and retained earnings while addressing long-term financial sustainability.

### Why it's important

Our success in providing quality housing and communities for residents is dependent on our long-term financial health. We must remain fiscally responsible, safeguard our assets and be accountable for effectively managing our resources.

## What we heard during consultations

- Continue practicing strong financial stewardship and be well positioned to deliver objectives in a fiscally responsible and progressive manner
- Explore profit for purpose opportunities
- Consider new housing models that generate additional revenue

## 8. 🤌 🛤 🔆 📭

### **Our long-term objective**

Housing York is in a strong financial position to meet the housing needs of our residents.

## What we will do

Actions	2017	2018	2019	2020
Develop and implement a consolidated long-term financial plan.				
<ul> <li>Develop a consolidated reserve fund strategy proposal that streamlines annual Regional subsidy requirements over the long-term</li> </ul>	•			
<ul> <li>Develop a policy that sets targets for retained earnings and gives direction on the use of any additional surpluses</li> </ul>		•		
<ul> <li>Update the investment policy to ensure that Housing York reserves are achieving optimal returns</li> </ul>			•	
• Refine the tiered rent model and consider opportunities to implement as an alternative to traditional rent-geared-to-income assistance		•		
• Develop a program framework to manage Housing York's role in emergency housing facilities		•		
Explore legal and taxation implications related to potential profit for purpose initiatives	•			
Identify a range of activities that could generate additional revenue and increase net operating income				•



Kingview Court Expansion, King

## **Effectively manage assets**



## Creating and maintaining strong communities

Housing York is committed to providing quality affordable housing while managing its assets responsibly. We have invested in asset management solutions to help us understand and plan for the future needs of our buildings. Moving forward, we will explore strategic opportunities to leverage assets. We will also ensure that the value and quality of our existing assets are well-maintained and the lifespans of our assets are maximized.

## Why it's important

The quality and affordability of our housing influences our residents' standard of living, health and well-being. Well maintained assets provide long-term portfolio sustainability and greater opportunities to leverage initiatives.

## What we heard during consultations

- Foster predictive and collaborative approaches to building design, capital, operations and maintenance
- Make evidence-based decisions when evaluating growth opportunities and maintenance needs
- Prioritize maintenance that extends building life cycles and retains maximum asset value
- Work with residents to reduce energy use

## **Our long-term objective**

Residents enjoy well-maintained and sustainable buildings that optimize expected building life cycles and costs.

## What we will do

Actions	2017	2018	2019	2020
<ul> <li>Measure the effectiveness of previous energy initiatives, promote successes and seek Board input on future energy management initiatives</li> </ul>	•			
• Develop a portfolio management strategy (retention, divesture, acquisition, development) that optimizes the number of quality affordable homes within the projected financial resources		•		
Create an energy management plan that will guide future energy initiatives		•		
• Explore opportunities for portfolio growth in partnership with senior levels of government, local cities and towns, school boards, the private sector and others				•
Enhance preventative and predictive maintenance practices and implement a computerized maintenance management system			٠	



## Provide good governance and strengthen organizational capacity



## Inspiring creativity and excellence

York Regional Council appoints 10 members to the Housing York Board of Directors. The Housing York Board oversees operations, including:

- Establishing annual and long-range strategies and plans
- Creating policies consistent with regulatory obligations and Regional objectives
- Establishing and maintaining appropriate reserves consistent with sound financial principles

Through a Management Services Agreement, York Region provides staff to manage the day-today work of Housing York.

## Why it's important

Our governance structure ensures we meet our operational goals and achieve our responsibilities to residents and Regional Council.

## What we heard during consultations

- Define a clear mission and vision to guide decision-making
- Ensure Housing York's governance and organizational capacity enables good decisionmaking and effectively manages our portfolio
- Explore performance measurement options that incorporate all aspects of Housing York
- Create online tools that increase efficiencies and enhance services for residents and contractors

### **Our long-term objective**

A workplace that continuously innovates to improve business practices and resident services.

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## What we will do

Actions	2017	2018	2019	2020
• Create mission and vision statements for Housing York within the Regional strategic framework	•			
• Develop and implement a risk management framework to better measure, monitor and mitigate risk	•			
• Develop a performance management framework that encourages efficiency and measures operational effectiveness		٠		
<ul> <li>Upgrade the information technology system to encompass enhanced services for residents and vendors</li> </ul>		•		
• Initiate strategic planning process for 2021 to 2024				•



## Inform and implement Regional housing initiatives

York Region Administrative Centre, Newmarket



## New thinking, new possibilities

York Region and Housing York will continuously strive to find solutions to challenges facing housing providers. We will combine our experiences in creating healthy communities with lessons learned from national and international counterparts. New ideas and opportunities for revenue will be explored as well as home ownership models and mixed use buildings. We will inform rent subsidy income and asset limit policy options that will be developed for Regional Council's consideration.

## Why it's important

As the Region's housing corporation and the operator of nearly 40 per cent of all Regionally funded housing, we are well positioned to explore and pilot solutions that help York Region residents and non-profit housing providers.

## What we heard during consultations

- Inform and implement the Region's housing and homelessness initiatives
- Inform modernization strategies for the Regional subsidized waitlist
- Explore alternative housing models in Housing York communities

### **Our long-term objective**

Housing York provides leadership for new housing initiatives for the broader housing sector in York Region.

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## What we will do

Actions	2017	2018	2019	2020
• Leverage Housing York's expertise to inform the Region's affordable housing policies and initiatives, such as providing Housing York Board advice on income and asset rent subsidy policy options for Regional Council consideration	•	•		
• Explore program options that support home ownership			•	
<ul> <li>Explore financing and equity-leveraging opportunities, such as the Canadian Housing Finance Authority</li> </ul>		•		
• Support innovation by acting as a test site that pilots Regional initiatives for programs and services that influence the broader housing sector				•

## How we will implement and monitor the plan

This plan will guide Housing York from 2017 to 2020. The actions outlined in the plan will be implemented through our annual business plan and budget process. This process will propose specific actions and identify budget implications.

We will develop performance measurement and reporting tools to report progress to the Board. As the housing landscape evolves, we will monitor and adjust strategies as needed. Prior to the end of this plan's mandate, the Board will be engaged in developing a new plan for beyond 2020.

#### We will measure our progress by completing the key actions highlighted below:

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- Housing York mission and vision statements
- Evaluation of energy initiatives
- Risk management
   framework
- Partnership framework with community support agencies

- 2018
- Resident diversity and inclusion strategy
- Emergency housing program framework
- Energy
   management plan
- Performance
   management
   framework
- Refine the tiered rent model

- 2019
- Resident resiliency
   resources
- Computerized maintenance management system
- Home ownership
   program options

## 2020

- Consolidated long-term financial plan, with a reserve fund strategy, retained earnings policy, and investment policy
- Activities identified to increase net operating income
- Explore portfolio growth opportunities

## **Moving forward**

As we begin this journey with our partners, we will achieve the following long-term objectives as outlined in the plan.

- Residents are engaged in their communities and connected to supports that enable them to maintain successful tenancies
- Housing York is in a strong financial position to meet the housing needs of our residents
- Residents enjoy well-maintained and sustainable buildings that optimize the expected building life cycles and costs
- A workplace that continuously innovates to improve business practices and resident services
- Housing York provides leadership for new housing initiatives for the broader housing sector in York Region



1091 Gorham Street, Unit 104, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8X7

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request



#### **Community and Health Services**



Housing Services