Whereas, Canada's federal excise tax currently exempts 100% Canadian wines; and

Whereas, Australia has asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to rule that this exemption is discriminatory; and

Whereas, if the WTO were to rule with Australia, Canadian wineries making 100% Canadian wine would no longer be exempt; and

Whereas, the present value of the excise exemption is $39 million annually across Canada; and

Whereas, in the 13 years since this exemption was created, the production of 100% Canadian wine has increased by almost 30 million litres, representing an additional annual contribution of $2.7 billion to the Canadian economy; and

Whereas, Grey County, specifically the municipalities of Meaford and Town of Blue Mountains, is home to a number of successful, award winning, boutique wineries;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved That, the County of Grey supports the excise exemption for 100% Canadian wines; and

That, the County of Grey appeals to the Federal government to ensure the exemption remains in place by reaching an agreement with Australia prior to the WTO ruling; and

That, this motion be forwarded to: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Leader of the
4. Delegations

10:45 AM Sarah Shenstone-Harris, Climate Change & Energy Planner and Hiba Kariem, Climate Change Project Officer - ICLEI Canada

Climate Change Action Plan

5. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

6. Consent Agenda

That the following Consent Agenda items be received; and

That staff be authorized to take the actions necessary to give effect to the recommendations in the staff reports; and

That the correspondence be supported or received for information as recommended in the consent agenda.

a. Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Provincial Policy Statement, 2020

That the correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the release of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 be received for information.

b. Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee minutes dated February 25, 2020

That the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee minutes dated February 25, 2020 be adopted as presented.

c. Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force minutes dated March 2, 2020

That the Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force minutes dated March 2, 2020 be adopted as presented.

d. Affordable Housing Task Force minutes dated March 3, 2020
Committee of the Whole  
March 12, 2020  
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That the Affordable Housing Task Force minutes dated March 3, 2020 be adopted as presented; and

That the resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

i. That Report PDR-AF-01-20 be received for information purposes; and
   That the Report be shared with member municipalities in Grey County for their information.

e. County of Haliburton-Support re Tourism Oriented Destination Signage Fee Increase Deferral-Phase In

   That the correspondence from the County of Haliburton regarding a deferral or phased-in approach to Tourism Oriented Destination Signage be supported.

7. Items For Direction and Discussion

a. PDR-CW-17-20 Municipal and Growth Boundaries Planning Report

   That Report PDR-CW-17-20 be received for information purposes; and

   That the Report be shared with member municipalities in Grey County for their information;

   That staff be directed to begin working with member municipalities, neighbouring municipalities, and neighbouring counties on identifying future growth and infrastructure needs and the challenges therein where two or more municipal boundaries are involved; and

   That staff bring back a report summarizing findings and recommendations for next steps.

b. PDR-CW-18-20 Alfred Street West Information Report

   That Report PDR-CW-18-20 regarding an overview of proposed plan of subdivision application 42T-2019-03, consisting of fifteen (15) total units - two semi-detached lots (4 units), five single-detached dwelling lots (5 units), and two, 3-unit townhouse lots (6 units), on lands described as Part of Lots 1-3, RP No. 105 (geographic Town of Thornbury) in the Town of The Blue Mountains, be received for information.

c. HDR-CW-03-20 Housing Benefit Transfer Payment Agreement

   That Report HDR-CW-03-20 regarding the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit Program Transfer Agreement be received; and

   That any additional funds made available to Grey County through the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit program be approved for use in 2020; and

   That staff be authorized to proceed prior to County Council approval as per section 25.6 (b) of Procedural By-law 5003-18.
d. SSR-CW-03-20 Ontario Works Electronic Document Management

That Report SSR-CW-03-20 be received; and

That the Ontario Works department adopt an Electronic Data Management system under the guidelines of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services; and

That the contract to implement Electronic Data Management in the Ontario Works department be single sourced to Nimble Information Strategies Inc; and

That the costs of implementing Electronic Data Management, not to exceed $59,021.50 plus HST, be provided from the Social Services General Caseload Reserve.

e. EDTC-CW-08-20 Local Immigration Partnership Agreement

That Report EDTC-CW-08-20 regarding the Local Immigration Partnership Agreement with Bruce County be received; and

That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with Bruce County for the delivery of the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership as outlined by the Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada Contribution Agreement and its schedules.

8. Other Business

9. Notice of Motion

10. Adjournment
February 28, 2020

Dear Head of Council:

**RE: Provincial Policy Statement, 2020**

Earlier today, the government of Ontario released the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), 2020. The PPS is an important part of Ontario’s land use planning system, setting out the provincial land use policy direction that guides municipal decision-making.

Municipalities play a key role in implementing provincial land use policies through local official plans, zoning by-laws and other planning decisions. The Planning Act requires that decisions on land use planning matters be “consistent with” PPS policies.

The PPS, 2020 supports implementation of **More Homes, More Choice: Ontario’s Housing Supply Action Plan** and includes key changes to:

- Encourage an increase in the mix and supply of housing
- Protect the environment and public safety
- Reduce barriers and costs for development and provide greater certainty
- Support rural, northern and Indigenous communities
- Support the economy and job creation

The PPS, 2020 works together with other recent changes to the land use planning system – including changes to the Planning Act through Bill 108, More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 and **A Place to Grow**: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Collectively, these changes support key government priorities of increasing housing supply, supporting job creation and reducing red tape – while continuing to protect Ontarians’ health and safety and the environment, including the Greenbelt.

The PPS, 2020 policies will take effect on May 1, 2020. It will replace the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014. In accordance with section 3 of the Planning Act, all decisions affecting land use planning matters made after this date shall be consistent with the PPS, 2020. My ministry will be in touch to provide education and training for municipal staff to support implementation of the new policies.
For more information about the PPS, 2020, please visit ontario.ca/PPS where you will find:

- A digital version of the PPS, 2020
- A link to the decision notice on the Environment Registry of Ontario (ERO #019-0279)

If you have any questions about the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020, please contact the ministry at provincialplanning@ontario.ca or by calling 1-877-711-8208.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark
Minister

c: Planning Head, Planning Board Secretary-Treasurer, and/or Clerks
The Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Brian Davenport, Steacy Den Haan, Sharif Rahman, Ashley Chapman, Councillors Ian Boddy, John Woodbury, and Sue Carleton.

Regrets: Councillors Aakash Desai, Shirley Keaveney and Tom Hutchinson and Warden Paul McQueen, Lisa Taylor.

Staff Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture, Scott Taylor, Senior Planner, Steve Furness, Manager Economic Development, Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer, Courtney Miller, Business Enterprise Manager; Jennifer Christie, Program Development Manager; and Heather Morrison, Clerk

Call to Order
The Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

Election of Chair for 2020
The Clerk called for nominations for Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2020.

ED01-20 Moved by: Councillor Boddy Seconded by: Councillor Woodbury

That Brian Davenport be nominated for Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2020.

Councillor Carleton moved nominations close.
Mr. Davenport accepted the role of Chair for 2020.

**Election of Vice Chair for 2020**

The Clerk called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2020.

*ED02-20* Moved by: Councillor Woodbury  Seconded by: Steacy Den Haan

That Sue Carleton be nominated for Vice Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory for 2020.

Councillor Woodbury moved nominations close.

Councillor Carleton accepted the position of Vice Chair for 2020.

Brian Davenport then assumed the Chair.

