

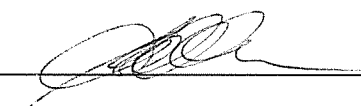
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Halifax Regional Council
March 9, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 8, 2004

SUBJECT: **Extension of the Greater Halifax Partnership and Halifax Regional Development Agency Service Agreements**

ORIGIN:

A presentation was made to Halifax Regional Council at the Committee of the Whole on January 27, 2004 regarding the service agreements with the Greater Halifax Partnership and the Halifax Regional Development Agency. A report, with the recommendations, was expected to be submitted to Council in a month's time.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve a one year extension to the service agreements with the Greater Halifax Partnership and the Halifax Regional Development Agency.

BACKGROUND

At the request of Council, staff undertook a review of the service agreements with the Greater Halifax Partnership(GHP) and the Halifax Regional Development Agency (HRDA). The review examined value for money, outcomes under the agreements, perspectives of other partners, strategies, incremental benefits and other similar organizations.

A presentation on the observations of the review was made to Halifax Regional Council COW on January 27th, 2004. The presentation concluded with four recommendations:

- extend contracts for a year
- analyse economic potential for HRM, clarify roles and responsibilities through community discussion of the Economic Potential study currently underway
- develop new strategies accordingly
- report to Council in six months

Staff were to come back to Council with a report, recommendation on the extension, and 04/05 action plans for the GHP and HRDA.

DISCUSSION

A number of events have prevented staff from completing the report and action plans with the GHP and HRDA, and these are currently still in progress. It is expected GHP and HRDA will be able to present to Council once the discussions on the HRM budget are completed.

However, it is necessary for Council to formally approve the extension of the service agreements now. GHP is finalizing its audited statements for 2003. If there is to be no extension to the service agreement, a note to that effect would have to be included in the audited statements. As it appeared at the COW that Council did not have major objections to extending the agreements, given the commitments of both organizations to work with staff and Council as per the recommendations above, this report is requesting Council approve the extensions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The proposed HRM operating budget for 04/05 will include funding for the GHP and HRDA.

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

Council can approve not to extend the services agreements. Council should be aware that the service agreements require a six month notice to change or terminate the agreements.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: __Betty MacDonald *Betty MacDonald* _____

Report Approved by: _____