


**Halifax Regional Council**  
**September 27, 2005**  
**Committee of the Whole**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**



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Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** September 26, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Priority Setting Workshop

**ORIGIN**

On September 15 and 16, 2005, Council, CAO and DCAO and the Senior Management Team attended a Priority Setting Workshop.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse and/or amend the top 5 priority areas as identified at the Priority Setting Workshop of September 16, 2005.
2. Council authorize staff to return with a status update and a suggested approach for further action on each item identified.

## **BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION**

A workshop with the Mayor, Councillors, EMT and SMT was held on September 16, 2005 around priority setting. A report on the workshop is being written by the Facilitator, and will be provided to Council in the next two weeks.

At this workshop Council identified a large number of issues and opportunities. These were grouped into four themes, from which 11 priority issues were identified. The workshop participants then identified those which were considered urgent, and those which could be dealt with a little later. The urgent, top priorities were:

- \* Regional Planning
- Youth
- \* Infrastructure
- By-law Enforcement
- Public Safety

Those considered somewhat less urgent were:

- Taxation
- Traffic Congestion
- Transit

Three other issues were not dealt with in any detail:

- Community Relations
- Community Recreation
- Community Development and Economic Development

\* The report on the development of criteria to rank infrastructure projects is on the COW agenda for September 27<sup>th</sup>. A Regional Planning Briefing could be an agenda item for the October 11<sup>th</sup> COW.

Following agreement by Council on the top 5 priority areas, staff will come back with a status report on each item and a suggested approach to further action on the item. Discussion will include an analysis of capacity and implications. As a separate item, a full update report on the session with discussion and outcomes will be circulated as soon as it is available.

List of all potential priority issues as discussed at the workshop was developed and will be circulated with the report of facilitator.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Any budget implications will be determined based on the direction provided by Council on each item.

## **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 approve the list of all topic areas to be addressed and add additional detail to provide staff clear direction on the scope of the topic.
2. Council could choose not to endorse the priorities agreed to at the workshop and commit to develop a new list of priorities for inclusion in the 2006/7 budget and business planning process.
3. Council refer discussion to a Committee of Council to complete and report back to Council, with recommendations.

## **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:

  
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