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**Reports**

**Overview of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture**

Savanna Myers presented an update on the new Economic Development, Tourism and Culture department. She advised that Steve Furness has been appointed to the Manager of Economic Development and interviews are taking place for the Manager of Grey Roots shortly. Ms. Wingrove noted that there is a lot of synergy between the three portfolios as well as many opportunities available for collaboration including agri-food, seizing opportunities for Grey Roots for various promotions and educational events.

**Business Enterprise Centre Year-In Review**

Courtney Miller provided an update on the Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) and the associated training opportunities. Access to the BEC services has increased over the past year along with the visibility in the community, drawing more entrepreneurs through the door to access available resources. The BEC will be moving to the Sydenham Campus shortly along with the Catapult program. She noted that in 2019 there were 647 inquiries, a 31% increase over 2018 and a total of 24 workshops for the year. The Committee congratulated the BEC on its year end achievements.
Upcoming Events

Farmer’s Market Managers and Vendors Event

Ms. Markowitz noted that on April 27 Grey County is hosting a farmer’s market managers event with prospective new food businesses. Regulatory changes, new to the business, vendor tables and networking opportunities will be available as well. Farmers markets from Grey, Bruce, Simcoe, Wellington, Dufferin will be attending the event. The last one attracted 60 vendors. Philly noted that climate change is always a topic of conversation at these forums as well as seasonal product enhancements. She also noted that there are more local greenhouse products going out into the markets. Discussion on posting notices on local municipalities websites for further distribution of the information. Facebook is still the spot for sharing events. Philly will send out the information to municipalities for posting closer to the event date.

Young Professionals Network: Special Edition

Savanna provided an update on the Young Professionals Network (YPN). The next event is being held on the Chi-Cheemaun in the Owen Sound harbor. They will be dockside from 6:30pm-7:30pm and then enjoy a private cruise from 7:30pm-9:30pm. There will be another event scheduled for summer and as well as one in the fall. She noted that the events provide a great networking opportunity for young professionals from ages 20-40 and was developed at the request of young professionals in the area as an opportunity to network with others. She also noted that each event has had between 120-150 young professionals consistently. YPN provided an opportunity to engage young people and build networks with one another. The past events have been held in various areas throughout the County.

Other Business

Legislation Change’s Update

Scott Taylor provided an update on legislative changes that affect numerous areas within the County. These include:

- Planning Act changes including reduced application timelines, more permissive policies on secondary suites, maximum parking standards for secondary suites, and no longer permitting public appeals on plans of subdivision once decision is made by the governing body
- Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT) - he noted that this was formally the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and although the name has changed the process is primarily back to what was under the OMB. Scott noted that in-person
hearings are still held but mediation is often the first step in the appeals process. He also noted that the LPAT is working through a backlog of appeals.

- **Endangered Species Act** - Scott noted that there has been a buyout system put in place by the Ministry to bypass restrictions on endangered species in favour of development and the developer will need to pay for the re-establishment of species in other areas.

- **Conservation Authorities Act** - Scott noted that the Ministry is proposed to scope Conservation Authority role to its core mandate being flooding with all other activities outside of core mandate needing to be completed via agreement with the respective municipality

- **Aggregate Resources Act** - Scott noted that there are changes related to how and when pit and quarry licenses can go below the water table and how to protect water sources. Municipalities can no longer zone for the depth of the extraction. Scott also stated that the Minister or LPAT can no longer have regard for ongoing road maintenance and there will be no changes to royalties or levies currently for aggregate resources

Questions regarding timelines and staff resources were reviewed specifically related to shortened commenting periods and the amount of changes coming through in a short period of time. Randy Scherzer noted that staff are working with local municipalities to see if there are opportunities for streamlining the process and an application tracking system via Grey County’s IT department is being developed.

Kim Wingrove noted that there is an ongoing decline in business investment across the County. The labour force issues and the ability to attract skilled workers continues to be a challenge. Kim noted that the county has recently established an Affordable Housing Task Force to look at housing options and opportunities throughout Grey County. Randy noted that the changes to legislation and policies have been done quickly and concerns are being raised by developers and municipalities related to various aspects of the changes including implementation concerns.

**Development Charges By-law Updates**

Randy Scherzer provided an update on changes to the Development Charges Act. He provided an overview of what development charges are and what they are used for. He noted that the concept is that growth pays for growth rather than the costs of infrastructure improvements that are related to growth being placed on the backs of the current taxpayers. Some changes to the Development Charges Act came into effect on January 1, 2020. He also stated that there are some required development charges deferrals including rental housing, institutional development, and nonprofit housing development. These developments will get an automatic deferral on development charges until the time of occupancy and would the development charges would be paid
over a period of time as set out in the Development Charges Act. Related changes are also being proposed in the County’s Development Charges By-law update coming shortly which would exempt development charges for rental housing and non-profit housing. Randy also noted that there is a freeze on the development charges rate for site plan control or zoning by-law amendments submitted after January 1, 2020 noting that the rate will be frozen at the application date unless there is a lapse of 2 years from the date of application (currently being proposed as the lapse period by the Province).

Randy stated that municipalities can charge interest from the date of application and municipalities may choose the interest rate as the Province has indicated that they don’t plan on setting a maximum prescribed interest rate. He also noted that municipalities will no longer be able to collect certain ‘soft services’ under development charges based on what the Province was proposing. Soft services can be collected through the new Community Benefit Charge (CBC) but the regulations have not been released yet.

Randy noted that some other changes being proposed in the County’s Development Charges By-laws will be a proposed deferral policy for housing units meeting Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act as well as developments for affordable housing units. He also stated that there will be redevelopment credits for commercial space that is redeveloped to residential space as an example, as well as exempting development charges for approved Community Improvement Plan (CIP) projects.

Questions arose related to reactive and proactive development charges. Staff noted that they are always committed to a pre-consultation process in order to avoid surprises related to development charges. Randy noted that the Development Charges Act allows for municipalities to work with developers to front end these charges and recoup once the development is complete.

Councillor Woodbury left the meeting.

**Sydenham Campus Update and Catapult Update**

Jennifer Christie updated the Committee on Catapult noting that there will be an update to all municipalities, chambers and stakeholders at a session on February 27 from 3-5pm at Sydenham Campus. She noted that they are accepting referrals for those interested in the program. Consultants are used to help business develop and launch. Catapult provides services to business owners to scale and launch their businesses. It is a not for profit organization. It utilizes the Fast Lane Program which has been licensed from Innovation Guelph where great success has been seen.

Steve Furness informed Committee that the remaining interior renovations have begun. Several organizations have made use of the Campus over the past few weeks and interest continues to grow.
Georgian College Announcement-Nursing Program

Brian Davenport provided an update on the announcement of a Registered Nursing program at Georgian College in the fall of 2021. It is hoped that this will help keeping locally trained nurses in the area.

Delegation

Four County Market Labour Board-Mobility Report

Gemma Mendez-Smith, Four County Labour Market Planning Board and Paul Knafelc, Community Benchmarks Inc addressed the Committee on the Four County Market Labour Board’s mobility report. The purpose of the presentation is to gain a better understanding of Grey County’s ability to attract workers and propensity to lose workers, and to examine the role of movers and commuters.

Statistics surrounding the numbers of people that have both moved to Grey County and left Grey County from 2011-2016 were then outlined, including age cohort and educational attainment statistics. The results indicate that Grey County is quite competitive when it comes to attracting residents who are in the labour force. Similar statistics for commuters were then reviewed.

