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Item No. 8

Halifax Regional Council
September 30, 2008

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Dunphy".

Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Townsend".

Phillip Townsend, Acting Director of Infrastructure & Asset Management

DATE: September 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Mainland Common - Build Canada Funds Contribution Agreement

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- August 6, 2008 Federal funding announcement
- August 12, 2008 Mainland Common Centre Complex report to Council
- September 4, 2008 Contribution Agreement

BACKGROUND

On August 6, 2008 federal funding of up to \$12 million dollars was announced for the Mainland Common Centre through the Build Canada Fund, Infrastructure Canada. A letter of Commitment regarding the funding was received the same day, from Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure & Communities.

On August 12, 2008, HRM Council approved an increase to the capital budget CB100091 Mainland Common Centre, including this \$12 m in cost-sharing from the federal government.

DISCUSSION

A Contribution Agreement (required to enable the flow of funds) was signed off on September 4, 2008 by Minister Lawrence Cannon, and Mayor Peter Kelly.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

On August 12, 2008, HRM Council approved an increase to the capital budget CB100091 Mainland Common Centre facility, including this \$12 m in cost-sharing from the federal government. The Contribution Agreement signed on September 4, 2008 formalizes the funding commitment. The Agreement outlined:

- The requirement for a Tri-lateral management committee to oversee the Contribution Agreement
- Obligations of the Parties, Contract Procedures, Claims and Payments, Communications, etc.

There are a few clauses within the agreement that required clarification, and which may require amendment in future. Under ideal circumstance, these issues would have been clarified before the Agreement was executed. However, the timing of the Federal Election call did not permit this to happen. Staff are working with federal and provincial colleagues to ensure the necessary amendments are made. The charges are of a purely technical nature and do not affect the core purpose of the Agreement. A copy of the Agreement is available upon request.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by Margaret Soley, Manager, Facility Development, 490-5591