

Date: 2021-09-28

Subject: **Information Report**

Secondary Title: Planning, Building & Economic Development Department's Participation in the 2021 Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund.

Contact: **Carolyn Crozier, Strategic Leader, City Planning & Design**
Carolyn.Crozier@brampton.ca, (905)874-2281

Report Number: Planning, Bld & Ec Dev-2021-1094

Recommendations:

1. **THAT** the report titled "Planning, Building & Economic Development Department's Participation in the 2021 Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund" at the Planning and Development Committee meeting of October 18, 2021, be received;
2. **THAT** the Planning, Building & Economic Development Department's participation in the Province of Ontario's Audit and Accountability Fund 2021 be endorsed; and,
3. **THAT** staff be directed to report back to Council with the results of the Planning, Building and Economic Development Department's application to the Province of Ontario's Audit and Accountability Fund 2021.

Overview:

- **The Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, has opened a third intake of proposals for the Audit and Accountability Fund.**
- **The Audit and Accountability Fund assists large urban municipalities with identifying opportunities to advance service delivery efficiencies while protecting front-line services.**
- **The purpose of this report is to advise Council of this funding opportunity, and to seek Council endorsement of the Planning, Building & Economic Development Department's participation.**

Background:

The Ontario government is committed to helping municipalities improve local service delivery and ensure taxpayers' dollars are being used efficiently. Launched in 2019, the Audit and Accountability Fund (AAF), has been made available to support municipalities in these efforts. The City was successful in participating in this provincial program in 2019 (see report entitled "Audit and Accountability Fund, August 26, 2019, to Committee of Council).

In a letter to Council from the Honorable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, the Province has started a third intake of proposals for the AAF that are due to the Ministry by October 28, 2021.

Current Situation:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has been very disruptive and has underscored the need for organizations to be agile and responsive. It is more important than ever that municipalities deliver modern, efficient services that are financially sustainable.

As part of the third intake of the AAF, the Province has identified the following priority areas:

- Digital Modernization
- Service Integration
- Streamlined Development Approvals

Staff are currently reviewing and validating proposals for the AAF that correspond with these priorities. Upon receipt of Council endorsement to participate in the 2021 AAF program, staff will complete and submit the required business case proposals, including the formal Council Resolution, to the Province by the submission deadline of October 28, 2021.

Following submission of proposals to the Province, staff will report back to Council in November with a full listing of projects submitted.

The Province has advised that decisions will be made no later than January 2022, and staff will advise Council of the outcome of the City's submissions.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this staff report. Financial requirements for any approved projects submitted to the Audit and Accountability Fund will be fully funding by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Other Implications:

Term of Council Priorities:

This report provides an update on Term of Council Priority 1.5.1 and directly aligns with the Strategic Direction – “Brampton is a Well-Run City” and demonstrates the City’s efforts to support economic recovery, enhance customer service and deliver service quality excellence in a fiscally responsible manner.

Conclusion:

Improving local service delivery is more important than ever in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Province of Ontario, through the Audit and Accountability Fund, is providing municipalities with funding opportunities to address service delivery with a view to modernize and enhance. Staff will ensure submissions are made before the deadline for funding on October 28, 2021, and will update Council throughout the process.

Authored by:

Reviewed by:

Carolyn Crozier, MCIP, RPP
Strategic Leader, City Planning & Design

Bob Bjerke, MCIP, RPP
Director, City Planning & Design
Allan Parsons, MCIP, RPP
Director, Development Services

Approved by:

Submitted by:

Richard Forward, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng
Commissioner, Planning, Building &
Economic Development

David Barrick
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: Minister’s Letter re: Audit and Accountability Fund, 3rd Intake