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ROLE OF THE REGION IN FACILITATING THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONEYORK

The e-Government Sub-Committee recommends that:

- 1. the following items be received for information:**
 - a) OneYork Project Support Data proposal to Town of Markham, March 14, 2005, submitted by Pacomm Consulting Inc.;**
 - b) Minutes of OneYork Meeting, February 25, 2005; and**
 - c) Toronto Star article, *India Wants to Ride Next Wave of Infotech Revolution*, Haroon Siddiqui.**
- 2. the recommendations contained in the following revised report, February 28, 2005, from the Commissioner of Finance be adopted subject to:**
 - a) substituting in Recommendation 2 the words “The Region” for the words “Regional Council”;**
 - b) inserting a comma and the phrase “through the e-Government sub-Committee” after “Regional Council” in Recommendation 5;**
 - c) adding the following Recommendation 6:
“ 6. the Region offer to reimburse the Town of Markham for the full cost of the data collection project to be undertaken by Pacomm Consulting Inc., to a maximum of \$25,000 plus G.S.T.”; and**
 - d) Recommendation 6 now being Recommendation 7.**
- 3. the Regional Clerk be directed to submit this matter directly to Regional Council for consideration at its meeting of March 31, 2005.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1. Regional Council direct staff to participate on the OneYork Board and Task Force.**
- 2. Regional Council contribute financially to OneYork conditional on participation of the other proposed MUSH sector partners.**
- 3. The emphasis of the mandate of OneYork be on a MUSH sector Community Technology Infrastructure.**
- 4. The CAO or his designate be directed to report back on a proposed governance structure.**

5. Regional Council receive quarterly updates from the OneYork Board, once implemented.
6. The report be circulated to local municipalities, the three hospital boards, the two school boards, Seneca College, York University, Police Services Board as well as the CIO of the Province of Ontario and the CIO of the Federal Government of Canada.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides the e-Government Sub-Committee and Region Council with a recommendation on the role of the Region in the start-up activities of OneYork, the steps the Region should take in support of this initiative and the recommended focus for the start-up period.

3. BACKGROUND

At its meeting on December 2, 2004, the e-Government Sub-Committee discussed ways and means of investigating the creation of a dedicated community technology infrastructure, in the Region, for the MUSH sector. The MUSH sector includes municipalities, universities, school boards and hospitals.

The e-Government Sub-Committee passed the following recommendations that were subsequently adopted by York Regional Council at its meeting on January 20th, 2005.

“The e-Government Sub-Committee recommends as follows:

1. The presentation from Regional Councillor Jim Jones on a MUSH (municipalities, universities, school boards, hospitals) Public Sector Telecommunications Utility “OneYork” be received;
2. The presentation from Lev Gonick, Ph.D., Vice-President for Information Technology Services and CIO, Case Western Reserve University on “One North-East Ohio” be received;
3. A Task Force be formed to make the vision of a 21st Century high-speed broadband network (OneYork) for the MUSH sector a reality.
4. The e-Government Sub-Committee work with other MUSH sector agencies to move this initiative forward.
5. The Region and other MUSH sector agencies explore joint opportunities in applications, hardware, resources and facilities.
6. The Region and other MUSH sector agencies coordinate our individual network activities to avoid long term commitments that keep us from participating in the OneYork high-speed broadband network.

7. The Region and other MUSH sector agencies look at both non-profit, public sector-owned utility and public-private partnership options.
8. The Region and other MUSH sector agencies explore funding and joint opportunities with the provincial and federal levels.
9. The Region and other MUSH sector agencies explore the opportunity of engaging an integration design team based on the One Cleveland/North-East Ohio model.
10. The Region and other MUSH sector agencies explore donation of fiber, equipment and design by potential partners.
11. The Region and other MUSH sector agencies prepare and issue an RFQ for an Integrator who can design, implement and manage the OneYork Vision.”

