

Meeting Date: February 15, 2022

Subject: Proposal to Join the World Council on City Data

Submitted By: Erin Britnell, Director, Corporate Strategy and Innovation

RECOMMENDATION

That the Town of Caledon join the World Council on City Data.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- One of the principles of an innovative municipality is that decisions are based on clear and understandable data
- Benchmarking this data against comparable municipalities also assists in understanding areas that the Town has done well in and areas where it can learn more from others
- The World Council on City Data (WCCD) is responsible for oversight of the only International Standard for data collection for municipalities
- The WCCD provides access to data collection support, third party verification of the metrics to ensure fair benchmarking, as well as support for data analytics such as aligning measures with strategic objectives
- Many of the Town's comparable municipalities are already participating in the WCCD including Brampton, Mississauga, Vaughan, Oakville, Richmond Hill, Markham, Oshawa, Whitby, Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, and Guelph
- The data collected from this program will support several key projects including the implementation of the Official Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Resilient Caledon Plan and support the new Town Strategic Plan in 2023

DISCUSSION

The World Council on City Data (WCCD) was formed out of a need from primarily Ontario municipalities to create a common set of indicators, with a common methodology for data management, on community level metrics for municipalities. From this need, not only the organization, but the first ISO standard for cities and standardized city data was created. This first standard (ISO 37120) is Indicators for City Services and Quality of Life. It is currently being used by over 100 cities across 35 countries. Since this time, two additional complementary standards were created for Smart Cities and Resilient Cities. Municipalities have the option to pursue one, two or all three of these data standards.

The Indicators

A full list of indicators and how they are measured cannot be provided due to copyright laws, however the Indicators in all three standards fall under the following themes:

- Economy
- Education

- Energy
- Environment & climate change
- Finance
- Governance
- Health
- Housing
- Population & social conditions
- Recreation
- Safety
- Solid Waste
- Sport & culture
- Telecommunication
- Transportation
- Urban/local agriculture & food security
- Urban planning
- Wastewater
- Water

While not all indicators are under the purview of the Town of Caledon's operations, they speak to the outcomes for the residents in the community and will rely on data partnerships to collect data on these outcomes for Caledon.

Certification Process

There are 252 indicators in three standards (104 in the base standard and the remaining in the other two). Based on the number of indicators measured, cities are then awarded a level of certification for the standard from Bronze up until Platinum for each standard. The World Council on City Data works with the municipalities to support the collection of data, including shared data arrangements with the Federal and Provincial governments to access data inputs from these organizations. Once a city has completed their data collection, a third party reviews and certifies the data. This process happens annually.

The World Council on City Data, through their work with Brampton, and Mississauga and partnerships with the Federal and Provincial governments have expressed confidence in the Town's ability to achieve a Platinum level of certification in the base standard in year one as well as progress on both the Smart Cities and Resilient Cities standards.

Resource Impacts

The cost per year to participate in the program is \$15,000 USD and will increase annually at a 5% rate. During the initial year, it is anticipated to require approximately 30% of one staff's workload and, over time, this will decrease as the Town increases its comfort with collecting and managing the data. It will also require support from all departments in the

collection of data in their specific areas. Staff were already planning on a data standard and metrics project in 2022 so this program can be managed within existing resources.

Additional Benefits from the WCCD

There are additional benefits for the Town in joining the WCCD. These include:

- Access to a network of data professionals across Ontario, Canada and the World who are using the same standard
- Expert support for utilizing the data in day to day work such as mapping the indicators to the new Strategic Plan, and the UN Sustainable Cities Goals
- Access to indices such as the Investable Cities and City Infrastructure that be used in Economic Development and Government Relations activities
- Utilization of data to support future grant applications
- Access to timely data to support strategic and business planning practices

Next Steps

If approved, the Town would begin working with WCCD and staff experts to collect all indicators where data is available and submit for certification in Q3,2022. Once indicators are collected, work can begin on creating a dashboard to communicate the data in preparation for a new strategic planning process launching in 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a \$15,000 USD annual fee (estimated to cost approximately \$19,500) associated with joining the WCCD which can be funded in 2022 from existing provincial grant funds available in capital project #19-160 Modernization of Service Delivery. The amount will increase 5% annually to cover for inflationary costs and the Town's commitment would be reviewed and renewed annually as per the Introductory Letter from the WCCD found in Schedule A. Staff will endeavor to find savings in future operating budgets to absorb this annual fee in 2023 and future years, as required.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

- Connected Community- Understand community needs and provide services based on urban/rural differences
- Improved Service Delivery- Improve and innovate business processes for better customer service and service delivery
- Good Governance- Balance financial planning for both operating and capital budgets

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Letter from WCCD