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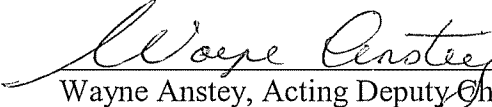
Halifax Regional Council
October 11, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 5, 2005

SUBJECT: Additional Committee of the Whole Session: Regional Planning

ORIGIN

Council has expressed its intent to further discuss the Regional Plan at a Committee of the Whole.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

Council agree to hold a Committee of the Whole on October 18, 2005 to discuss the Regional Plan. November 1, 2005 will also be set aside for a Committee of the Whole, should it be necessary.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

The preparation of HRM's Regional Plan has been underway for some time and is nearing completion. Council reviewed the Plan in detail in April, and directed staff to undertake further consultation and review. A number of workshops were held throughout the region, and consultations with community groups and stakeholders continued. As a result, a number of changes are being proposed to the plan. A workshop was held for Council to review these changes, but not all Councillors were able to attend. The consultation plan approved by Council included a series of information sessions at Community Councils beginning in late October, with the intent to bring the proposed document to Council in November, for initiation of the public hearing process.

A number of Councillors have raised questions and have suggested the need for Council to review the next steps, and to ensure they are comfortable with moving forward. Council is aware that when the Interim Growth Controls were approved, a commitment was made to complete the plan by the end of 2005. The Regional Planning Committee has worked hard to complete this task, and is prepared to recommend the Plan to Council within this timeframe. However, the Committee recognizes Council must be comfortable with the Plan, as it is their responsibility to approve or change the Plan.

The topic is too lengthy to deal with at a regular Council meeting. A special Committee of the Whole is requested to deal with the Regional Plan.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

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.

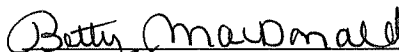
ALTERNATIVES

1. Council could hold a workshop to discuss the Regional Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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:

Betty MacDonald/Director Governance and Strategic Initiatives