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Halifax Regional Council
January 31, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Stickings", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Stickings, Acting Director, Real Property and Asset Management

DATE: January 25, 2006

SUBJECT: **Information Report - Off Leash Dog Areas Masterplan**

ORIGIN

Regional Council has requested staff develop a masterplan for locating off-leash areas for dogs within the municipality.

BACKGROUND

Presently there are two designated public areas for running dogs off-leash within the Halifax Regional Municipality. Council has requested that staff look at how best the municipality could provide other off-leash areas to satisfy public requests for facilities and balance financial resources.

DISCUSSION

An Off-leash Dog Area Masterplan must provide council with several things;

- 1) criteria for the location of Off-leash parks
- 2) recommended sites for Off-leash designation
- 3) cost estimates for development and maintenance of these sites
- 4) recommendations for regulations and rules to apply to Off-leash parks
- 5) recommended funding sources for any incremental costs associated with Off- Leash areas.

The public will have an opportunity to give feedback to staff on the draft masterplan prior to the document being recommended to Council through a public open house. Staff will also be involving a network of dog owners and non dog owners in the development of the masterplan as well as consulting with other North American municipalities as to their experience and approach to providing this service.

Staff expect the masterplan to be brought to Regional Council prior to 2006/2007 budget deliberations.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

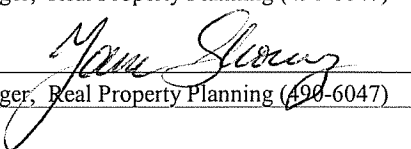
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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: Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning (490-6047)

Report Approved by: 
Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning (490-6047)