



DATE: June 30, 2017
REPORT TO: Mayor & Council
FROM: Somer Gerber, Business Development Coordinator
SUBJECT: LaunchIt Minto Board Meetings

TOWN STRATEGIC PLAN

4.10 Pursue and develop incubators in culture and/or agriculture sectors to encourage small business growth in these sectors with a view to expanding independently into permanent privately owned locations and operations

12.1 Implement the strategic plan in consultation with the community at all times, and draw on the volunteers, private business, non-profit groups and key individuals to assist and promote strategic goals

BACKGROUND

On April 18, 2017, the LaunchIt Board held a monthly meeting where there was not a quorum. This started a discussion about how to best proceed with the LaunchIt Board, and a suggestion that there was not always a need to meet monthly. While LaunchIt appreciates the time and dedication each member gives, the Board felt that it is time to explore a different approach that better addresses the current needs of LaunchIt.

The LaunchIt Board considered that there is no need for a formal monthly board meeting. It was suggested that a LaunchIt Executive Board be formed consisting of: Mayor George Bridge, Glen Hall, Belinda Wick-Graham and myself to meet on an as needed basis but no less than four times per year going forward. Members of the LaunchIt Board would have to be available and willing to attend a meeting or sit in an advisory position as needed. In addition to the Executive, LaunchIt would also host two events annually as an opportunity to engage the business community, training partners and the full LaunchIt Board. The intent is to use these events as a way to inform the business community on what LaunchIt is doing, how it can offer assistance and training, and to collect valuable feedback on next steps.

COMMENTS:

In addition to executive meetings, a LaunchIt Advisory Board would meet two times per year (October and April). These ½ day meetings could include a guest speaker and/or facilitated discussion. The Advisory Board could be expanded to include key business leaders as well as LaunchIt partners such as the Minto Chamber of Commerce, the Business Centre of Guelph Wellington, Innovation Guelph and the Saugeen Economic Development Corporation.

The goal of these meetings would be to engage the business community, educate them on how LaunchIt services work, obtain feedback, direction and assess the community's needs.



It was suggested that the first event of this type would “piggyback” on Live2Lead October 6, 2017. Advisory Board members would attend Live2Lead as part of the responsibilities followed by their first regular meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Minto Council approves the proposed LaunchIt Structure as outlined in the June 30, 2017 report from the Business Development Coordinator, and that Council amend its appointment bylaw as needed to reflect the change.

Somer Gerber Business Development Coordinator