Ms. Mendez-Smith then outlined the next steps which include publishing the reports and data sets for a more targeted approach in order to build a workforce plan. Grey County is starting to see younger employees coming into the County and this could be for a variety of factors including immigration. It was noted that the historic trends will be changing dramatically after the next census is completed. There is not a lot of excess housing yet many employment opportunities in Grey County at the present time. Transportation and housing are the highest opportunities for change to bring people and keep them in the area.

Gather Update

Philly Markowitz provided an update on the “Gather” campaign for 2020 focusing on local food and bringing people together. It will focus on visual authentic rural food experiences and connecting to people and the economy through food. Target segments have been planned to encourage and stimulate the local economy with small locally owned businesses. The campaign will be launched in the spring 2020. The Made in Grey brand will be tied into this promotion. Product development and local engagement with local food owners to develop skills such as pie and pickle making will also be an integral part of the promotion.
Job Fair Update

Steve Furness provided an update on the recent Job Fair in Owen Sound. He noted that there were over 100 businesses in attendance and over 900 job seekers. There is another job fair planned for February 27, 2020 in Hanover.

Roundtable

Ian Boddy spoke to the success of the Auto Show recently held in Toronto as a way to showcase Grey County and the Cobble Beach Concours De Elegance. He noted that this premier show has provided an increased draw to the area over the past 5 years. Councillor Boddy also noted that Diane Austin is the new Chair of the Owen Sound Chamber of Commerce.

Sue Carleton also noted the success of the Auto Show in promoting Grey County.

Kim Wingrove advised the Committee that two task forces have been established by Grey County, namely an Affordable Housing Task Force and a Climate Change Task Force. Each will have its first meeting in the next week and more information will come forward to this committee at the next meeting.

Ashley Chapman noted that there has been a high turnover rate at Chapmans over the past two years and stated that businesses are finding it challenging to find staff. He welcomes the Affordable Housing Task Force and looks forward to its potential solutions to the housing shortage in the area.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair

Adjournment

On a motion of Councillors Carleton and Boddy, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

Brian Davenport, Chair
Committee Minutes

Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force
March 2, 2020 – 1:00 PM

The Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Warden Paul McQueen; Councillors Barb Clumpus, Tom Hutchinson, Brian Milne and Selwyn Hicks

Staff Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Kevin Weppler, Director of Corporate Services, Heather Morrison, Clerk and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Paul McQueen called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Stakeholder Delegations

Dana Howes and Gerry Glover, Co-chairs of the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team Planning Committee

Kim Wingrove introduced Dana Howes and Gerry Glover of the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team Planning Committee. The Ontario Health Teams bring together health providers like hospitals, long-term care homes, and primary care in geography into a connected organization.

Ms. Howes and Mr. Glover spoke to the efforts of the Planning Committee.
Ms. Howes noted that the government is not providing any additional funding to assist in the transition to Ontario Health Teams and is asking the Health Team organizations to be open and innovative.

The Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team has submitted a readiness assessment to the Province for the establishment of an Ontario Health Team. It is hoped that the Province will review the application for the Grey Bruce Health Team soon. Ms. Howe noted that there were more applications received by the Province than expected.

Mr. Glover noted that the goal is to provide every patient with the same access to care and services, regardless of whether their physician is a member of an Ontario Health Team or not. The initial focus of the Grey Bruce OHT is supporting care transitions for frail seniors and supporting patients living with mental health and addictions.

Discussion occurred on the future governance structure and where accountability lies. Initially, service delivery will be accomplished via Memorandums of Understanding between organizations, and a governance structure will unfold in the future. It could take ten years before a mature model develops. There are many things that need to be considered when individual boards are assimilated, and new ones are created. The government can put tools in place to mitigate some of the issues.

Ms. Howes noted that participating organizations are being asked to contribute to the hiring of a program manager to assist in the transition process. The suggested support is .1% of budget, but organizations can provide in kind contributions as well.

Staff noted that historically, a half of one percent of the County’s budget is put aside for capital health care costs and it hasn’t funded operating costs in the past.

Ms. Howes and Mr. Glover spoke to possible capital projects that could potentially benefit from financial assistance.

Discussion occurred on the possibility that some startup funding could be provided by the County. The concept of startup funding is similar to a capital funding in that the funds would be requested only once.

Ms. Howes noted that a reasonable request to the County could be simply earmarking funds for a future ask. As of now, there are too many unknowns to do anything formal.

**Hanover Hospital Capital Plans and Fundraising Efforts**

Dana Howes noted that she will forward this information to Ms. Wingrove as soon as possible.
Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

April 6, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the Bay Room

On motion by Councillors Milne and Hutchinson, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Paul McQueen, Chair
Affordable Housing Task Force
March 3, 2020 – 1:30 AM

The Affordable Housing Task Force met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Warden Paul McQueen; Councillors Keaveney, Burley, O’Leary and Hicks.

Regrets: Councillor Soever

Staff Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Kevin Weppler, Director of Corporate Services; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner; Heather Morrison, Clerk and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

Clerk Heather Morrison called the meeting to order.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Clerk called for nominations for Chair of the Affordable Housing Task Force.

_AFF01-20_ Moved by: Councillor O’Leary Seconded by: Councillor Burley

_That Councillor Hicks be nominated as Chair of the Affordable Housing Task Force._

Councillor Burley moved nominations close.

Councillor Hicks accepted the role of Chair.

The Clerk called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Affordable Housing Task Force.

_AFF02-20_ Moved by: Warden McQueen Seconded by: Councillor O’Leary
That Councillor Burley be nominated as Vice Chair of the Affordable Housing Task Force.

Councillor O’Leary moved nominations close.

Councillor Burley accepted the position of Vice Chair.

Councillor Hicks then assumed the Chair.

Declaration of Interest

There was none.

Reports

PDR-AF-01-20 Housing Options and Programs Report

Scott Taylor introduced the above report. The report contains a summary of what the County is doing so far in terms of housing options and programs.

Mr. Taylor first spoke to the Recolour Grey Official Plan Review process, noting that two main issues arose out of the consultations: Housing and Transportation. There are several policies in the official plan which aim to address these items. Since Recolour Grey was passed in 2019, there have been some changes to secondary units made by the Province that require changes to the Plan.

Measures may want to be taken to reduce restrictions on minimum unit size, and minimum lot sizes. County staff are willing to work with local staff to look at best practices to move forward. The more the requirements can be streamlined, the easier it will be for builders and residents.

Discussion occurred on why secondary units are not taking off as quickly as expected. It was noted that more partnership work needs to be done with the member municipalities. In terms of rural development within hamlets and small villages, new housing development is supported, and opportunities exist across rural areas on existing lots where secondary suites can be added. Staff have heard mixed results across the County, with some municipalities seeing uptake on secondary suites and others, less so.

The Committee noted that there is a need for the Province to do more and offer more of an incentive to young people to assist in buying homes. It was further noted that the consideration of renting a home perhaps has not been given enough consideration.
Discussion occurred on the opportunity to create a type of matching system within communities, where people can find seniors in communities that have extra space available in their home and rent space from them.

Savanna Myers then spoke to the Community Improvement Program. It is a template program that must be passed at the local level. It was noted that municipalities can’t participate in any of the incentives until it’s passed by the local municipality. There have been several affordable and attainable housing items addressed and when all the Plans are in place, likely by the end of 2020, municipalities can start moving forward with the plan and support the development.

Randy Scherzer spoke to the opportunity for surplus land development and the need to have some control over the prices of units in order to keep new housing within an attainable price range. In order to encourage more rental housing, an incentive needs to exist. The possibility of purchasing land and partnering with local municipalities to provide surplus lands for attainable housing development was discussed.

