Department business plan update

Intergovernmental Affairs

February 2020

STRATHCONA COUNTY

Department overview

- Reporting directly to the Chief Commissioner, IA advises elected officials and staff on intergovernmental issues that affect the County, and provides advice to support Strathcona County's interests, while balancing the needs of the region and sub-region.

- Intergovernmental Affairs coordinates and facilitates information-gathering and analysis to help Council and the organization make informed decisions for the long-term prosperity of Strathcona County.

- The Intergovernmental Affairs team comprises:
  - Manager
  - Strategists (2)
  - Policy Analyst
  - Admin (P/T)

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Core business functions

- Intergovernmental Affairs
  - Foster relationships and partnerships with other levels of government, neighbouring municipalities, and civic organizations including:
    - Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board
    - Regional Transit Services Commission
    - Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)

- Intergovernmental Policy Analysis
  - Provide information, analysis, and internal coordination of intergovernmental issues and initiatives

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Progress on core function forecast

- Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board
- Support Council/County in their roles as members of AUMA, FCM, and RMA
- Intermunicipal Relations Committee (IMRC) with Fort Saskatchewan
- Regional Transit Services Commission
- Proposed legislative or regulatory changes or initiatives
- Council advocacy plan
- Support and analysis to interdepartmental projects such as:
  - Cannabis legalization implementation
  - Election best practices
  - Sister city research
  - Election platforms/mandates

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Employee engagement

Engagement survey theme	Engagement initiative	People Plan focus area
Communication	Sharing intermunicipal and interdepartmental collaboration initiatives and successes with the organization through regular updates to the Branch's Insider page.	Team
Communication	Increase information sharing within the branch by enhancing our current "open door" model where team members propose ideas to other team members for discussion and debate.	Team
Staff and resources	Provide staff with the tools to do their work and encourage staff to apply their skills in their job	Accountability
Career growth, staff and resources	Support innovative approaches to professional development	Leadership

Initiatives

- Corporate inclusion and diversity training (INIT 86)

- Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs)

Corporate inclusion and diversity training - Status

Overall initiative status ●

Initiative status	Current status	Previous status
Time	G	G
Scope	G	G
Budget	G	G

Key deliverables

- A Diversity & Inclusion and an Inclusive Hiring Policy are to be presented to Council for review.
- Policies are informed through a public engagement process.

Alignment to strategic goals

- Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents
- Result: Development of policies that reflect the needs of the increasingly diverse population

- Goal 6: Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents
- Result: Facilities and services are designed in a way that is accessible to them

- Goal 7: Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication
- Result: The policies are informed by the public to serve them better

Opportunities/Challenges

- Opportunity to provide leadership in the sector
- Attract new residents and employees to the area
- Enacting Policies may require significant resources
- Additional work and engagement required to strategically implement

Risks	Mitigation
Policy becomes outdated.	Continually review and revise as required.
Resources are not provided to implement the policies.	Implementation is designed to be fluid and spread out as required.

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Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks - Status

Overall initiative status ⬤

Initiative status	Current status	Previous status
Time	Y	G
Scope	G	G
Budget	G	G

Key deliverables

- An ICF with be developed with the following municipalities: Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Sturgeon County, Leduc County, Bruderheim, Beaver County, Leduc County.

Alignment to strategic goals

- Goal 5: Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships
- Result: Regional assets leveraged for mutual benefit

- Goal 2: Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure
- Result: Partnerships enhance infrastructure investment opportunities

- Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents
- Result: Affordable basic municipal services

Opportunities/Challenges

- Changes in the recent legislation have made ICF agreements between EMRB members as optional
- Municipal partners may not wish to continue with an ICF agreement.

Risks	Mitigation
Time is in yellow to note the difficulty receiving feedback from a municipal partner.	Continual attempts to come to an agreement.
Relationship changes should one municipality cancel an ICF while the other wishes to move forward with it.	Even if an ICF is discontinued, long term discussion on service agreements and opportunities will continue. A cancelled ICF does not change
Unforeseen outcomes of the ICF process.	Termination clause added to optional ICF agreements and strong engagement/collaborative relationship with municipal partners that have a required ICF.

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Questions?