



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: November 27, 2023

Subject: SRECDEV.2023.03 Municipal Community Improvement Plan Update

Report from: Jessica Pridham, Economic Development Coordinator

Appendices: Appendix A: Community Improvement Plan Policy

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Approve and adopt the Community Improvement Plan Policy and that an implementing Bylaw be prepared and brought forward to Council and By-Laws 37-2014 and 38-2014 be rescinded.

Report Summary

Through the Regional Economic Development Pilot, Bruce County has led the review and update of Arran-Elderslie's Community Improvement Plan. The policies have been modernized to address the goals of the Arran-Elderslie Official Plan as well as create the enabling policy needed for businesses to access additional grants when available through Bruce County.

Background

The Community Improvement Plan enables opportunities to encourage the revitalization of existing buildings and redevelopment of properties. When implemented, these policies provide municipalities the ability to financially support businesses, through the grant process, within the defined Community Improvement Plan Area. Through the implementation of this policy, the Municipality can participate in existing, or apply future financial incentives to stimulate improvements and investments within communities if budget and direction are given by council.

Bruce County's "Spruce the Bruce Program" is enabled through municipal policies. Bruce County has added four (4) grants to the program (Agri-Food Innovation Grant, Business Accessibility Adaptability Grant, Product and Experience Development Grant, and Residential Improvement Grant) that extend past the traditional downtown cores (also known as priority areas). The required amendments have occurred to allow access to these grants. In addition to this, the policy has been updated to support future financial incentives as well.

Analysis

Modernizing the Community Improvement Plan Policy was a core project led by the Regional Support Economic Development Pilot which ended in April 2023.

The policy has been updated based on consultation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Arran-Elderslie Members of Council, Bruce County and Arran-Elderslie staff, and core business owners.

Updates to the document include the following:

- The defined CIP Area has been expanded upon to be more inclusive. A municipality-wide Community Improvement Plan area has been added to the policy.
- The policy provides additional details on Municipal and County incentives.
- The policy includes additional grants and programs.

The draft plan has been circulated to staff and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for review as per requirements.

If approved by Council, the 20-day appeal process will begin, followed by implementation.

If implemented, the additional Bruce County grants will be available to eligible and successful applicants when the 2024 Spruce the Bruce grant application process opens (early 2024, depending on County budget approval). Council can determine details regarding Municipally led incentives annually and based on the needs of the community if budget and direction are given.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.2 Supporting Businesses and the Local Economy

6.3 Facilitating Community Growth

6.6 Modernizing Services

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

There are no immediate financial impacts. If the resolution is passed, Council can determine annually and based on the needs of the community whether to support Municipally led incentives and projects. The additional grants led by Bruce County do not require additional funds.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer