



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

Subject: Municipal Innovation Council (MIC) Continuation

Director: Chief Administrative Officer

Manager: Manager.

Report Number: CAO General-2022-04

Meeting Date: Monday, July 4, 2022

Recommendation: That Council approve signing an updated Memorandum of Understanding to extend the Municipal Innovation Council until December 31st, 2025 (3-year extension);

AND That Council direct staff to incorporate the required \$26,707 annual MIC funding into the draft 2023 budget to support the MIC into the new 3-year extension.

Date to be considered by Council: Monday, July 11, 2022

Report Summary:

The Municipal Innovation Council (MIC) was established in 2020 when 8 municipalities in the County of Bruce came together to find savings, efficiencies, and to deliver better services to their residents, all with the goal of building smarter, stronger more resilient communities. The MIC has had remarkable success over the 3-year pilot and has proven to be a model every community across Canada could benefit from. The MIC has allowed for the collective tackling of problems that couldn't otherwise be done independently and armed its member municipalities with 21st century data that will provide the foundation to ensure sustainable growth. This report recommends the continued participation in the Municipal Innovation Council by signing onto the Memorandum of Understanding and advancing the necessary budget request for 2023.

Origin:

Existing Policy: Memorandum of Understanding

Background/Analysis: The Municipal Innovation Council (MIC) was established in 2020 when 8 municipalities in the County of Bruce came together to find

savings, efficiencies, and to deliver better services to their residents, all with the goal of building smarter, stronger, more resilient communities. When the MIC was established, the first 18-months focused on identifying areas of focus, knowledge gathering, foundation setting, and identifying common problems across the member municipalities.

Elected officials and senior leaders from across the member communities identified the MIC's areas of focus. Those focus areas are listed below, and the pilot projects were identified to advance in each of these shared priorities:

- **Construction and Infrastructure**
- **Municipal Sustainability**
- **Information Technology & Digital Enhancements**
- **Livable communities**

With these common areas of opportunity identified, the MIC then turned to securing external funding sources to maximize the members investment and advance the Pilot Projects.

Pilot Project Highlights

Attached to this report is a MIC Impact Report – Stronger Together, that highlights the projects that were advanced, their success, the funding leveraged and the economies of scale and tax dollars that were saved. The Pilot Projects highlighted are:

- **Smart Beach** (Livable Communities / Construction and Infrastructure)
- **Mapping our Future** (Information Technology & Digital Enhancements / Municipal Sustainability)
- **Waste Management Service Review** (Municipal Sustainability / Construction and Infrastructure)
- **Information Technology (IT) Service Review** (Information Technology & Digital Enhancement / Municipal Sustainability)
- **Attainable Housing Support** (Livable Communities)
- **Training Opportunities and Outreach** (Municipal Sustainability)

Value for Money

The MIC has been tremendously successful at securing external funding for almost every project it has undertaken. For every MIC dollar invested there has been a doubling of that investment through external funding sources. The MIC has obtained close to \$600,000 in additional funding through programs like the Municipal Modernization Program, the National Disaster Mitigation Program, Mitacs Accelerate and more. This brings the total value delivered to member municipalities to over \$1.2 million dollars.

This has allowed the MIC to complete service reviews across all 8 municipalities focusing on Waste Management and Information Technology – at no cost to the MIC. It has also provided the Member municipalities with valuable information, insights and opportunities for efficiencies and best practices that will realize economies of scale and ensure our municipalities are future ready.

Next Steps

As Council is aware, the pilot MIC agreement was to be for the period ending December 31, 2022, the end of the three year period. The MIC is just starting to reach its stride after the first 18-months of planning and foundation setting and dealing with COVID for two years. In the last year, the MIC has been able to illustrate how that solid foundation is starting to bear fruit in the caliber and quality of the projects that are being advanced in 2022. The MIC is seeing traction on several projects from Smart Beaches, the IT Service Review, and Mapping our Future as well as training, communication and outreach.

The Municipal Innovation Council has had remarkable success over the 3-year pilot. Pilot projects have demonstrated the advantage of economies of scale to the member municipalities with the pilot projects saving over half a million dollars.

In addition to project savings, the member municipalities are starting to see the real value in what is being leveraged by the MIC. Kincardine contributed \$26,707 annually for a total investment of \$80,121. That investment has been leveraged to \$1.2 million through grants and member funding and accomplished several initiatives that Kincardine could not have advanced independently. That means that for every dollar the Municipality of Kincardine spent, it leveraged \$12 from the MIC partnership (in addition to the future savings that will be realized from this work).

The opportunities this partnership is providing, coupled with the leverages the Municipality is able to secure, highlights the importance of continuing in the partnership and how it makes sense for the Municipality. The recommendation is to continue to participate in this innovative, one-of-a-kind partnership and continue to leverage the MIC to advance the priorities of Kincardine and the region.

Integrated Strategy 2020 - 2025

Financial Implications: \$26,707 annually to be funded from the 2023-2025 operating budgets

Attachments: Municipal Innovation Council Impact Report – Stronger Together; MIC Memorandum of Understanding 2023-2025

Prepared by:

Submitted by: