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Report 2023-099

Report Title: Strategic Initiatives Update

Committee Name: Economic Development, Tourism and Planning

Committee Meeting Date: August 2, 2023

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Director
Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Initiatives

Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: August 16, 2023

Strategic Plan Priorities: ☒ Economic Prosperity and Innovation
☒ Sustainable Growth
☒ Thriving and Inclusive Communities
☐ Leadership in Change

Information Report

That the Economic Development, Tourism and Land Use Planning Committee receive Report 2023-099 'Strategic Initiatives Update' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this report for information."

Purpose

To provide an update on a series of strategic initiatives related to departmental activities, specifically Broadband, Workforce Housing and Talent Attraction.

Background

Broadband as a Utility

- Successful face to face discussions took place June 15th between Northumberland and DIG/Meridiam.

- Documentation for signature and approval by Council is anticipated for/by the August 16th County Council meeting.
- A public consultation took place June 26th in Alderville First Nation with representation from Band Council, Staff and Residents as well as DIG and Northumberland.
- Plans are underway for a shovels in the ground event to be held in the Municipality of Brighton during the month of September.
- On a related note the Province has asked for departmental representation on a panel at AMO to overview and detail the Northumberland initiative.

Workforce Housing

- Discussions have taken place at the provincial and federal level to shape support for applicable funding as illustrated in the financial model. To date these have been met with a positive response and work is underway for funding submissions.
- Support for the initiative has also been requested of the private sector and been met letters of support and we are awaiting a response to a financial commit related to talent attraction.
- The framework of a strategic plan for the Northumberland Workforce Housing Corporation is being shaped as well as the finalization of a position description.
- MOU/LOI are being developed to facilitate and formalize the process of land transfer for the purpose of workforce housing with member municipalities who are supportive.

Talent Attraction

- Through Settlement Services discussions have taken place with Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and the Shapiro Foundation culminating in a presentation to the County's Management Operating Committee (MOC) by a representative of both organizations on June 14th.
- Northumberland is currently in receipt of a Letter of Intent which will be essential to finalization negotiations with IRCC to provide the resources to begin the workforce talent initiative. (See private sector support bullet under workforce housing).

In parallel to this process is the preparation of an application for funding to support a Local Immigration Partnership. Initial discussions have been undertaken for the selection process of a consultant qualified to fulfil the application requirements.

Consultations

Consultations are on-going with all parties that have a role to play in the three key strategic initiatives

Legislative Authority/Risk Considerations

N/A

Discussion/Options

N/A

Financial Impact

N/A

Member Municipality Impacts

N/A

Conclusion

Information included within the report is to inform the Standing Committee and Council as to the current state of affairs within each initiative.

Attachments

N/A