

## **BRIEFING FORM**

**SUBMITTED TO:** Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

**DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:**   
**Peter Duncan, Acting Director, IAM**

**DATE OF MEETING:** September 8, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Status Update, Urban Forest Master Plan

### **ORIGIN**

June 2, 2011: Request for Status Update on the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP)

### **BACKGROUND**

As per Section 3.4 (below) of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) Terms of Reference, direction around the UFMP is under the mandate of ESSC.

- 3.4 - *Parks & Open Spaces;*
- 3.4.1 - *To encourage the appropriate policy structure to address amount, use and protection of parks, forests (urban & rural) and open spaces for the use and enjoyment of the residents of HRM;*
- 3.4.2 - *Other related activities in the area of parks & open spaces.*

Under the Regional Plan, Policy E-20 directs: HRM shall prepare an UFMP to identify design guidelines and a management strategy to maximize the urban forest.

### **DISCUSSION**

The first draft of the UFMP has just been completed and contains 400 pages of neighbourhood and community scale inventories, analyses and implementation strategies to improve the health and sustainability of urban forests in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Next steps will be to

further fact check and edit the document and work on layout. It is expected that HRM will conduct key informant focus groups in September and October, with public engagement commencing in the second half of October. The UFMP is expected to be presented to ESSC in November, prior to going to Regional Council.

**ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

None identified

**IMPACT/BENEFITS**

None identified

**COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES**

None identified

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

**KEY STAFF CONTACT:** John Charles, Planner, 490-5771