

**Metro Mayors' Alliance Continued Participation****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with an opportunity to consider continued participation in the Metro Mayors' Alliance in accordance with the report of the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future, "Be Ready, or Be Left Behind" (the "Report").

**Recommendation**

1. THAT Strathcona County affirm its commitment to the vision and principles of the May 31, 2016 report of the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future, "Be Ready, or Be Left Behind" (the "Report"), as set out in Enclosures 1 and 2 of the July 19, 2016 Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs report; and
2. THAT the Mayor and the Chief Commissioner be authorized to participate in negotiations for further development and implementation of the recommendations of the Report; and
3. THAT Administration review the Memorandum of Understanding, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report, and return to Council on September 13, 2016 with the Memorandum of Understanding, and any proposed changes, for Council's consideration and approval.

**Council History**

July 5, 2016 – The Chair of the Advisory Panel on Metro Edmonton's Future, Don Lowry, and panel member Paul Whittaker made a presentation to Strathcona County Council.

July 12, 2016 – The Priorities Committee discussed the report and referred it to Council for debate and decision.

**Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** The Advisory Panel produced the report titled, "Be Ready, or Be Left Behind", containing advice and recommended options on how best to leverage the combined assets of the Metro Edmonton area over the next 30 to 50 years. The report was commissioned largely as a catalyst to spur collaborative economic strategies to build a prosperous region. There are strong linkages to the top four prioritized strategic goals within the Strategic Plan.

**Governance:** The recommendations of the report carry implications for intermunicipal collaboration and cooperation. The function of the Capital Region Board may also be impacted.

**Social:** The report uses areas of concentration focused on regional prosperity for all citizens.

**Culture:** The emphasis of the report is on regional collaboration and cooperation. The overall sentiment is that municipalities can improve in these functions.

**Environment:** The report calls for better planning to ensure the best use of land supply and efficient build out of infrastructure.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** Proposes a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with eight other regional partners.

**Interdepartmental:** Legislative and Legal Services, Planning and Development Services, Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs

## **Summary**

Originating as discussions within an informal group, the Mayors from Sturgeon County, Leduc County, Parkland County, the City of Leduc, the City of Fort Saskatchewan, the City of St. Albert, the City of Edmonton, Spruce Grove and Strathcona County met to discuss a number of issues facing the metro region. A decision was made to proceed with an Advisory Panel.

The Advisory Panel consisted of 12 panel members representing a variety of sectors including: academia, public policy, business, industry, social and not-for-profit agencies, arts and culture, and agriculture. The Panel took broad strategic questions set by the Mayors and reviewed, provided advice and recommended options on how to maximize the combined assets and attributes of the metro Edmonton region for the next 30 to 50 years.

The final report, titled, "Be Ready, or Be Left Behind", was released to the municipalities and the public on June 10, 2016. Panel Chair Don Lowry and panel member Paul Whittaker presented a summary of the report to Strathcona County Council on July 5, 2016.

To date, the report has been accepted and the signing of an MOU has been approved by the City of Edmonton, Parkland County, Sturgeon County, the City of St. Albert and the City of Leduc.

## **Enclosures**

- 1 Metro Advisory Panel – Final Report
- 2 Metro Advisory Panel Report - Appendices