

Report to Council

Report Title: Municipal Innovation Council

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Administration

Date: October 29, 2019

Report Number: CAO2019-26 **File Number:** C11AD, L04

Attachments: Municipal Innovation Council Concept Document,
Municipal Innovation Council Business Plan,
Municipal Innovation Council Delegation Presentation

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2019-26 - Municipal Innovation Council, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so approves participation in the Municipal Innovation Council as a three year pilot project in partnership with the Nuclear Innovation Institute and additional municipal partners;

And further that funding be provided through the Provincial one-time efficiency/modernization grant;

And further that the Chief Administrative Officer be appointed as the representative for the Municipality of Brockton;

And further that the Memorandum of Understanding be brought forward for approval by By-Law.

Report:

Background:

Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII) has created an opportunity for municipal innovation, within NII's Applied Research Hub. In August 2019, Saugeen Shores Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NII to coordinate the Municipal Innovation Council (MIC) on behalf of participating municipalities. A business plan, and concept document regarding MIC have been drafted in partnership with area municipalities. Feedback has been gathered from the senior staff of local municipalities; and the draft documents reflect common goals, objectives and a funding model to suit potential partners.

Jessica Linthorne, Manager, Strategic Initiatives from Saugeen Shores has been the key staff person from Saugeen Shores coordinating input from municipalities and developing an initial proposal for Municipal Council consideration. I have requested that Jessica Linthorne attend the Council Meeting and present on the

matter as she has done in many of the lower-tier municipalities to provide additional insight as required. Her presentation is attached to this report.

The Town of Saugeen Shores will be the lead municipality in the Municipal Innovation Council for the following reasons:

- Currently a partner with the Nuclear Innovation Institute;
- Sits on the Board of Directors of the Nuclear Innovation Institute
- Will manage the employment of the Lab Director of the Municipal Innovation Council

Analysis:

The MIC is a three year pilot project model to find efficiencies, build smarter processes and ensure municipal services are sustainable. Similar models have been implemented across the province, as municipalities recognize the need to innovate in order to discover cost savings and implement efficiencies. A business plan, and concept document regarding Municipal Innovation Council have been drafted in partnership with area municipalities. Feedback has been gathered from the senior staff of local municipalities; and the draft documents reflect common goals, objectives and a funding model to suit potential partners. The Municipal Innovation Council is a three-year pilot project model to find efficiencies, build smarter processes and ensure municipal services are sustainable.

Similar models have been implemented across the province, as municipalities recognize the need to innovate in order to discover cost savings and implement efficiencies. Municipalities in York Region formed "N6", a collaboration with six northern York Region municipalities. Through collaboration they undertook efforts to redefine service delivery models including but not limited to:

- Merging independent fire services;
- Collaboration on water, sewer, and transit services;
- Audit services;
- Solid waste collection services;
- Insurance and Risk Management Services;
- Accessibility;
- Training and leadership;
- Employee benefits; and website development.

More recently, the City of Kitchener has initiated a municipal innovation centre, Digital Kitchener, as part of the Communitech innovation centre, a world-leading collaboration and innovation centre. Digital Kitchener has initiated projects including but not limited to:

- e-Services;
- LED streetlight conversion with smart sensors (Adaptive control systems)
- Digital inclusion standards;
- Use of adaptive control systems for parking, water meter reading, and transportation and traffic management.

Municipal Innovation centres have been established throughout the United States and across Canada with Municipal Innovation Conferences, Workshops and Forums being held throughout North America including Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Alberta.

The MIC will foster collaboration and transformation of municipal process.

There are four areas of focus:

- Construction and Infrastructure
- Municipal Sustainability
- IT and Digital Enhancement
- Liveable Communities.

As MIC partnerships are formed, objectives and goals will be set for each area of focus by the participating municipalities.

There is significant value added by partnering the MIC with NII. The MIC will have access at no charge to NII resources, including their innovation teams and world renowned researchers. The collectively funded position of MIC Lab Director will leverage NII resources to implement solutions for common municipal challenges. No funding will be directed to NII.

The MIC will operate under a mutually shared MOU to include partner municipalities, allowing all partners to benefit from the research, development and implementation of solutions.

The operations and governance of MIC are further defined in the draft business plan. The areas of focus, including an overview of the MIC's mandate, is included in the draft concept document. Both documents can be found attached to this report. The documents are currently in draft form until the MIC is established, and partner participation in strategic goal setting is completed.

The funding model for the MIC includes a \$12,000 annual membership fee, plus \$2.50 per household (2016 census) due annually. Further budget details can be found in the draft business plan. The goal of this model is to find Municipal efficiencies. It must be recognized that the Provincial one-time efficiency/modernization grant was provided with the intent for municipalities to identify and implement strategies that would improve efficiencies by modernization of municipal service delivery models. The use of the Provincial one-time efficiency/modernization grant is ideal for such a purpose. Failure to use these funds to find efficiencies that lead to cost savings overall may result in future tax burden to ratepayers should provincial transfer/funding be subsequently reduced as a follow-up to the Provincial one-time efficiency/modernization grant.

For Council's information to date the following municipalities have agreed to participate in the Municipal Innovation Council:

- Saugeen Shores
- South Bruce Peninsula
- Huron-Kinloss
- South Bruce
- Kincardine
- Northern Bruce Peninsula is considering Monday October 28th

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? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Staff recommends this project be funded through the Provincial one-time efficiency/modernization grant over the next three years as outlined below for a total of \$67,890.

2020: \$22,630

2021: \$22,630

2022: \$22,630

Total: \$67,890

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer