



Attention: Committee Members
Community and Protective Services Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON

April 9, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is to provide a response to the staff report released April 8, 2026 regarding Tolpuddle Housing Co-Operative.

Housing stability is not just a policy issue, it is a human one. When systems begin to strain, it is people who feel the impact first and most deeply. With that in mind, I want to thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the transition plan for Tolpuddle Co-operative.

As someone currently serving on the board, I take this responsibility seriously. I also know how difficult it has been to navigate the growing challenges at Tolpuddle without the level of support, clarity, or structure that is needed to govern effectively. I read this report not only through the lens of governance, but with a real awareness of what this means for the residents who live here and rely on us to make decisions that protect their homes and their safety.

What stands out to me is that this situation is not the result of a single failure. It is the result of many pressures building over time. Financial strain, growing operational challenges, increasing tenant needs, and a lack of adequate support have all compounded in a way that has intensified the pressure on the cooperative creating a difficult environment to manage. When these pressures are not aligned with the resources and guidance required to manage them, the situation becomes overwhelming for any board, no matter how committed its members may be.

Most people who step into board roles do so with good intentions and a genuine desire to support their community. I believe that deeply. But good intentions alone cannot carry the weight of a system that has grown more complex while the supports around it have not kept pace. Without timely guidance, clear communication, and the right tools, even the most dedicated board will struggle. What I see here is not a lack of effort, but a system that has not evolved to match the realities it is asking people to manage.

Housing has changed. The level of need is higher. Safety concerns are more frequent. Mental health and addiction challenges are more visible. Housing providers are being asked to manage situations

that extend far beyond traditional housing operations. Yet the funding models, support structures, and operational expectations have not shifted in a way that reflects this new reality. That disconnect puts strain on everything: finances, safety, governance, and the overall stability of the community.

It is also important to acknowledge that when concerns are raised early, especially around safety, funding, or governance support, there must be a clear and timely response. Oversight is not only about stepping in when things have deteriorated. It is about working in partnership to prevent situations from reaching that point.

With all of this in mind, I support the recommendation to move forward with the Project in Difficulty designation. It is a serious step, but it feels necessary to stabilize the situation and create a path forward. More importantly, it creates an opportunity to reset, rebuild, and put stronger supports in place.

The focus on strengthening governance and reintroducing mentorship is essential. Boards cannot succeed without support. When people are given the tools, information, and guidance they need, they are far better equipped to make sound decisions and lead effectively.

At the same time, this is a moment to look at the broader system. Housing providers cannot continue to operate in environments where the level of need keeps rising while the supports remain the same. There is a real need for integrated approaches that bring together housing, mental health, addiction support, and community safety in a way that reflects what is actually happening on the ground.

There is also an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between housing providers and the City. Clear communication, timely responses, and shared accountability can make a meaningful difference in how challenges are managed moving forward.

Overall, I support the direction of this transition plan and the City's role in stabilizing the situation. With the right balance of oversight, support, and accountability, there is an opportunity not only to improve conditions at Tolpuddle, but to strengthen how we respond to similar situations across the system.

Because at the end of the day, strong governance does not just protect buildings. It protects people. And that must remain at the center of every decision we make.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Pettit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Pettit

