# The Corporation of the Township of King
# Report to Council

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| **From:** | Community Services Department – Heritage and Cultural Division |
| **Report Number:** | COM-HER-2026-001 |
| **Date:** | Monday, February 9, 2026 |
| **Title:** | **Age Friendly Community Action Plan** |

## Recommendation

1. That Council receive Report COM-HER-2026-001 for information.
2. That Council provide feedback on the draft Age Friendly Community Action Plan.

## 1. Report Highlights

- Staff have developed a draft Age Friendly Community Action Plan (action plan) for Council review and feedback. The action plan is informed by extensive community engagement, including 452 survey responses from residents aged 55+.
- The action plan responds to a significant demographic shift and identifies key needs in housing, mobility, communication, program access, and community support for aging in place.
- Eight (8) priority areas are outlined with a phased implementation approach (2026–2035) aligned with the Township's Corporate Strategic Plan and Official Plan.
- Most initiatives can be supported through existing staff resources, with additional funding to be considered in future budget discussions and through external grant opportunities.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Age Friendly Community Action Plan, attached as Attachment 1, for Council's review and to obtain feedback needed to finalize the Plan.

## 3. Background

The Township of King is experiencing a significant demographic shift, with adults aged 55+ representing the fastest-growing population segment. As this group grows, the Township is dedicated to planning for their evolving needs. To better understand how to support residents as they age in place, the Township conducted a comprehensive community survey between February and July 2025, gathering 452 responses, a high level of engagement that reflects

strong community interest. The survey results highlighted key themes related to health, housing, mobility, program access, community belonging, and communications.

The action plan provides a comprehensive, evidence-based framework to support King's growing older adult population and strengthen the Township's commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and community well-being. Through extensive research, interdepartmental collaboration, and meaningful engagement with residents and stakeholders, the action plan outlines clear priorities and a phased pathway for implementation.

## 4. Analysis

### 4.1. Engagement Process

An internal working group was established to assess community needs and ensure alignment with existing municipal strategies. The group included representation from Community Services, Public Works, Growth Management Services, the Office of the CAO, and Corporate Services. Staff collaborated to review the action plan and provide recommendations to strengthen the final document.

Development also included extensive consultation with the community and key stakeholders. Engagement activities included:

- **452 survey responses** from residents aged 55+;
- **workshops** with Council and municipal staff;
- **input** from the Age-Friendly Community Advisory Committee;
- **consultations** with external agencies and service partners; and
- **public engagement sessions** and opportunities for written feedback.

The survey results identify several key trends and service gaps related to housing, mobility, communication, program distribution, and access to health supports, as outlined in the statistics below.

- **17%** of older adult households plan to move within 3-5 years, with **36%** expecting to leave King.
- **12%** reported a weak sense of belonging, and **43%** felt their opinions are not valued.
- **32%** expressed a desire for more programs and opportunities for participation.

These stats reinforce the need for a coordinated and age-friendly approach to planning and service delivery.

### 4.2. Vision and Guiding Values

The action plan envisions King as **"**a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community that celebrates the diverse needs of all residents, regardless of age." This vision is supported by guiding values that reflect the Township's commitment to meaningful and responsive service delivery, including Collaboration, Respect, Inclusion, Equity, Empathy, and Accountability. The action plan also aligns with corporate priorities as set out in the 2023-2026 Corporate

Strategic Plan and Our King Official Plan (2019) which reinforces the importance of building healthy, accessible, and inclusive communities.

### 4.3. Priority Areas of the Action Plan

These findings helped inform the development of the action plan, which is grounded in the World Health Organization's Eight Age-Friendly Domains emphasizing accessibility, inclusion, mobility, safety, and community support. To advance this vision, the action plan identifies eight (8) strategic priority areas that collectively shape the framework for becoming a more age-friendly municipality. Each priority area is supported by specific actions, associated timelines, responsible divisions, and measurable performance indicators to guide implementation and monitor progress.

The eight (8) priority areas include:

- **Housing** - Increase accessible and age-friendly housing options, promote accessory units, and support aging-in-place.

- **Mobility & Transportation** - Expand accessible mobility options, enhance pedestrian and cycling safety, and improve regional transit connections.

- **Communication & Information** - Strengthen communication channels, improve accessibility of information, support digital literacy, and advance connectivity initiatives.

- **Community Support & Health Services** - Build strong partnerships with health providers and community organizations to enhance access to supports and services.

- **Respect & Inclusion** - Foster an inclusive community through recognition programs, intergenerational initiatives, and equitable service protocols.

- **Social Participation** - Expand program offerings across King, support the Seniors Centre, and improve access to recreation and community activities.

- **Safety & Accessibility** - Enhance built-environment accessibility, including sidewalks, trails, lighting, and building access, and supporting seasonal accessibility needs.

- **Civic Engagement & Employment** - Increase opportunities for volunteerism, civic participation, and employment for older adults.

### 4.4. Implementation

Implementation of the action plan would occur in phases, with initiatives prioritized according to immediate, short-term, and medium/long-term needs:

- **Immediate (2026–2027)** - Focus on early-stage actions that establish foundational supports for Age-Friendly initiatives.

- **Short Term (2028–2029)** - Advance programs, partnerships, and initiatives that build on the foundational work.
- **Medium/Long Term (2030–2035)** - Implement broader system-level improvements and long-range projects that enhance accessibility, infrastructure, and community services.

Annual progress reports will be provided to Council to track achievements, monitor performance measures, and support ongoing decision-making.

Staff are seeking Council's feedback by February 27, 2026, and will report back at a future Council meeting to summarize input received and outline the proposed next steps toward finalizing the action plan.

## 5. Financial Considerations

Most initiatives identified within the action plan can be undertaken using existing staff resources. Any additional funding requirements will be considered through future operating and capital budget deliberations, as well as exploration of future grant funding opportunities. The action plan also incorporates cost indicators for each action to support informed financial planning and prioritization, with the general framework highlighted below.

- N/A - Covered by existing budgets
- $ - Low Cost, up to $30,000
- $$ - Medium Cost, $30,000 - $100,000
- $$$ - High Cost, over $100,000 External opportunities such as: provincial grants, federal programs and/or regional partnerships will be explored to support implementation.

Similar to all other action plans and strategies, approval of initiatives above and beyond those funded with existing operating budget and resources will come forward as part of the annual budget discussion for consideration amongst all other priority areas.

## 6. Alignment to Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) was adopted by Council on June 12, 2023. The CSP reflects the priorities of upmost importance to the community and defines the obligations and commitments of the Township of King to its citizens and to the public. The CSP is aligned with the Townships long-term vision defined in the "Our King" Official Plan. The CSP also aims to ensure that staff initiatives focus on and work towards supporting King's Vision, Mission and Values.

This report is in alignment with the CSP's Priority Area(s), and/or associated Objective(s) and/or Key Results(s):

Priority Area: Complete Communities

Objective: Enhance Citizen Service Experiences.

Key Result: Become an “Age-Friendly Community” by 2026.

## 7. Conclusion

The draft Age-Friendly Community Action Plan provides a comprehensive, evidence-based framework to support King’s growing older adult population and strengthen the Township’s commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and community well-being. Through extensive research, interdepartmental collaboration, and meaningful engagement with residents and stakeholders, the Plan outlines clear priorities and a phased pathway for implementation. Staff look forward to Council’s feedback to finalize the Action plan and advance the next steps toward building a more age-friendly and inclusive King Township.

## 8. Attachments

Attachment 1 – King Age Friendly Community Action Plan (Draft)

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