Subject: 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
Report Number: CLK 20-02
Author: Amelia Jaggard, Deputy Clerk
Meeting Type: Council Meeting
Meeting Date: Monday, January 13, 2020

Recommendation:
THAT Council receives Report CLK 20-02 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan;

AND THAT Council adopts the Town of Tillsonburg 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan attached hereto as Appendix A.

Background:
The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was enacted in 2005. The purpose of the Act is to develop, implement and enforce accessibility standards in order to remove barriers for Ontarians with disabilities in relation to goods, services, facilities, accommodations, employment, structures and premises.

Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (O. Reg. 191/11) establishes accessibility standards and requirements. One of the IASR requirements is to prepare a multi-year accessibility plan. This is a shift from annual accessibility planning under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA). The multi-year plan must include an organization’s strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet the requirements in the standards. Each year the organization must report on the progress in implementing the plan.

In January, 2014, the Town of Tillsonburg created and adopted the first Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be reviewed and updated at least once every five years. An annual status report will be completed to document the progress and measures taken to implement the Town of Tillsonburg's strategy and meet the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation.

Discussion:
The purpose of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is to guide the municipality towards removing and preventing future barriers. The plan addresses the Town’s commitment to accessibility standards, identifies goals, as well as celebrates the Town’s accomplishments to date. Although the plan is required by Provincial legislation, it does not bind the Town to any projects identified as goals within the document; the plan is a positive way to formalize the goals of the municipality.
The Town of Tillsonburg is committed to promoting a barrier-free Town for employees, citizens and all who live, work, visit, and invest in Tillsonburg. It is important that the Town continue to plan for the future so that Town facilities and services are accessible and welcoming for everyone.

**Consultation:**
Consultation on the plan was conducted with Town of Tillsonburg staff and committees including:
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Senior Leadership Team

Staff reviewed Multi-Year Accessibility Plans from other municipalities including the Township of Norwich, Township of South-West Oxford, Zorra Township, Oxford County, Norfolk County and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

**Financial Impact/Funding Source:**
There will be no direct financial impact resulting from the implementation of this plan. Many of the projects that are listed in the plan will need to be addressed in the Town’s budget. This policy does not bind the municipality to any monetary figure.
Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Linkage:

1. Excellence in Local Government
   □ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
   □ Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
   □ Demonstrate accountability

2. Economic Sustainability
   □ Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
   □ Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core
   □ Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg’s economy

3. Demographic Balance
   □ Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
   □ Provide opportunities for families to thrive
   □ Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship

4. Culture and Community
   □ Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
   □ Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests
   □ Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living

Attachments:
Appendix A – 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan