

## **P4G Regional Servicing Hub - Support for Funding Application**

### **ISSUE**

The City of Saskatoon, in collaboration with the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth partners, is exploring an opportunity for a potential servicing hub to attract industries to the region. To help cover costs of the development of an Investment Readiness Strategy in support of servicing, Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth is applying to the Provincial Government for Targeted Sector Support Initiative funding. In order to submit the application for funding, a City Council resolution of support is required.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That City Council approve the submission of an application for funding to the Targeted Sector Support Initiative for the Intermunicipal Investment Readiness Strategy with the City of Saskatoon as lead applicant, in partnership with the R.M. of Corman Park, City of Warman, City of Martensville and Town of Osler.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G) is exploring the creation of a new regional servicing hub that would offer enhanced water and wastewater servicing designed to accommodate a range of strategic economic industries, from value-added agricultural to critical minerals processing.

The P4G municipalities want to ensure the region is ready for expected employment growth with well-established development processes and the ability to expedite development approvals to attract investment.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

This investment readiness strategy is an important intermunicipal study that must consider the needs of all partners, including regulatory, connectivity and financial implications. It is recognized that due to suggested land use, location and/or servicing recommendations, implementation may result in further benefits to the community partners (i.e., tax sharing agreements).

The investment readiness strategy will be a pre-cursor to further stages and studies, such as marketing and sales, site selection, procurement, property management and detailed servicing design.

In order to support the costs to undertake this work, the P4G partners are applying to the Provincial Government for funding under the Targeted Sector Support Initiative (TSSI) program. The TSSI is a cost-shared grant program that uses a portion of Municipal Revenue Sharing to support projects that strengthen a municipality's core operational capabilities through increased regional cooperation. Partnering Municipalities can apply for up to 75% of eligible project costs. P4G has applied for this

funding on a number of occasions. For each application for TSSI funding, one of the P4G municipalities agrees to be the lead applicant. For this project the City of Saskatoon (City) has agreed to be the lead applicant. The application requires a resolution from City Council to support the funding request.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A project budget of \$200,000 is estimated for the investment readiness strategy project. As with all projects undertaken as part of the P4G partnership, all five municipalities cover a proportionate share of the cost for projects. Each municipal partner's share of funding, including Saskatoon's, was approved through 2024 municipal budgets. Should this project proceed, and assuming the TSSI application is approved for 75% of the project budget, the City's share of the project would be \$16,500, and will be covered by funding already approved to support the P4G work for 2024.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications related to this report.

**NEXT STEPS**

Should City Council approve the recommendation, Administration would then work with the Executive Director for P4G to complete the application for funding and submit to the Provincial Government, no later than June 7, 2024. TSSI funding decisions are typically provided within 90 days of the intake deadline; which would be September 7, 2024. As required by the TSSI application process, a request for proposals for a consultant for this project has been issued, which will allow this project to proceed as soon as TSSI or other funding is confirmed.

**REPORT APPROVAL**

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