At the meeting of the e-Government Sub-Committee on January 19th, 2005, Regional Councillor Jones gave the Sub-Committee an update on various public sector institutions, agencies and boards that have expressed interest in participating in the proposed “OneYork” initiative. It was proposed that the “OneYork” initiative be referred to the Commissioner of Finance for a report to the Sub-Committee on the Region’s participation.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

A OneYork Community Technology Infrastructure has the potential to provide significant benefits to the Region, should it come to fruition. The Community Technology Infrastructure (CTI) or as it is also commonly referred to as Information Communications Technology (ICT) includes a number of elements that will continue to evolve in support of One York’s business environment. The elements that currently dominate the infrastructure include servers, storage devices, clients, operating systems, middleware, connectivity, comprehensive database structure, portals, messaging and collaboration. Joint opportunities to share applications, resources and facilities with other MUSH sector participants are seen as a way to lower the Region’s current operating costs in the future. A shared, community technology infrastructure, at affordable rates, positions the Region to rapidly build e-Government services and capabilities that will be of benefit to constituents. In addition, OneYork could be an economic development “spring-board” for the development of new technology, from the MUSH sector, that will attract new investment and new employment to the Region.

Based on experiences elsewhere, including OneCleveland, it will take some time and effort to fully implement the complete OneYork vision. During the implementation stage of OneYork, it is essential to have the MUSH sector partners evolve to a common strategic enterprise architecture while maintaining their ability to operate their current information technology systems without precluding effective participation in OneYork as it evolves.

It is recommended that the Region participate in the Task Force that is proposed by the e-Government Sub-Committee. Regional participation should be both at the Board level, to

help form the structure and governance of a OneYork entity as well as providing technical representation to participate in the implementation of a community technology infrastructure and in exploring opportunities to move to shared applications that are of interest to the Region.

The participation of MUSH sector partners in the formation of OneYork is critical to the success of the endeavour. The establishment of the OneYork Board is the first milestone which must be achieved to move on to the next steps. To help crystallize the feasibility and costs of the OneYork initiative, it is recommended that the Region support issuance of the OneYork RFI for a Business Architect and Systems integrator approved by the OneYork Board once it is officially formed.

The role of the Region is seen as a partner and interim initiator but not the sole implementer. Staff recommend that Council could provide initial funding to OneYork in accordance with a formula that will see the Region's contribution as one of many partners. The Region of York financial contribution should be determined following the "Discovery Step" which is to take place over the next 2-3 months. The Discovery Step will entail a data collection including but not limited to existing inventories of voice/data hardware, services, applications, I.T. resources and future requirements. Opportunities to supplement any support from the One York partners with participation from the provincial and federal levels should be pursued.

It will be necessary to establish a steering committee with representatives of the MUSH sector partners to recommend a governance structure and a cost allocation methodology.

The emphasis of OneYork should initially be on designing and implementing a community technology infrastructure foundation (a broadband network). This emphasis should include both options of planning, implementation and operation of a MUSH sector community technology infrastructure (ownership option), as well as the option of securing discounted pricing for community technology infrastructure services from existing providers for all MUSH partners (lease option). Once implemented successfully the Region could collaborate with other OneYork partners on common applications, processing centres of expertise and shared resources.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends that Council participate in OneYork. A cost sharing model has not yet been designed. The Region's share would be determined by this model in accordance with the governance structure and individual requirements of the partners.

The 2005 IT Initiatives Budget includes \$50,000 for a Broadband Strategy.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local municipal impact will be dependant on the participation of the local municipalities in the OneYork Initiative. The success of the initiative will be determined by the participation of York municipalities as well as the other proposed MUSH sector partners.

7. CONCLUSION

OneYork has the potential to offer significant benefits to the Region. It is recommended that the Region participate in organizational and technical roles in the start up efforts as a partner along with other MUSH sector partners. Region representatives will update Council on the progress of the OneYork initiative.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.