

Report to Council

Report Title: Request for Letter of Support for SWIFT Expansion

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Administration

Date: January 26, 2021

Report Number: CAO2021-01 **File Number:** C11AD

Attachments: SWIFT Service Map Expansion

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby received Report Number CAO2021-01 – Request for Letter of Support for SWIFT Expansion, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so approves a letter of support for the broadband expansion project of EH!tel in Brockton.

Report:

Background:

SWIFT is a regional broadband expansion project that was initiated by the Western Ontario Wardens' Causus and is delivered in partnership with member municipalities and the Canada and Ontario governments. SWIFT is currently leveraging public and private funding, approximately \$209 million, to bring service to more than 50,000 households and businesses by 2024.

EH!tel is applying for funding from the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), which requires a letter of support from the affected municipalities. A \$1.75 billion Universal Broadband Fund was set up to support high-speed internet projects across the country.

Analysis:

EH!tel Networks has been awarded the Cargill project area by SWIFT, which includes servicing the following communities: Vesta, Ellengowan, Pinkerton, Eden Grove, Cargill, Cargill Siding, Dunkeld, Chepstow, Otter Creek, Pearl Lake, Maple Hill and Malcolm. The project is expected to reach 1054 households, and cover 66.4 kilometres of roadway, by the end of 2021 a map has been attached for information.

This is great news for the rural residents and businesses of Brockton. We recommend providing the letter of support as requested.

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?
N/A

There is no financial impact resulting from this report at this time.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer