TO:	**CHAIR AND MEMBERS** **CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE** **MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2018**
FROM:	**ROSANNA WILCOX,** **DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION**
SUBJECT:	**INFRASTRUCTURE CANADA'S SMART CITIES CHALLENGE**

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Community & Economic Innovation, the following report, including the <u>attached</u> Smart Cities Challenge Applicant Guide, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

December 7, 2015 – Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee, proposed Terms of Reference for the *Smart City Strategy*.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Infrastructure Canada's Smart Cities Challenge and the actions that the City of London will be undertaking related to the Challenge.

Smart Cities Challenge Overview

Announced by Infrastructure Canada, the Smart Cities Challenge is a competition open to all municipalities, local or regional governments, and Indigenous communities (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) across Canada. A community or group of communities may only submit one application to the competition.

The Challenge is intended to inspire communities across the country to define their future with the help of their residents through the use of a smart cities approach.

<u>What is a Smart Cities Approach?</u>

As defined in the Smart Cities Challenge applicant guide, a smart cities approach aims to achieve meaningful outcomes for residents by leveraging the fundamental benefits that data and connected technology have to offer: openness, integration, transferability and collaboration.

<u>Challenge Statement and Preliminary Proposal</u>

At the heart of the Smart Cities Challenge is the development of a Challenge Statement. This Statement is a single sentence that defines the outcome or outcomes a community aims to achieve by implementing its smart cities proposal.

The Challenge Statement should address an important problem faced by the community and it should be shaped by residents, both in its development and implementation. It must also be measurable, ambitious, and achievable through the proposed use of data and connected technology.

Preliminary proposals will outline the planned activities or projects to achieve the outcome(s) set out in the Challenge Statement. In developing these proposals, communities are asked to select no more than two of the following as the area(s) of focus for their proposals:

- Economic opportunity
- Empowerment and inclusion
- Environmental quality
- Healthy living and recreation

- Mobility
- Safety and security

Prizes

The following prizes are available in the Smart Cities Challenge:

- One prize of up to $50 million (all population sizes)
- Two prizes of up to $10 million each (population under 500,000 residents)
- One prize of up to $5 million (population under 30,000 residents)

Applicants may only select <u>one</u> prize category. Finalists will receive a $250,000 grant to develop their final proposal. Winners will receive funding through contribution agreements with Infrastructure Canada.

Application
Key components of the Smart Cities application include:

- Prize category selection;

- Challenge Statement;

- Description of the outcome (or outcomes) the proposal seeks to achieve by elaborating on the Challenge Statement;

- Description of how community residents have shaped the Challenge Statement and plans for continuing to engage and involve them in the final proposal going forward;

- Description of the preliminary proposal and its activities or projects;

- Description of the ways in which the preliminary proposal supports the community's medium and long-term goals, strategies and plans;

- Description of the community's readiness and ability to successfully implement the proposal;

- Plan for using the $250,000 grant to develop final proposal, if selected as a finalist; and,

- Description of the partners that are or will be involved in the proposal or how they will be selected in the future.

Communities are encouraged to undertake meaningful engagement with residents and forge new partnerships with new and non-traditional partners. Smart Cities approaches should not only benefit a single community, but should be scalable and replicable across Canada.

Full application details, including evaluation criteria and weighting can be found in the Applicant Guide. https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/smart-cities/applicant-guide

Timelines

Applications must be submitted on or before April 24, 2018. Eligible applications will be reviewed by experts and then evaluated by an independent jury, with finalists being selected by Summer 2018. Each of these finalists will receive a $250,000 grant to develop and complete their final proposal. Finalist proposals will be due in Winter 2019. The deadline and evaluation criteria for these proposals will be available when the finalists are announced.

NEXT STEPS

Council has already completed a significant amount of work and community engagement on the subject of smart cities. ReThink London, one of the largest community engagement processes around an Official Plan in Canada, saw more than 20,000 Londoner's become involved in an advanced city-building conversation about London's future. Through that discussion, there was a substantial and ongoing dialogue on the role of technology in delivering our future city-building. Stemming from this public engagement, there is an entire chapter within the new Official Plan, "The London Plan," dedicated specifically to smart cities. This is a unique aspect of an Official Plan in Canada and demonstrates the community's and Council's interest in advancing London as a smart city.

