

# ELGIN COUNTY

# From the Council Chambers

March 24, 2026

## Council Meeting

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### Update on Central Elgin Hospital Lands Redevelopment

Elgin County Council received a presentation from Mary Lou Tanner, Senior Partner at NPG Planning Solutions, providing an update on the ongoing planning work for the Central Elgin Hospital Lands redevelopment. The presentation outlined the progression of the project, including the development of a Draft Official Plan Amendment (OPA), which builds on previously approved visioning, land use plans, and policy directions.

The update highlighted key elements of the proposed framework, including a mix of housing types and densities, integrated parks and community spaces, and a walkable, connected community design. It also emphasized the importance of public engagement, noting that feedback from residents and stakeholders has helped shape priorities such as housing affordability, green space, transportation, and community amenities.

Council's role at this stage was to receive the update, with further steps anticipated as the Municipality of Central Elgin advances the Official Plan Amendment through continued consultation before returning for future approvals.

For more information on the Central Elgin Hospital Lands redevelopment project, please click [here](#).

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### Draft St. Thomas–Elgin 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Presented to Council

Elgin County Council received a presentation from Danielle Nielsen, Acting Director, and Brandon Sloan, Housing Accelerator Fund Coordinator, both with St. Thomas–Elgin Social Services, regarding the draft St. Thomas–Elgin 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan (2026–2036).

The presentation outlined the need for a new plan to replace the previous 2014 strategy, noting significant changes in the region over the past decade, including population growth, increased housing demand, and rising costs.

## Draft St. Thomas–Elgin 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Presented to Council (continued)

Current data highlights ongoing affordability challenges, including a gap between average housing prices and what households can afford. There is also a growing number of residents experiencing housing need and waitlist pressures for affordable housing.

Looking ahead, the plan identifies projected growth across St. Thomas and Elgin County and estimates that a significant portion of new housing will need to be affordable or supportive in nature. Targets include the creation of new subsidized and market-based affordable housing units, as well as additional supportive housing to meet community needs.

The draft plan is guided by a vision of “Housing for Everyone” and focuses on key strategic areas such as increasing housing supply, preserving existing housing, strengthening partnerships, and working toward ending homelessness through prevention and support initiatives.

Council received the presentation, with further public engagement planned before the draft plan is brought forward for future consideration and approval.

For the full Council Agenda, [click here](#).

## Committee of the Whole

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### Policy Approved for the Unscheduled Closing of County Facilities

The Committee of the Whole received a report from the Director of Community and Cultural Services regarding a new Unscheduled Closing of County Facilities Policy.

The policy establishes a clear framework to guide decision-making when County facilities must be temporarily closed due to emergencies or other unforeseen circumstances. These may include inclement weather, facility issues, public health emergencies, cyberattacks, or other safety concerns.

The policy applies to a range of County facilities, including the Administration Building, Heritage Centre, Provincial Offences Act Court, and library branches. It also outlines how decisions to close and reopen facilities are made, how staff may be redeployed or compensated during closures, and how the County will communicate service disruptions to the public.

The report noted that, while temporary closures occur from time to time, the County did not previously have a single, formalized policy to guide these decisions. The new policy is intended to ensure consistent, timely, and transparent responses when closures are required.

For the full Committee of the Whole Agenda, [click here](#).