It is important not to create a situation where local municipalities are competing against one another and crucial to reach out to the building and development community in order to prevent competition in getting tradespeople and builders.

Anne Marie Shaw then addressed the Task Force on the Housing and Homelessness Plan Review which looks at how to move forward with housing for people in lower income brackets. There is a need for more affordable housing and subsidies. Ms. Shaw spoke to the additional funding and units that have been received from the Province.

There is a need to look at capacity of builders to manage rental buildings once they are constructed.

Randy Scherzer then spoke to development charges and deferral agreements.

It was noted that the County does not have a development charge deferral policy for rental housing. Staff are working on this and will be bringing it to Council for consideration.

Mr. Scherzer noted that there have been recent changes to the Development Charges Act. Mr. Scherzer outlined that changes respecting requirements for the deferral of development charge payments for rental and institutional developments, as well as non-profit residential developments.

Mr. Scherzer spoke to the proposed changes staff are looking at in the development charges by-law update.
There is value in secondary suites and value in promoting them. They create rental opportunities and allow people to enter the housing market earlier, and the aging population can perhaps remain in their home longer. Discussions with employers across the region could explore whether there are partnership opportunities to develop employee housing.

One other program that staff would like to investigate would be a tenant and landlord matching program.

Another tool to consider that may not be as pertinent in Grey County at this time would be inclusionary zoning. This is a tool that allows a municipality to zone certain areas so that a certain percentage of housing is required to be affordable. Inclusionary zoning is administratively heavy at this stage and appears to be geared to larger high-growth municipalities. As the tool starts to evolve, it could be applicable in Grey County.

There is a certain demographic that is over housed, but without adequate housing supply and choice they don’t move. Additional rental and condo units could encourage people to move to smaller more manageable homes which would free up larger homes for growing families.

Residential development in rural areas can lead to conflicts with aggregate operations as well as between farm and non-farm uses. Rural areas may not be the ideal location for affordable housing due to the the potential for higher lifestyle costs, such as the costs to commute and to own a vehicle if other modes of transportation aren’t available.

Mr. Taylor then spoke to the advantages and efficiencies of more intensive development as opposed to development in rural areas when it comes to the long-term carrying costs of infrastructure.

Discussion occurred on the next steps for the Task Force.

*AF03-20* Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Warden McQueen

That Report PDR-AF-01-20 be received for information purposes; and

That the Report be shared with member municipalities in Grey County for their information.

Carried

**Employer Needs and Challenges**

Savanna Myers spoke to employer needs and challenges. There are businesses reducing hours, putting expansion plans on hold and even shutting down because they
are not able to find workers. It was noted that a healthy rental supply is key to assisting with increasing the labour pool and a crucial first step. Employers are stressing the need for this, as well as sufficient entry level, starter homes. The manufacturing sector is also struggling with the labour pool, as there are many transportation deterrents for those working in that sector as well, including high insurance costs and the licensing process that are preventing people from being able to get to their job.

Ms. Myers then reviewed information provided at the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee meeting and shared statistics surrounding the Grey County labour force and participation rates, as well as statistics around movers and commuters. To summarize, all labour challenges are very much tied to housing.

There was a question as to whether the Province been involved in conversations about their assets (vacant schools) and surplus lands.

**Review Task Force Mandate**

This item will be included on the next agenda.

**Meeting Schedule**

Meetings will be scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Next Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at the Grey County Administration Building.

On motion by Councillors Burley and Keaveney, the meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.

Selwyn Hicks, Chair
February 3, 2020

All Ontario Municipalities

Dear Sir/Madame:

Re: Tourism Oriented Destination Signage Fee Increases

Haliburton County and our local municipalities recently became aware of a significant increase in fees being charged to businesses by Canadian Tourism Oriented Destination Signage Limited. In a time when every effort is being made to remove barriers to prosperity, this change will take money directly from the “bottom line” of small and medium sized businesses and not-for-profits across the Province.

At their most recent meeting, Haliburton County Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture and the Ministry of Transportation supervise the delivery and maintenance of tourism oriented destination signage through a third party – Canadian TODS Limited;
And Whereas our tourism stakeholders and other enterprises rely heavily on this signage to direct customers to their businesses;
And Whereas Canadian TODS Limited recently advised their customers that fees will be doubling, beginning in 2020;
And Whereas this will result in significant financial hardship for those business owners:
Now therefore, be it resolved that the Haliburton County Tourism Committee and Haliburton County Council request that the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Transportation reconsider or phase in this fee increase, allowing an appropriate amount of time for businesses to adjust;
And finally that those municipalities that support the resolution be requested to advise the Ministers noted above and their local MPP of their support.

All of the municipalities in the County of Haliburton recognize the value of this signage and the need for cost increases to meet inflation; however, we are asking that this fee increase be reconsidered and phased in to ease the burden on our stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours truly,

Liz Danielsen
Warden
Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-17-20 be received for information purposes;

2. That the Report be shared with member municipalities in Grey County for their information;

3. That staff be directed to begin working with member municipalities, neighbouring municipalities, and neighbouring counties on identifying future growth and infrastructure needs and the challenges therein where two or more municipal boundaries are involved; and

4. That staff bring back a report summarizing findings and recommendations for next steps.

Executive Summary

Through the work on Recolour Grey, the County examined our growth needs for the coming years, which was informed by the 2018 Growth Management Strategy (GMS), as well as input from municipalities and stakeholders. A key tenant of land use planning is ensuring that municipalities have adequate lands designated and serviced to meet their projected residential and employment growth needs, generally over a 20-year planning horizon. It is recognized that land cannot be designated and serviced ‘over-night’, and therefore advanced planning is crucial; as in some cases these processes can take years before land is ready to be built upon. On the opposite end of the spectrum, over-investing in lands and services that are not needed for growth is an inefficient use of municipal money and infrastructure.

In recent years, County staff have been approached by various municipalities and developers about lands that abut a municipal boundary which may have future development potential. In some cases, these growth discussions also extend to lands outside of Grey County. Staff have also heard concerns from some municipalities that their growth is occurring at a much faster
rate than is contemplated in current planning documents. Through this Report staff will examine this issue, and recommend that County staff work with municipalities on solutions, and areas for collaboration between municipalities.

Background and Discussion

In a two-tier municipal planning system, counties and regions are responsible for coordination and growth allocation, in consultation with member municipalities. This responsibility is laid out in section 1.2.4 of the new 2020 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) as quoted below.

“Where planning is conducted by an upper-tier municipality, the upper-tier municipality in consultation with lower-tier municipalities shall:

a) identify and allocate population, housing and employment projections for lower-tier municipalities. Allocations and projections by upper-tier municipalities shall be based on and reflect provincial plans where these exist and informed by provincial guidelines;

b) identify areas where growth or development will be directed, including the identification of nodes and the corridors linking these nodes;

c) identify targets for intensification and redevelopment within all or any of the lower-tier municipalities, including minimum targets that should be met before expansion of the boundaries of settlement areas is permitted in accordance with policy 1.1.3.8;

d) where transit corridors exist or are to be developed, identify density targets for areas adjacent or in proximity to these corridors and stations, including minimum targets that should be met before expansion of the boundaries of settlement areas is permitted in accordance with policy 1.1.3.8; and

e) identify and provide policy direction for the lower-tier municipalities on matters that cross municipal boundaries.”

Note the 2020 PPS does not come into effect until May 1, 2020; however this particular section of the PPS reads very similarly to the 2014 PPS that is currently in effect.

