Background

The purpose of this report is to inform City Council of steps being taken to submit an application for the Smart Cities Challenge.

What is a Smart City?

The **Smart City** concept envisions a community that intelligently uses data and technology to improve the life of its citizens, business owners and visitors.

'**Smart City**' is becoming a common term across the globe but in Sudbury it is being localized to meet the unique needs of the community by considering and leveraging Greater Sudbury's geography, economic development strengths and working with unique local partners. To ensure clarity of how our smart city ideas will improve the life of residents we classify them as addressing one or more of the following areas: economic improvement, empowerment and inclusion, environment, healthy living and recreation, mobility and safety.

The adoption of the term '**Smart City**' is relatively new for the City of Greater Sudbury, however a number of initiatives have been implemented that support it. For example, the CGS website was recently revitalized and received a 2018 AVA Gold Award for its new web design. In 2017, the City ranked in Canada's Top 20 and 3rd among Canadian municipalities under 300k population in providing accessible Open Data to citizens. Each of these projects was facilitated by identifying citizen needs through engagement and then delivering technological solutions to meet our citizen's needs.

Becoming a '**Smart City**' will not happen overnight. It will require a series of progressive '**Smart City**' changes, each funded on merit and properly approved. Some of these will be funded as cost savings, some as necessary service improvements and some from external sources.

Smart Cities Challenge

Currently the Government of Canada has a **Smart Cities Challenge** that offers an opportunity for funding. The Smart Cities Challenge is a competition, open to all municipalities, local or regional governments and Indigenous communities across Canada. The Smart Cities approach aims to achieve meaningful outcomes for residents by leveraging the fundamental benefits that data and connected technology have to offer, through:

- Openness
- Integration
- Transferability
- Collaboration

The current competition offers the following prizes:
- One prize of up to $50M – regardless of size of population
- Two prizes of up to $10M – communities under 500,000 population
- One prize of up to $5M – communities under 30,000 population

Interested communities are to submit a Challenge Statement, defining the outcomes expected from the project that will be funded by the prize money. The deadline to submit the application

and Challenge Statement is April 24, 2018. There is a requirement to complete, or have completed, community engagement to assist in defining the issues and proposed solutions.

Finalists for the competition will be selected during the summer, based on the Challenge Statements. Finalists will receive a $250,000 grant to develop final proposals, which will be due in Winter 2019.

City of Greater Sudbury's Smart Cities Project

The project supports the recent Information Technology Strategic Plan and is aligned with the current City Strategic Plan priority regarding open, transparent and accountable government. A project charter will be completed to further describe the scope, timelines and anticipated resource requirements.

Sudbury has an advantage in that it is in the process of completing an updated IT Strategic Plan. This assures that our Challenge application will be aligned with corporate strategic priorities. The City is also engaging technology leaders from local partner organizations including hospitals and educational institutions to capture the community's perspective and add depth to the project.

To ensure a fulsome engagement process, the City will engage citizens for challenge ideas aligned with the City's strategic priorities, through the Communications and Community Engagement Section. The engagement includes an online forum to generate ideas and provide an opportunity for citizens to express their opinions regarding priorities, Engagement activities also include a live-streamed Community Panel session on March 27, 2018, with our current community partners, which include: Greater Sudbury Utilities, Laurentian University, Cambrian College, College Boreal, Rainbow School Board and NORCAT. Other partners will be identified as the initiative moves forward.

Next Steps

It is anticipated that, after the engagement activities, challenge ideas received will be evaluated and a "challenge statement" will be developed. The statement will identify a specific challenge in the community which would benefit from Smart Cities funding. The application process involves submitting a brief Challenge Statement and a description of the activities and expected outcomes that will assist in making Greater Sudbury a smarter city. The application will also describe how the proposal supports goals and strategies, how we have engaged the community and a high level description of how the initial prize of $250K will be utilized.

A report detailing the process and outcome of evaluations will be presented to City Council in Spring 2018.