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Item No. 3

**Halifax Regional Council
Committee of the Whole
November 13, 2007**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Brad Anguish, Director, Business Planning & Information Management

DATE: November 13, 2007

SUBJECT: 2008/9 Council Focus Area Overview

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN:

During the Business Planning Process discussion at Committee of the Whole on October 23rd Council indicated their desire to have staff return to COW with an update on the Council Focus Areas as part of the priority setting process for the 2008/09 Business Plan.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to focus discussion, in 2006 Council consolidated the original 14 Focus Areas into four core areas:

<i>2008/09 Council Focus Area Discussion</i>	<i>Linkage to 2006/7 Council Focus Area</i>
Tax Reform	Taxation
Infrastructure	Infrastructure, Traffic Congestion, Transit, Recapitalization of Buildings
Community Development	Youth, Community Development, Community Recreation, Community Relations, Economic Development, Regional Planning
Public Safety	Youth, Bylaw Enforcement, Public Safety

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 23, 2007, staff committed to preparing an update document for each of the four Focus Area discussions for Council review.

DISCUSSION

The Council Focus Area discussion is intended to be a Regional strategic priority-setting exercise. These priorities represent multi-year issues and they will not necessarily be resolved within the scope of a single year. As requested by Council, the attached reports provide an update against the direction provided by Council in previous years, as well as provide staff's intended 'next steps'. These reports will be accompanied by COW presentations during which staff look forward to receiving any guidance that Council may have regarding the intended way ahead in each of the Focus Areas.

Staff also intends to return to Council with an update on the implementation of the strategic priorities impacting our Region that are not covered directly within the Council Focus Areas. Specifically, staff intends to bring forward a report to Committee of the Whole on the Community Energy Plan by the end of the calendar year, as well as an update on the Immigration Strategy and the Economic Strategy, in cooperation with the Greater Halifax Partnership.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct budget implications as a result of the material discussed herein. The financial impact of any direction provided by Council will be evaluated through the 2008/09 business plan process.

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

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Public Safety Council Focus Area Report

Community Development Council Focus Area Report

Infrastructure Council Focus Area Report

Tax Reform Council Focus Area Discussion Report

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.

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