

## Report ITR-CS-07-15

**To:** Chair Bob Pringle and Members of Corporate Services Committee  
**From:** Geoff Hogan, Information Technology (IT) Director  
Mike Alguire, Purchasing and Materials Manager  
**Meeting Date:** May 26, 2015  
**Subject:** **Single Source Broadband Contractor**  
**Status:** Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CS60-15; Endorsed by County Council June 2, 2015 per Resolution CC78-15;

### Recommendation(s)

**WHEREAS** improving resident and business access to broadband is an important priority for Grey County;

**AND WHEREAS** the 2015 approved budget includes \$50,000 to hire a contractor to work with the IT Director to create a plan to improve broadband connectivity in Grey County that aligns with the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) SWIFT proposal;

**AND WHEREAS** Campbell Patterson Communications is the consultant on the WOWC SWIFT project and has completed phase one of the broadband plan for Grey County;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** report ITR-CS-07-15 be received;

**AND THAT** Campbell Patterson Communications be single sourced to assist with the development of the plan to improve broadband in Grey County.

### Background

The Grey County Economic Development Strategy has identified that broadband is one of the key success factors required to be investment ready. The regional South West Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project will help make this happen but the completion date of the project is far in the future. Council has allocated \$1,000,000 in a broadband reserve and \$50,000 to create a plan for local broadband expansion that aligns with the SWIFT project.

In late 2014 staff commissioned a study by a consultant to help identify options for the County to facilitate broadband expansion in the County. The [Connect it your way broadband study](#) identifies public sector approaches from around Canada for improving broadband. The study also describes potential governance approaches that the County could use if the county chooses to proceed with local investments in broadband.

The next steps are outlined as follows:

1. Adopt a set of guiding principles
2. Identify local provider infrastructure
  - a. Assist purchasing in the development of a Request for Qualification (RFQ)
3. Solicit public and provider feedback
4. Adopt a deployment and governance model
5. Establish a model of how the upper and lower tiers work together
6. Design and estimate technologies, coverage and costs
7. Make a funding application to the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF) Small Communities Fund (SCF) or other fund to augment county funding

## Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology (IT) Considerations

The previous phase of this project was completed by Campbell Patterson Communications (CPC), CPC is also the consultant that has been working on the SWIFT project for the past 3 years. CPC has provided a Statement of Work (SOW) that is within the \$50,000 budget and would accomplish the required next steps to create a plan aligned with the SWIFT project to improve broadband in Grey.

Staff are recommending that CPC be single sourced for this work.

## Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Goal Number One of the Corporate Strategic Plan is to expand the prosperity base of the County. This means enhancing and diversifying economic opportunities within the County, becoming “investment-ready” and ensuring the foundation is in place for sustained success.

- 4.4 Embrace and continually invest in technology in order to enhance the operations of all county services as well as the county’s overall state of future preparedness.

## Attachments

Respectfully submitted by,

Geoff Hogan  
Director of Information Technology