

Kawartha Lakes sets pandemic task forces in motion, talks details

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Kawartha Lakes is moving forward with two pandemic recovery task forces.

Staff will work to develop guidelines for an economic recovery task force and a community pandemic response task force after council approved the forces at its virtual [April 28 meeting](#).

Chief administrative officer Ron Taylor said the community was looking to the city for leadership and direction. He made it clear that neither task force would compromise the city's front-line response or public safety.

The economic task force will focus on local business support; building and development; stimulating the economy, prioritizing and expediting 2020 "shovel-ready" development and construction projects; and launching a business survey to understand the local impacts of the pandemic.

"At all levels we should also be looking at prioritizing projects that are going to bring jobs and bring them in the immediate term," Taylor said. He added he's challenged staff to list and prioritize capital, planning and development projects for this year.

"The goal is going to be, wherever we can as a municipality, let's try to stimulate the development and construction industries and jobs."

The city's business survey will be launched later this week. Taylor said the city would be reaching out to see how business owners are feeling, what they're hearing and what they need from all levels of government.

The community force will focus on recovery for health and human service sectors, including not-for-profits and government services; community safety and well-being; vulnerable residents; food and housing security; sustainability of not-for-profits; volunteer co-ordination; and identification of community support.

"The second focus we need to keep our eyes on in the coming months to be successful in community recovery is looking at our not-for-profits, connecting our community service providers that are out there, and really supporting them," said Taylor.

"They're the ones that are also supporting all of the residents, all of our vulnerable communities and our health, front-line workers."

Taylor said these groups had been stepping up over the last few weeks and would be leaned upon by the community through pandemic recovery.

Staff will reach out to partners to develop the task forces. They'll be finalized at council's May 26 meeting, including the appointment of members.