



Committee Report

To: Warden Janice Jackson
Members of the Executive Committee

From: Derrick Thomson
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: July 14, 2022

Re: Municipal Innovation Council Continuation

Staff Recommendation:

That the updated Memorandum of Understanding to extend the Municipal Innovation Council until December 31st, 2025 (3-year extension), be approved for signing; and,

That staff be directed to incorporate the required \$50,000 annual MIC funding into the draft 2023 budget to support the MIC into the new 3-year extension (totaling \$150,000 over the three-year extension).

Background:

The Municipal Innovation Council 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 a period ending December 31, 2022, the end of the three years. 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 period, pilot projects have demonstrated the advantage of economies of scale to the member municipalities with projects savings of over half a million dollars.

In addition to project savings, the member municipalities are starting to see the value in what is being leveraged by the MIC. Bruce County contributed \$50,000 annually for a total investment of \$150,000. That investment has been leveraged to \$1.2 million through grants and member funding and accomplished several initiatives that Bruce County could not have advanced independently. That means that for every dollar the County spent, it leveraged \$8 from the Municipal Innovation Council 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 County is able to secure, highlights the importance of continuing in the partnership and how it makes sense for the County. 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 County and the region.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Bruce County's proposed contribution is \$50,000 annually, for a three-year commitment, totaling \$150,000 over the life of the project.

The Corporate Strategic Initiatives Specialist was appointed as the representative on the Municipal Innovation Council for the County of Bruce.

There is no legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

There was no interdepartmental consultation.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #7 Stimulate and reward innovation and economic development

F. Try small and then go BIG - act on ideas and take calculated risks

G. Assignment to seek out like-minded partners for retail, agriculture, and industrial development

Approved for Submission:

Derrick Thomson

Chief Administrative Officer