



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: 2023 BMA Municipal Study Results

From: Edward Henley, Director of Corporate Services

Date: January 11, 2024

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

The County participated in a comparative survey conducted by BMA Management Consulting Inc, that includes financial data from 121 Ontario Municipalities representing in excess of 88% of the population. The study results are attached.

Background:

The Executive Summary shows the geographic location results for:

- Socio-Economic Indicators
- Financial Indicators
- Revenue/Expenditure Analysis
- Select User Fees & Revenue Information
- Tax Policies
- Comparison of Relative Taxes
- Comparison of Water/Sewer costs
- Average Municipal Burden as a % of Income
- Economic Development Programs

The report provides a number of comparisons, several of which do not apply to the Upper Tier however all the information is valuable in our decision making at both the upper and lower tiers.

It is anticipated that the consolidation of the financial and economic indicators contained in the Municipal Study will achieve the following goals and objectives for municipalities:

- To help municipal decision makers in assessing market conditions.
- To understand the unique characteristics of each municipality
- To understand the relationship between various controllable and uncontrollable factors in addressing a municipality's competitive opportunities and challenges
- To develop a database of material that can be updated in future years to assess progress and establish targets

- To create awareness of the trends and the potential need to modify policies
- To assist in aligning municipal decisions in property taxation with other economic development programs and initiatives
- To assist municipalities in developing a long-term strategy for property taxation to achieve municipal competitive objectives in targeted property classes
- To create a baseline source of information that will assist municipalities in addressing specific areas of concern and to gain a better understanding of how other municipalities have addressed similar concerns
- To understand the impact of reassessment and growth

Ideally it would be beneficial if more Counties in southwestern Ontario participated annually in the study. Staff will continue to review the results and follow up where appropriate.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The cost of the study was approximately \$1,100. The 2024 budget includes funds to participate in the 2024 study.

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Study has been shared with the Senior Management Team and will be circulated to the Lower Tier municipalities.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Growth and Innovation - Promote responsible growth

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer