

## Report to Council

**Report Title:** Municipal Innovation Council Update September 2021

**Prepared By:** Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

**Department:** Administration

**Date:** September 14, 2021

**Report Number:** CAO2021-19                      **File Number:** C11AD

**Attachments:** N/A

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### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2021-19 - Municipal Innovation Council September 2021, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, for information purposes.

### Report:

#### Background:

In August 2019, Saugeen Shores signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NII to coordinate the Municipal Innovation Council (MIC) on behalf of participating municipalities: South Bruce, Huron Kinloss, Arran Elderslie, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores and Brockton. With a shared funding model to support collaborative staffing, research and implementation during a three-year project period (2020-2023). There is a collaborative focus on infrastructure, IT and Digital Solutions, Municipal Sustainably and liveable communities. While year one was a significant challenge due to the burden of COVID on each municipality we have accomplished a significant amount of ground work to lay the foundation for finding efficiencies and new processes moving forward. We have many exciting projects in the works and have been successful in securing grant funding due to the collaborative nature of this MIC model.

The MIC's Innovation Officer, Dave Shorey, submitted his resignation notice to the MIC Chair August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will continue to serve as the MIC Innovation Officer until September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Multiple options are being considered and sources to provide the staffing support needed to sustain the MIC's growth and success through to 2023.

#### Analysis:

The MIC has multiple projects on the go that align with the MIC's strategic framework to positively impact the quality of life for the visitors and residents of the member municipalities, including:

- Identifying, procuring, and implementing an advanced digital mapping solution for natural disaster mitigation and climate change impact monitoring;
- Co-leading the development of a Smart Beach infrastructure program that enhances swimmer safety along Lake Huron shoreline, provides a platform for real-time water quality sensing, and monitors shoreline transformations in high traffic areas in partnership with Microsoft, the University of Windsor, NPX, the Nuclear Innovation Institute, Mitacs, and member municipalities;
- A co-op student from Conestoga College has been hired for the Fall 2021 term to continue to advance progressive procurement practices amongst members;
- A Municipal Modernization Program (Intake 2) funded project that advances recommendations from this summer's MIC project on IT business analysis with a focus on the development of shared IT service solutions amongst member municipalities;
- The ongoing prioritization of hiring and developing co-op students that support the advancement of MIC priorities and build a talent pipeline that helps address succession planning and organizational development needs; and
- The prioritization and advancement of recommendations provided to the MIC through the applied research projects focusing on downtown revitalization, municipal procurement, organizational development, municipal service analysis, and IT business analysis.

MIC members will be meeting September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to develop a work plan to integrate recommendations from the projects and ongoing work, as listed above, and to determine priorities for the remaining actions of the mandate. Short- and long-term transition planning will also be reviewed at this time to ensure that the MIC continues to provide great work, evolve and grow to support the participating member municipalities.

### **Sustainability Checklist:**

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy?       | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity?     | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity?           | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity?                 | N/A |

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?  
N/A

There are no financial impacts associated with this report at this time.

**Reviewed By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer**

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Watson', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer**