

Executive Standing Committee
June 23, 2014

TO: Mayor and Members of Executive Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

John Traves, Q.C., Director of Legal Services

DATE: June 5, 2014

SUBJECT: Governance Review - Timetable

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Motion of Halifax Regional Council of June 25, 2013:

That the Executive Standing Committee, supported by staff, is directed by Halifax Regional Council to undertake a review of Council's governance and committee structure and the terms of reference of Standing Committees to ensure the structure supports Council's priorities, to be completed by June 30, 2014 for submission to Regional Council.

During the Council discussion, it was agreed that the review should also include the number of external committees members of Regional Council are asked to serve on and whether those councillor appointments best serve the interests of HRM.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter Sections 20 and 34.

The Terms of Reference for the Executive Standing Committee provide:

3.6.1 The Committee shall act as a review committee for matters related to the general self-governance and administration of Council as directed by Regional Council.

BACKGROUND

Executive Standing Committee has been considering changes to the governance structure, terms of reference for Standing Committees, and the external committees. On May 20, 2014, Regional Council accepted recommendations for changes to internal committees.

The Project Team proposes three additional items to complete the work:

- a presentation to councillors from the Provincial Conflict of Interest Commissioner
- a Report on External Committees
- a Report on Administrative Order #1

Considering these three items will push the Governance Review completion past June 30, 2014.

DISCUSSION

The conflict of interest discussion must precede the External Committees report and depends on the availability of the Commissioner. It need not take place at a Regional Council meeting. It will not take place before the June Executive Standing Committee. Therefore the two reports cannot be ready before the July 28 Executive Standing Committee.

Discussion of the reports at the July Executive Standing Committee means Regional Council could discuss them at its July 29 or August 5 meetings. Delays in the Commissioner's discussion could push the two reports to the August 25th Executive Standing Committee with Regional Council consideration in September.

All the changes to internal and external committees and a revised Administrative Order #1 should be ready for the changes to standing committee membership planned for November.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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