As part of Recolour Grey, the County updated our Growth Management Strategy (GMS) in May 2018. Throughout the Recolour Grey process, County staff received questions from municipalities and landowners about the rate of growth, and the speed in which development is occurring in some parts of the County. Although the 2018 GMS noted that the County currently has enough lands to meet our growth needs within the 20-year planning horizon; it did note that the County would have to closely monitor development, to determine if the projections are ‘on target’ or if growth is progressing more quickly. County staff recognize the value in ‘planning ahead’, and not waiting until there’s a land shortage, before we start to address future needs. ‘Opening up’ new lands for development is not as simple as designating lands on a map, infrastructure planning and environmental assessments, can add years onto the process before the lands are ‘shovel-ready’ for development. Financing the infrastructure upgrades (including water or wastewater treatment facilities, the transportation network, recreation facilities, etc.) can take years to plan for, and may also require updates to Development Charges by-laws and background studies.

Municipalities across Grey County do an excellent job of planning for their own growth and infrastructure needs within their boundaries. Where it becomes more difficult for municipalities, are the lands outside of their municipal boundaries that may; (a) also experience growth or increased infrastructure demands, or (b) be needed for the future growth of a settlement area.
This coordination role between municipalities is stressed in the PPS and the County Official Plan, and is a key component of planning for the County’s future growth needs. Policies were included in Recolour Grey to facilitate coordination between municipalities, including the possibility for future boundary adjustments.

There are a number of areas across the County where municipalities are seeing growth pressures on both sides of the municipal boundary. Some examples of this include but are not limited to;

a) Hanover – West Grey,
b) West Grey – Southgate – Mount Forest,
c) The Blue Mountains – Collingwood,
d) Georgian Bluffs – Wiarton,
e) Dundalk – Melancton,
f) Owen Sound – Georgian Bluffs,
g) Meaford – Owen Sound,
h) Meaford – The Blue Mountains, and
i) Markdale – West Grey.

In a number of the above examples, municipalities have collaborated on issues around these boundaries, and in some cases even shared municipal services (e.g. Wiarton and Georgian Bluffs). In some cases, there are designated growth areas on both sides of the municipal boundary (e.g. The Blue Mountains and Collingwood). Whereas in other areas, designated lands only occur on one side, but the neighbouring municipality is facing similar growth pressures. In the past, as is the case in Hanover – West Grey, there have been studies completed which recommended that the logical location for the future growth of Hanover is into West Grey, which has resulted in the Hanover-West Grey Secondary Plan, Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 122. There are further scenarios where municipally owned infrastructure or lands are located in the neighbouring municipality, as is the case with the Markdale sewage lagoons in West Grey. Finally, there have been cases where a ‘land swap’ has occurred, where lands were ‘traded’ for either other lands or the expansion of municipal services (e.g. the Municipality of Meaford giving lands to the City of Owen Sound in exchange for the delivery of water services to Leith).

Opportunities and Challenges

These cross jurisdictional boundary issues can be challenging, time consuming to deal with, and in some cases can negatively impact economic development. However, with the right approach staff see great opportunity for;

- collaboration between municipalities, including the ability for shared services or facilities (e.g. municipal water that feeds two municipalities, or a recreation centre shared by two municipalities),
- adjustment of settlement area or municipal boundaries, that may or may not include land-swaps, and
- long-term planning to ensure that our collective growth and economic development needs are met moving forward.

It is important to note that there may be some areas where growth can be facilitated on both sides of the municipal boundaries. However, there may be other areas where that boundary needs to remain ‘firm’ for the foreseeable future.
Staff are also aware of areas whereby future employment needs may depend on the ability for the County, and one or more member municipalities ability to ‘act quickly’. For example, if a current manufacturer was looking at an expansion, but their business is near a municipal boundary whereby the most logical direction for expansion is from municipality ‘A’ into municipality ‘B’, it’s not practical to ask them to seek out other locations that would have them remain solely in municipality ‘A’, provided there was a solution that could facilitate their expansion into municipality ‘B’. Similarly, it is also not practical to ask the business to ‘wait’ 2-3 years, while the County and municipalities ‘sort out’ the planning in this situation. Possible solutions may take a variety of forms, including:

- a shared services agreement between municipalities ‘A’ and ‘B’,
- an adjustment of municipal boundaries between municipalities,
- a possible ‘land swap’ between municipalities, or
- another mutually agreeable approach.

One of the challenges, with the above scenario is that it can sometimes be viewed as a ‘win-loss’ scenario i.e. one municipality will get the development, including the associated assessment increase, and therefore be the ‘winner’, while the other may thus be considered the ‘loser’. County staff would however stress that in most cases employers, residents, and visitors to Grey do not notice or respect municipal boundaries. A large business will have employees and customers from multiple municipalities, and therefore the economic benefits are not limited to only the host municipality of that business. If the County can facilitate growth within our boundaries, or even in neighbouring communities then there are ‘spin-off’ benefits to our residents, employers, and ultimately the County’s assessment base. In framing the discussions moving forward, staff hope to approach these situations not as a win-loss scenario, but as a ‘how can we all win’ opportunity.

The facilitation of future growth needs, and infrastructure expansion is a ‘win-win-win’ for the County, our member municipalities, and residents/businesses, where it can be facilitated in an efficient and responsible fashion.

Proposed Work Plan

County staff have been approached by some municipalities and developers who have started hiring consultants to justify possible future boundary adjustments. Prior to proceeding further on these matters, staff are seeking direction from County Council to work with municipalities, including those inside and outside Grey, to better plan for and coordinate with these areas that span municipal boundaries. Staff believe that this type of planning calls for a comprehensive examination, rather than a piece-meal approach to each individual settlement area or boundary.

The policies of Recolour Grey provide some direction on this topic moving forward. Through the recently approved 2020 Provincial Policy Statement, there are some new policies which may help to provide some further flexibility for settlement area boundary adjustments. These changes include the ability to plan for up to 25 years, versus the previous standard of 20 years, as well as the ability to adjust settlement area boundaries where there would be no net increase in land (e.g. swapping undevelopable land in favour of developable land).

The workplan will need to be cognizant of both County and municipal staff resources and pressures. County staff recognize that this workplan cannot immediately address all of the cross-boundary examples listed in the Background and Discussion section of this report. Furthermore, County staff realize that what may be a priority to one municipality may not be a
priority to their neighbouring municipality. Through the feedback on this report, Council may choose to offer additional input on this workplan including prioritization of individual elements. Staff would also note that issues may arise from Council Task Forces that could further inform the workplan (e.g. the Hanover – Owen Sound Task Force).

At this preliminary stage, should Council provide direction to move forward, the proposed workplan will require:

1. researching coordinated efforts between municipalities across the province, as well as seeking input from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff on this topic,
2. examining numerous alternatives (e.g. the ability to meet growth within current settlement area boundaries, intensification, sharing services, annexation, etc.) to ensure adequate land supply,
3. monitoring current and projected growth rates, and
4. consulting with municipalities on both sides of the municipal boundary.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Various pieces of legislation such as the Planning Act, and the Municipal Act, govern both settlement area and municipal boundaries respectively. The Provincial Policy Statement provides further policy guidance on this topic. There are also policies in Recolour Grey, as well as in municipal official plans, that will need to be considered in moving forward here. Staff will work with municipalities, within the confines of the current legislative and policy framework, to explore opportunities and solutions to cross-boundary growth and development.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no anticipated financial, staffing or resource considerations associated with this report at this time. Should the need for additional resources, or unbudgeted expenses arise, further reporting will be brought back to County Council.

