


**Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee  
September 8, 2011**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

**DATE:** July 25, 2011

**SUBJECT:** **Functional Plans with Environment and Sustainability Standing  
Committee Oversight**

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**ORIGIN**

ESSC July 7th meeting: 8.2 Councillor Watts - Request for Staff Report re: Review Functional Plans Identified in the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy

1. Direct staff to provide a report outlining the functional plans identified in the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy in order to identify the functional plans that impact environment and sustainability issues; and
2. Direct staff to develop three (3) to five (5) priorities for each of the plans that are linked to the environment and sustainability in order to inform the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee of issues that need to be considered in the overall Regional Plan review.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward this information to the Committee Workplan Workshop for September 2011;
2. The Committee forward a copy of this information report to the Transportation and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committees to identify the areas of interest of this Committee; And,
3. That staff provide an update on each of the identified Functional Plan at a schedule to be determined at the Workplan Workshop.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC), staff was directed to identify the Functional Plans that this committee may provide primary direction and governance on.

## **DISCUSSION**

This report addresses the first part of the motion. In the attachment, the overview of the Functional Plans contained within the Regional Plan are framed for the Committee. Included in the overview are:

- Identified Functional Plan
- Status
- Brief Notes of the Plan
- Staff's understanding of the Functional Plans that ESSC provides guidance

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee provide oversight of Regional Plan. It is understood that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee has oversight of the implementation and performance of the Functional Plans outlined in the attachment.

The second part of the motion will be an outcome of the Workplan Workshop, and updated by Committee during annual updates of the identified Functional Plans. The August report to Community Planning and Economic Development, and Regional Council, on the Major Planning Projects outlines the proposed priorities for Regional Plan Review.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None. This report only provides an update on Information and Plan status. Specific updates on individual plans would provide any budget implications related to specific Committee direction or recommendations. Those would follow in a separate report at direction of Committee.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

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

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

None

**ALTERNATIVES**

None identified

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment: Functional Plans Overview

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> 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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Functional Plan	Lead	Other Lead, ESSC interest?	Status	Notes
Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan	ESSC		Tabled to RPAC, not adopted by Regional Council yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticipate needing direction post SWMFP</li> <li>• Committee Direction may be informed by Save our Lakes Policy workshop work</li> <li>• Public Pressure regarding beach closures and deteriorating lake water quality</li> <li>• Mandate / Authority questions</li> </ul>
Open Space Functional Plan	ESSC / CPED		<p>Phase I – Regional Centre Open Space Plan in development. Public/stakeholder consultation beginning fall 2011. Plan completion targeted for spring 2012.</p> <p>Related plans completed: Community Facilities Master Plan, Western Commons Master Plan, Dartmouth Commons Master Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on developing regional /urban open space network</li> <li>• Key objectives: Natural resource management, cultural resource management, public access and recreation, and neighbourhood form</li> <li>• Additional volumes of the open space plan (rural &amp; suburban) to be completed by end of 2012/2013 fiscal year</li> <li>• Key alignments with Neighbourhood Green-print/Centre Plan, Storm-water Management Plan , Urban Forest Plan</li> </ul>
Urban Forest Functional Plan	ESSC		In progress	Request for update June 2, ESSC
Potential Hazards to Development Functional Plan	ESSC / CPED		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change work will inform this plan</li> <li>• ClimateSMART highly informs this plan</li> </ul>
Emissions Reduction Functional Plan	ESSC		Complete, revision coming to Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate GHG reduction plan presented for 2012 to 2020</li> <li>• Opportunity for development of Community GHG Emissions Reduction plan post RP Review? Will be looking for Committee direction on this.</li> </ul>
Opportunity Sites Functional Plan	Community Planning and Economic Development	Yes, items related to Brownfield policy	Started	Notice of Motion from Councillor Watts, August 4 <sup>th</sup> re: Brownfield opportunity
Affordable Housing Functional Plan	CPED		Ongoing	
Road Network Functional Plan	Transportation		Complete	
Active Transportation Functional Plan	Transportation	Yes, large impact on GHG emission reduction	Complete	
TDM Functional Plan	Transportation	Yes, large impact on GHG	Complete	

		emission reduction		
Parking Strategy Functional Plan	Transportation		Complete	
Cultural Functional Plan	CPED		Complete	
Halifax Harbour Functional Plan	CPED	Yes, Sea Level Rise	Ongoing	Work on Sea Level Rise Modelling has been presented to council, the Vulnerability Assessment Tool needs to be developed.
Business Parks Development Functional Plan	CPED		Complete	
Capital District Functional Plan: Capital District Public Infrastructure; Urban Design Guidelines, HRM by Design, CenterPlan / GreenPrint,	CPED	Yes, Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability are driven in this suite of policy	Some components complete, others ongoing	The Major Planning Projects report, being presented to CPED and Regional Council in August, outline the Planning focus. There is heavy themes of environmental sustainability weaved in these scopes.
Heritage Functional Plan	CPED		Ongoing	
Wastewater Management FP	Halifax Water Board	Yes, indirectly	Ongoing	ESSC will be informed by HW of progress on plan. Plan is in development.
Stormwater Management FP	ESSC		Recently started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report to ESSC on August 4</li> <li>Save Our Lakes Policy Workshop</li> <li>Looking for prioritization of focus on Water Resource Mgmt Policy</li> </ul>
Underground Utilities FP	ESSC		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Energy Policy</li> <li>Underground Wiring to new residential subdivisions has moved to stakeholder engagement stage.</li> <li>Undergrounding in pole free zone will focus on partnering with development projects.</li> </ul>
Community Energy FP	ESSC		Complete, needs to be revised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion from July 7, 2011 looking for update on Community Energy Plan.</li> <li>Current Plan is out of date, concept to undertake new plan in 2012 / 2013.</li> </ul>
Communication Tower FP	CPED		Underway	
Community Engagement Strategy	CPED		Complete	
Finance	Finance and Audit		Ongoing	