This chapter of The London Plan provides Council's vision for London as a smart city – one that uses information and communication technology to help improve the "city's economy, mobility, environment, citizenship, quality of life and city governance." The London Plan goes on to state

that a "Smart City Strategy" will be prepared to "establish a clear strategy for collaboration, facilitation, investment, infrastructure advancement, skill development and other initiatives supportive of a smart city."

Building upon this work, Council's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan identified the Smart Cities Strategy (now called the Future City Strategy) within the strategic areas of focus 'Growing Our Economy' and 'Leading in Public Service.' This set the Future City Strategy as an important priority project for Council and it was subsequently funded through the corresponding four-year budget (together with funding from community partners collaborating on the project).

Council endorsed a terms of reference for the Future City Strategy and embarked upon an innovative partnership with LARG*net (which includes representation from Western University, Fanshawe College, London Health Science Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care Centre), London Hydro, and the London Economic Development Corporation to prepare the strategy. A significant amount of stakeholder and public engagement has occurred through the preparation of the first two phases of the Future City Strategy. Six engagement sessions took place through 2017 to garner a significant amount of community input on smart city gaps, needs and future opportunities. An information report to Council is expected in April of 2018 and the final strategy is due for completion in the latter part of Q2, 2018.

Given the above-noted strategic alignment and the significant amount of targeted community engagement that has already occurred in relation to smart cities, the City of London is well-positioned to participate in the Smart Cities Challenge.

Engagement and Communication Strategy

In order to develop and submit an application to the Smart Cities Challenge process, the City will be undertaking the following actions:

Phase 1: Broad engagement on area(s) of focus (February 28 – March 14)

Building the City's work to date on The London Plan and London's Future City Strategy, the City will initiate a community conversation on the focus of our Smart Cities Challenge application.

Using the www.getinvolved.london.ca platform, residents will have the opportunity to identify the area or areas of focus that they would like to be considered for the Challenge application. These areas of focus will align with those outlined in the Smart Cities Challenge applicant guide:

- Economic opportunity
- Empowerment and inclusion
- Environmental quality
- Healthy living and recreation
- Mobility
- Safety and security

A free form text box will be available to capture specific ideas should residents wish to submit them.

Complimentary to this engagement, City staff and Civic Leaders and Innovators, building on the feedback gathered through The London Plan and current Future City project work, will identify problem statements and/or projects for consideration related to the above-noted areas of focus.

Phase 2: Ideation session (late March)

Based on the results of Phase 1, key stakeholders and contributors will be invited to participate in a Smart Cities Challenge ideation session. At this session participants will consider the list of problem statements/projects/ideas collected through Phase 1 and select the idea they would like to focus on for the Challenge application. Once selected, participants will work on specific elements of the preliminary proposal, including: Challenge Statement, desired outcomes, use of data and connected technology, etc.

Phase 3: Application development (early April)

Building upon Phase 2, a smaller team will be engaged to develop the Smart Cities Challenge application. Once completed, the draft application will be circulated to all participants and posted on getinvolved.london.ca for review and comment prior to being submitted to Infrastructure Canada on April 24, 2018.

At the outset of the process Council will receive a communications package to assist with promotion of the Smart Cities Challenge and engagement opportunities. This will include key messages, dates, timelines and social media assets. Media will also receive information on the contest with key dates and engagement opportunities.

The Challenge will be promoted through social media, London.ca, getinvolved.london.ca, e-newsletters, community groups and key stakeholders from The London Plan and current Future City Strategy processes. Getinvolved.london.ca will outline what the Smart Cities Challenge is, the City's work to date related to smart cities, how to participate, examples of smart city ideas, and how information will be used.

Throughout the process, all information will be documented and shared through getinvolved.london.ca. All information gathered will also be used as ideation and input into Phase 3 of the Future City Strategy, as well as broader civic engagement and innovation initiatives (i.e. open data).

CONCLUSION

The Smart Cities Challenge provides an exciting opportunity to tackle some of the most pressing and complex issues facing our community through the use of a smart cities approach. Participation in this process builds upon existing smart cities strategies identified in The London Plan and Council's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan and will promote and inform future work in this field.

Recognition and appreciation is extended to the following individuals for their assistance in preparing this report: Jon-Paul McGonigle, Meagan Geudens, Patti McKague, Adam Thompson.

RECOMMENDED BY:	
Rosanna Wilcox **Director, Community and Economic Innovation**	
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c. Senior Leadership Team