Relevant Consultation

☒ Internal: Planning, Economic Development, Transportation Services, CAO, Legal Services
☒ External: Member municipalities, Provincial staff, neighbouring municipalities, landowners and developers

Appendices and Attachments

None
Committee Report

To: Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council

Committee Date: March 12, 2020


Title: 61 Alfred Street West Subdivision 42T-2019-03

Prepared by: Stephanie Lacey-Avon

Reviewed by: Randy Scherzer

Lower Tier(s) Affected: Town of The Blue Mountains

Status: 

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-18-20 regarding an overview of proposed plan of subdivision application 42T-2019-03, consisting of fifteen (15) total units - two semi-detached lots (4 units), five single-detached dwelling lots (5 units), and two, 3-unit townhouse lots (6 units), on lands described as Part of Lots 1-3, RP No. 105 (geographic Town of Thornbury) in the Town of The Blue Mountains, be received for information.

Executive Summary

The County has received a plan of subdivision application known as 61 Alfred Street West (County file number 42T-2019-03) to create fifteen (15) total units, with two semi-detached lots (4 units), five single-detached dwelling lots (5 units), and two, 3-unit townhouse lots (6 units) within the settlement area of Thornbury. The units will connect onto Victoria Street South via a cul-de-sac. Servicing to the proposed subdivision will be via municipal water and sewer services. Various technical reports have been submitted with the proposed subdivision application, as well as a zoning by-law amendment to the Town of The Blue Mountains. The applications and supporting studies have been circulated to prescribed agencies and the public for review and comment. A future public meeting will be held for the subject applications. Following the public process, and agency review process, a thorough analysis and staff recommendation will be provided.

Background and Discussion

The County has received a plan of subdivision application known as 61 Alfred Street West that proposes to create 15 total units, with two semi-detached lots (4 units), five single-detached dwelling lots (5 units), and two, 3-unit townhouse lots (6 units). The proposed subdivision is
located on Part of Lots 1-3, RP No. 105 (geographic Town of Thornbury), in the Town of The Blue Mountains. Access to the development will be provided off Victoria Street South via a cul-de-sac. The subject lands are approximately 1.087 hectares (2.68 acres).

The lands immediately adjacent to the subject property are residential and recreational in nature, with a community centre and sport field along Alfred Street. Ashbury Court is located on the west side of Victoria Street South and formed part of a recently approved (2015) subdivision file 42T-2014-04. The 61 Alfred Street West development mirrors similar design features as Ashbury Court with a proposed cul-de-sac for access. Alternative road configurations were reviewed for Ashbury Court to try to eliminate the cul-de-sac design, but these were not considered as part of the final design. The proposed residential development is intended to compliment the existing residential uses in proximity. On the northeast portion of the subject lands, there are two residential lots that recently formed part of consent applications B12.2019 and B13.2019 and related zoning by-law amendment. These lots were formally severed from the remnant and no longer form part of the proposed development site.

A development review committee meeting was held March 5th at the Town to further discuss any outstanding matters with the developer, alongside Town and County staff. Lot density requirements and County transportation services requirements (daylighting triangle) have been flagged for the developer to review. The new subdivision (61 Alfred Street West) is proposed to be serviced by municipal water and sewer. The subject lands are currently vacant.

Map 1 below shows the subject lands and surrounding area, while Map 2 shows the proposed plan of subdivision.
Map 1: Airphoto of Subject Lands
Map 2: Proposed Plan of Subdivision

(Map 2 Courtesy of MHBC Planning Consultants Inc. including 9 legal lots with 15 total units)

The proposed development also requires an amendment to the Town of The Blue Mountains Zoning By-law.

Pre-submission consultation between the proponent, the Town of The Blue Mountains and the County identified the submission requirements for the proposed plan of subdivision. Copies of all background reports and plans can be found through this link.

Analysis of Planning Issues

When rendering a land use planning decision, planning authorities must have regard to matters of Provincial Interest under the Planning Act, be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2014, and conform to any Provincial Plans or Municipal Official Plans that govern the
subject lands. In this case, the County of Grey Official Plan and the Town of The Blue Mountains Official Plan have jurisdiction over the subject property. There are no Provincial Plans in place for this section of the Town of The Blue Mountains.

**Provincial Policy and Legislation**

Both the *Planning Act* and the PPS speak to the efficient use of land within settlement areas, where services are readily available. The proposed plan of subdivision is within a settlement area that is serviced by municipal water and sewer services. The PPS indicates that the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas is full municipal services. The subject proposal will be serviced by municipal services.

Section 1.4 of the PPS also further promotes a range and mix of housing types and densities to meet projected requirements of current and future residents. The development includes a mix of housing types (semi-detached, detached, & townhouse), aiming to meet the needs of future residents. In both the PPS and the County OP there are policies promoting minimum targets for the provision of affordable housing.

Other policies of the PPS speak to connected, walkable communities with the provision for publicly accessible built and natural settings. There are also policies that speak to ensuring lands are free from contaminants in the land prior to development. A portion of the subject property was previously used as an orchard. A phase one environmental site assessment was completed to assess any potential contaminants.

Following the public and agency review periods, staff will provide a more fulsome analysis of the Provincial legislation and policy.

**County Official Plan**

The proposed plan of subdivision is on lands designated as ‘Primary Settlement Area’ in the County Official Plan. Primary Settlement Areas are identified as principal centres in which to focus new residential growth in the County. The County Plan sets an average residential development density of 20 units per net hectare in Primary Settlement Areas (outside of the City of Owen Sound & the Town of Hanover). The subject proposal is currently below the lot density requirements outlined in the County Official Plan. These density provisions are similarly quoted in the Town of The Blue Mountains Official Plan. A development review committee meeting was held March 5th at the Town to further discuss any outstanding matters with the developer, alongside Town and County staff. Lot density requirements have been flagged for the developer to review.

Section 8.9 of the County Plan provides a similar servicing hierarchy to that found in the PPS, which has been noted above. Elsewhere in Section 8 of the Plan are policies which govern roads, transportation, and stormwater management. Section 9.13 of the County Plan provides criteria for consideration for new plans of subdivision. County staff encourage safe access for pedestrians and other modes of active transportation within the subject development. There is an existing park space north of the subject property which will prove to be an asset for the proposed development. Staff encourage the use of accessible and age-friendly design features.
County Official Plan policies will be further assessed following agency review and the public process.

**Legal and Legislated Requirements**

The application will be processed in accordance with the *Planning Act*.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no anticipated financial, staffing or legal considerations associated with the proposed subdivision, beyond those normally encountered in processing a subdivision application. The County has collected the requisite fee and peer review deposit for this application.

**Relevant Consultation**

- **Internal:** Planning and Housing
- **External:** The public, Town of The Blue Mountains, and required agencies under the *Planning Act*.

**Appendices and Attachments**

None
Committee Report

To: Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council

Committee Date: March 12, 2020

Subject / Report No: HDR-CW-03-20

Title: Canada -Ontario Housing Benefit Program Transfer Payment Agreement

Prepared by: Anne Marie Shaw

Reviewed by: Kim Wingrove

Lower Tier(s) Affected: County-wide initiative

Status: Recommendation

1. That Report HDR-CW-03-20 regarding the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit Program Transfer Agreement be received; and

2. That any additional funds made available to Grey County through the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit program be approved for use in 2020; and

3. That staff be authorized to proceed prior to County Council approval as per section 25.6 (b) of Procedural By-law 5003-18.

