Memorandum

Date: February 18, 2020

To: Members of Council

From: Devan Lobo, Senior Analyst, Corporate Initiatives, Strategic Initiatives

Subject: Neighbourhood Information Tool

The Neighbourhood Information Tool (NIT), new for Caledon in late 2019, provides interactive maps of neighbourhood well-being within the Region of Peel and can be used to identify neighbourhood needs and opportunities to work together. The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the tool and its municipal indicators, how it was created and the Town of Caledon's involvement.

The NIT provides neighbourhood level data on several indicators including demographics, employment, safety & health, resident engagement and community belonging, amenities, resources, and services. Neighbourhoods are defined by Census Tracts and assessed based on the various indicators to result in a well-being score (high score = high well-being vs low score = low well-being). NIT data can also be used in complement to information obtained from other data sources such as the Peel Data Centre, Peel Counts, Peel Regional Police Crime Map and Peel Health Status Data.

As per the Region's website, the Tool may be useful for local organizations and service providers, residents and governments of all levels to support community planning and decision-making. The NIT is a community tool available to Town staff and the broader Caledon community. In particular, the Tool will be circulated to planning, recreation and economic development staff, among others. In addition, the Town will promote the Tool with local community groups including not-for-profit organizations, volunteer, sport organizations, and community recreation organizations. Users may review data and mapping provided by the Tool to inform community engagement activities, service delivery, manage local relations and partnerships, and understand various needs (e.g. tourism, recreation, business, etc.) on a community or neighbourhood level and develop solutions. Data from the Tool can support funding applications and help target resources more effectively.

In order to create the NIT, the Region of Peel partnered with the City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, Town of Caledon, Peel Regional Police and the United Way of Peel Region (now the United Way of Greater Toronto). Each local area municipality worked with the Region of Peel to form the Neighbourhood Indexes. Additionally, data was gathered from the Census, Environics Analytics and other sources. The Neighbourhood Index for Mississauga was a pilot launched in January 2018. This was followed by Brampton's Index in June 2018. With the launch of the Caledon Neighbourhood Index, the tool is now Peel-wide and can be found at https://www.peelregion.ca/planning-maps/nit/.

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Throughout 2018 the Town of Caledon partnered with the Region of Peel, supporting their efforts to develop the Caledon Neighbourhood Index. The Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Caledon Public Library and Recreation staff worked with and had a number of discussions with the Region of Peel staff to gather data as required. In February 2019, the Region presented the updated NIT to staff for final validation and approval. Over the next several months, Town and Regional Staff will work with the OPP to obtain the needed local crime data for the Town.

The Town will continue to work with the Region of Peel developing/expanding the tool to include data about Caledon neighbourhoods. The Region of Peel plans to update the data every 5 years alongside the Census.

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