

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members of Council

PREPARED BY: Justin Dias, Director of Economic Development and Community Services

DEPARTMENT: Economic Development & Community Services

DIVISION: Economic Development

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February-06-19

SUBJECT: Monthly Ec. Development and Community Services Report

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that Council receive and file the Economic Development and Community Services Monthly Operational Report for January 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Economic Development and Community Services Operations Report provides an update on operations and initiatives within the department. The January 2019 Report highlights a number of current and ongoing initiatives within the department including the Community Transit Funding Grant, updates to North Middlesex's Official Plan and changes to proposed Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018*.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Leadership: To Create a Positive, Open Organizational Culture With Open, Respectful and Responsible Leadership

Prosper: To Support Economic Strength, Foster Entrepreneurship And Attract Investment By Promoting Economic Growth Through Implementation Of The Economic Development Plan

BACKGROUND

The Economic Development and Community Services Monthly Operations report provides Council an up to date portrait of operational activities and strategic initiatives within the department. Reporting from staff in general creates a positive, open organization culture where information of day to day municipal operations can easily be accessible.

DISCUSSION

- 1. *Community Transit Grant Funding:*** Funding for the Community Transit Grant has been confirmed through the Ministry of Transportation. The Huron Shores Transit Initiative had been notified of a successful Community Transportation Grant in the Spring of 2018 from the Ministry of Transportation. The grant was submitted by Lambton Shores on behalf of the committee and the amount for the 'Long-Distance' transit project which was to include North Middlesex was \$1.5 million. The committee had issued an RFP for a transit feasibility study and interviewed qualified consultants with a successful firm chosen. However, the Provincial election and changing of the government had resulted in a delay for confirming a funding agreement and subsequently undertaking the project. With the renewed commitment to follow through on the funding, the project committee will be formally retaining the consultant and undertaking a data gathering exercise to assist with the initial feasibility study. Staff, Council and key local stakeholders will play an active role in informing this phase of the project with more details about these consultation opportunities to follow.
- 2. *Update to Proposed Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018:*** The proposed *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018* is a wide-ranging piece of legislation that along with accompanying regulatory changes, would affect a number of Ministries and amend other pieces of existing legislation. In relation to Economic Development, the proposed Act would have allowed the passage of an 'open for business' by-law by municipalities that could streamline approvals under the *Planning Act* and shorten the timeline for project approvals with written consent by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Minister has subsequently signalled that the Government would withdraw Schedule 10 of the Bill which included the 'open for business' by law provisions.
<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-66>
- 3. *North Middlesex Community Centre Renovations (Capital Project):*** Renovations to the North Middlesex Community Centre were completed on schedule by Allied Construction on January 31. Renovations consisted of new maintenance-free flooring, updating of wall panelling and minor electrical. Work has also commenced on PA system upgrades and multimedia centre including projector and motorized screen which was funded through the Parkhill Hydro Proceeds.
- 4. *Committees:*** The Recreation Advisory Committee and Economic Development Advisory Committee are both seeking community members who are interested in serving. An advertisement was posted in last week's newspaper and on the

municipal website and social media. Both committees meet quarterly in the evenings at the Shared Services Centre. All applications received by 4:00pm on February 8 will be considered to fill existing positions or kept on file for future vacancies.

5. **North Middlesex Official Plan Update:** Staff across departments are working with County Planning on North Middlesex’s Official Plan update. Part of this exercise relates to an updating of the Economic Development Principles section of the plan to ensure that there is alignment with the Economic Development Strategy and the North Middlesex Corporate Strategic Plan. Staff is currently working with Planning to ensure that the updated Official Plan includes relevant economic development provisions as well as provisions for the further build out of Community Improvement Plans and other economic development tools.

6. **Partnership with Rotary Club of Grand Bend:** The Rotary Club of Grand Bend which has members from North Middlesex has approached staff in regards to installing a water filling station in the Municipality. Through discussions with the club, one potential location that has been identified is in the lobby of the Shared Services Centre. This location would provide broad access to the community. The Rotary Club would cover the cost of purchasing the station with North Middlesex responsible for installation costs. North Middlesex currently has two similar stations, one at the North Middlesex Arena and Fitness Centre and another within the Ailsa Craig Library. To date, the filling station at the Arena has dispensed equivalent to 7540 disposable water bottles.

FINANCIAL

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENT

None

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Approved By: Nandini Syed, CAO/Director of Finance (Treasurer)