Executive Summary

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program is part of the National Housing Strategy bilateral agreement signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Province. The County of Grey is required to enter into a transfer payment agreement to assist with the execution of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program for eligible County of Grey residents.

Background and Discussion

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) is a federal-provincial housing allowance program launching on April 1, 2020. The purpose of the program is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested, portable housing benefit directly to eligible households in Housing Need that are on, or are eligible to be on, social housing waiting lists or living in Community Housing.

The portable housing benefit is a monthly subsidy provided to a low-income household to assist with housing costs. Unlike other forms of housing assistance such as rent-governed-to-income
assistance, the portable housing benefit is tied to the household and not to a physical housing unit, allowing the portable housing benefit to move with the household to any Service Manager area in Ontario.

The role of the Service Manager is to assist households to fill out the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit and send to the Ministry of Finance. Eligible households will receive a monthly benefit based on 80% of average market rent for the area and 30 per cent of their adjusted family net income. Payments will be sent directly to households and there will be an annual review completed by the Ministry of Finance for on-going subsidy.

Eligibility

Household must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the COHB:

- Reside permanently in Ontario
- Be on a social housing waiting list; or eligible to be on such a waiting list, or living in community housing;
- Not be in receipt of, or part of a household in receipt of, RGI assistance, a COHB benefit, or any other government-funded housing benefit, with the exception of social assistance shelter payments;
- Consent to being removed from the social housing waiting list of the Service Manager where the application was completed and approved.

Service Manager Role

The Service Manager is not directly delivering this program but does play a significant role. The Service Manager will:

- The Service Manager provides information to the household and determines eligibility
- Assist the applicant with the application
- Determine the Adjusted Family Net Income and verifies other information
- Service Manager submits application and back up information to Ministry of Finance
- Ensure the annual allotment of funds in spent and not over-spent

Subsidy Amount

Subsidy is determined using the following method assuming the Average Market Rent for a one bedroom in Grey County is $767

Example: Senior on a fixed income of $17,500 a year. The monthly COHB benefit is calculated as:

$$\text{Monthly COHB} = (\text{AMR} \times 80\%) - \left(\frac{(\text{AFNI} \times 30\%)}{12 \text{ months}}\right)$$

$767 \times 80\% = $614$

$17,500 \times 30\% = $5,250 / 12 \text{ months} = $437.50$

$614 - $437.50 = $176.50 \text{ a month}$
Households that are found eligible are also eligible for first and last rents month through the Service Manager where applicable. Households that receive this benefit must agree to be removed from the service managers local housing list.

Service Managers are provided with annual planning allocation amounts for PHB payments to successful applicants, administration costs, and reimbursement of first and last month’s rent payments to eligible households, for each fiscal year. The funds come directly from the Ministry of Finance to the resident.

**Links to 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan**

The CHPI funding assists Grey County in providing services to fulfill goals of the Grey County 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan which was reviewed and updated this year. The plan identifies four key strategic areas:

- Create More Affordable Housing
- Preserve Existing Stock
- Reduce Chronic Homelessness
- Increase Supportive Housing

Related goals include:

- Create more affordable housing units
- Provide sustainable housing options for residents of Grey County

**Financial and Resource Implications**

$180,678 in provincial funding will be available for residents eligible for funding for the fiscal year of April 2020 to March 2021. This program has a neutral impact on the County, as no levy funds are required.

Grey County receives $250 as an administration fee for each successful application. This is subtracted from the annual allotment. First and last months’ rent is also subtracted from the annual allotment.

It is thought this funding amount will provide a monthly subsidy to 35-40 households of Grey County.

**Relevant Consultation**

- Internal: 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan
- External:

**Appendices and Attachments**

[Transfer payment agreement](#)
Recommendation

1. That Report SSR-CW-03-20 be received; and

2. That the Ontario Works department adopt an Electronic Data Management system under the guidelines of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services; and

3. That the contract to implement Electronic Data Management in the Ontario Works department be single sourced to Nimble Information Strategies Inc; and

4. That the costs of implementing Electronic Data Management, not to exceed $59,021.50 plus HST, be provided from the Social Services General Caseload Reserve.

Executive Summary

Electronic Data Management (EDM) is part of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) strategy to modernize Social Assistance. EDM allows for master files and all incoming documents and mail to be managed and retrieved digitally, resulting in reduced administrative processes for staff and opportunity for faster, simpler service for Social Assistance recipients.
Grey County Ontario Works (OW) proposes to implement an EDM strategy using Nimble Strategies Inc. as the vendor, under the guidelines of the MCCSS and direction of the Municipality.

Nimble Strategies is the vendor of record for the province for the EDM initiative, they have the established infrastructure and experience implementing in 13 ODSP offices and Toronto Ontario Works.

**Background and Discussion**

The ministry announced in January 2020 plans to move forward with the EDM-OW project to allow for the imaging and electronic storage and retrieval of required Social Assistance recipient documentation for participating municipal Ontario Works offices. EDM has been part of the Social Assistance Modernization Strategy released in 2017.

Grey County Ontario Works department has been modernizing the delivery of social assistance at every opportunity. The OW department has been developing a Journey to Modernization since 2014 and is strategically working towards reducing filing and promoting Mobile Self-serve options for improved client service and reduced administration. Since December 4th 2019, 16% of the caseload has signed up for MyBenefits, an online self-serve option for Social Assistance recipients. Grey County OW has the 3rd highest enrollment onto MyBenefits in the province, demonstrating clients and staff are enthusiastic about the digital strategies. Continued enrollment into MyBenefits will further reduce the need to handle documents and will over time reduce the cost of EDM.

EDM will consolidate time consuming processes into a channelled digitization approach allowing staff to access all mail in the centralized digital mail room. All other forms and documents after digitized will be viewable in SAMS, a system staff work in almost exclusively already. Early feedback from staff in offices where EDM has rolled has been extremely positive. An early rollout of EDM would position the department well to further reduce administration and focus staff resources on achieving Ministry targets.

EDM has been implemented by MCCSS using vendor of record Nimble Information Strategies Inc in 13 Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) offices with plans to implement in all 37 by 2021. In 2019 Toronto Employment and Social Services(TESS) implemented EDM across 13 OW offices after entering into a single source contract with Nimble Information Strategies Inc.

While Nimble Information Strategies Inc. was the successful vendor of record for the province, municipalities have the option of negotiating a contractual agreement with any vendor for the digitization of their Ontario Works files or completing the digitizing of records in-house. However, contracting with a vendor other than Nimble Information
Strategies Inc. would result in the Municipality incurring additional costs to establish the infrastructure that would enable the vendor to communicate with the province’s network and interface with OpenText repository. These costs will not be incurred by the Municipality through an agreement with Nimble Information Strategies Inc. as the infrastructure is already in place. As well, by contracting with Nimble, the Municipality would not be responsible for the cost of any technical and administrative changes in the digitization process that might result from technology changes in the provincial Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) application.

Due to efficiencies already realized through modernization strategies and in combination with provincial cutbacks, the department has reduced the administrative support by 2 FTE positions. Currently, the department does not have the capacity to complete the digitization of files in-house.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

If approved by Council, Grey County will enter into an agreement with Nimble Strategies Inc. The contractual agreement will address Intellectual Property Indemnity and the protection of personal information.

Financial and Resource Implications

The cost to implement EDM in Grey County by Nimble Strategies Inc is quoted as follows:

| Master File Digitization and Moving Costs | $51,709 |
| Digital Mail Room                     | $6062.50 ($1212.50 Monthly Aug – Dec) |
| In-house secure scanner and set-up     | $1250.00 ($250.00 Monthly Aug – Dec) |

The total estimated cost to implement EDM for approximately 1400 active Ontario Works files is $59,021.00. The funds for set-up and maintenance for 2020 are requested from the Social Services General Caseload Reserve (1-10 ADM-00-00). Monthly costs in 2021 will be offset and savings are expected after full implementation as less staffing time will be required to manage filing and mail. The Social Services General Caseload Reserve has a 2019 year-end balance of $658,950.06.

Minimal staff time will be required to implement EDM if Nimble Strategies Inc is the vendor. An OW project team consisting of 5 staff will attend training sessions and provide consultation where needed while Nimble manages logistics.
Relevant Consultation

☑ Internal IT, Finance/Purchasing, Clerks Staff
☐ External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

Social Assistance Modernization Strategy
Journey to Modernization
MyBenefits Self Serve Options
Channelled Digitization Approach
Recommendation

1. That Report EDTC-CW-08-20 regarding the Local Immigration Partnership Agreement with Bruce County be received; and

2. That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with Bruce County for the delivery of the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership as outlined by the Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada Contribution Agreement and its schedules.

Executive Summary

In April of 2019, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) was accepting Local Immigration Partnership applications. This funding would help staff support the retention of immigrants and newcomers across Grey and Bruce – a crucial measure in addressing the current labour stress issues by ensuring services are in place to ease integration and eventual retention. To ensure labour attraction efforts are warranted, retention strategies are critical.

As a result of this funding announcement, Grey County staff proposed a partnership to Bruce County, who quickly agreed to build a program better aligned to the serve the needs in our region. At the end of February 2020, notice of approval was received for funding to advance the activities and priorities undertaken through a Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) for five years.
Background and Discussion

Grey and Bruce counties are joining forces to address newcomer integration and employment needs in the region. This project will address the isolation of newcomers in a large geographic area (8,587 sq. kms.) without settlement services by increasing our capacity for coordination, connection and collaboration to foster a welcoming community.

The project and funding will foster welcoming communities throughout Grey and Bruce counties by developing community-based partnerships and planning based on the needs of newcomers in the region. Service Providers in the region currently struggle to effectively address the unique needs of newcomer communities. By working in partnership, leveraging existing resources and sharing best practices the Grey Bruce LIP will address gaps in the region, allowing partners to deliver responsive and coordinated services.

Local Immigration Partnership Model:

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) are a mechanism through which IRCC supports the development of community-based partnerships and planning around the needs of newcomers. LIPs engage various stakeholders in a locally-driven strategic planning process including employers, school boards, health centres and networks, boards of trades, levels of government, professional associations, ethno-cultural and faith-based organizations and the community and social services sectors.

Specifically, LIPs are community-based partnerships that:

- Foster a systematic approach to engage settlement programs and other institutions to integrate newcomers;
- Support community-based knowledge-sharing and local strategic planning; and,
- Improve coordination of effective services that facilitate immigrant settlement and integration.

LIPs do not provide direct services to newcomers. Instead, they help build community capacity to successfully integrate newcomers by engaging a range of stakeholders and encouraging a collaborative approach to newcomer attraction and retention strategic planning at the grass roots level. The following short- and long-term outcomes advance as a result of the LIP:

Short-term outcomes (year 1-2):

- Enhanced engagement of a diversity of members in settlement and integration of newcomers.
• Broad-based partnerships developed for planning and setting community priorities.
• Community and newcomer needs assessed in a coordinated manner, and enhanced awareness of needs among a wider array of local actors.
• Increased capacity to support the integration of newcomers and foster welcoming communities, including welcoming and receptive labour markets at the community level.

Long-term outcomes (years 3+):

• Enhanced responsiveness of non-settlement services to the needs of newcomers and communities.
• Improved coordination of services at the community level and thereby enhanced accessibility and uptake.
• Sustaining partnerships at the community level.
• Improved outcomes for newcomers.

Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership:

Successful newcomer attraction and integration requires a thoughtful approach to the individual and their families. Attraction begins with opportunity and retention and ends when individuals feel a part of a community. This is true for any new community member but has particular obstacles to address when attracting and retaining people from other Countries. It is with this in mind that the establishment a Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership is built on. To ensure that newcomers across the region are supported and can access a variety of services seamlessly, it makes sense for these two Counties, jointly connected through a variety of services and supports, work together. What enables successful retention is the resources and supports in place to foster their journey from newcomer to neighbor. This partnership will leverage the existing resources from both Counties and make it possible to address gaps through a strong partnership with parallel goals.

Specifically, the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership shall:

• Establish a regional Local Immigration Partnership for the Counties of Grey and Bruce that will develop community-based partnerships and planning around the needs of newcomers (40 representatives, four meetings per year).
• Enhance community capacity and open access to supports for newcomers by identifying the needs and assets in the region of Grey-Bruce. This includes the barriers to full participation, and the actions needed to improve integration outcomes for newcomers.
• Improve access to labour markets and community services for newcomers by engaging employers, service providers and community members in educational and training opportunities to attract, retain and integrate all newcomers.
• Improve awareness of the social and economic benefits of newcomers and to foster welcoming communities in Grey and Bruce Counties by engaging newcomers, employers and communities in strategies and actions that support welcoming and two-way integration.

• The Local Immigration Partnership will establish and maintain an inclusive Partnership Council in Grey-Bruce, conduct regular research to determine Newcomer needs and trends and gaps in the community and establish a Local Immigration Strategy and Action Plan to advance community priorities. This will be done through the use of continuous developmental evaluation to support the community’s capacity to respond to emerging needs throughout life of project.

Funding provided for this initiative allows for one full time staff person in year one, with an additional part time staff added in year two. Consultants will be hired to develop a strategy and action plan as well as a marketing plan and brand. The activities required as per the agreement include the partnership council and subcommittees leading community engagement, research, organizational training and employer engagement. This initiative provides indirect services, meaning staff are unable to assist newcomers directly, rather build capacity through community organizations and employers to enhance settlement services.

The YMCA was successful in receiving the other half of this program which will provide direct settlement services to newcomers in the region which means together, we will have full settlement services available beginning in spring 2020.

**Partnership Execution Summary**

The following outlines the arrangements of the partnership between Grey and Bruce.

• Grey County has taken the lead on the application. The funds support the hiring of one full time and one part time staff who will work half time in each County and have workspace available in each office. Funds appropriated from IRCC will be run through Grey County since it is the lead applicant.

• Grey and Bruce have constructed an agreement (see “Grey Bruce LIP Agreement” attached) that details the partnership roles and responsibilities and how the LIP will operate in terms of activities, outcomes and expectations.

• Projects will be aligned to the region as most of the issues are similar across both counties, however, the projects would be slightly customized to respond to local county needs.

By entering into a partnership with Bruce County to support the establishment of a Local Immigration Partnership the two Counties will be able to pool resources to strengthen the entire region as welcoming area for newcomers. In doing so, this will have economic benefits across the Grey Bruce region benefitting the newcomer and setting a successful landscape for attraction and retention. This includes addressing some of the
labour force challenges felt across sectors by our local businesses, advance the area in attracting a multi-faceted set of skills, abilities and education to advance the region as a diverse centre for innovation.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

There are no legal or legislated requirements with this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership is fully funded by the IRCC and has been included in the 2020 budget.

Relevant Consultation

☐ Internal – Economic Development Officer, Clerk, Deputy Treasurer.

☐ External – Bruce County Economic Development, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Appendices and Attachments

Grey Bruce LIP Agreement