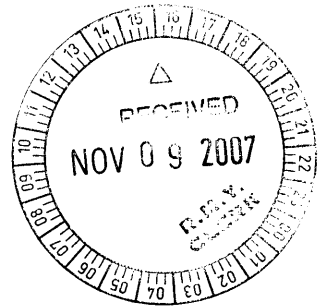


TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Robert K. Dixon, CMA,
Commissioner of Corporate & Financial Services/Treasurer
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REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - 204



November 7, 2007

Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Attention: Denis Kelly

Dear Mr. Kelly:

RE: Portal Business Plan

In response to your re-circulation of the Portal Business Plan report, our comments are as previously forwarded to you and as set out below.

After reviewing the report from the Region of York regarding a "Portal Business Plan" as well as conferring with our colleagues in neighbouring municipalities, The Town of Newmarket has decided to continue to participate in the shared portal project to gain a better understanding of the potential impacts and be able to report to council with project scope details for final decision and approval going forward.

First and foremost, this is not really a technology issue, but a business decision. We can make the technology work however necessary. The decision rests with the identification or "brand" of the Town. Accessing Town related information or services through the Region's portal will diminish the visibility of the Town itself. It may possibly make access to services appear simpler, in that the customer will not need to know who is exactly providing the service, assuming the portal keeps the identification transparent. The concept of "one-stop" shopping was discussed through the OneYork initiative with a vision of providing enhanced electronic services among the broader MUSH sector employees and customers. A web portal can provide access to many different applications regardless of what level of government offers the service, as long as electronic access is appropriate.

Newmarket's vision: A community well beyond the ordinary

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In general, the report generates many questions about the potential project that should be answered before a final commitment is made. While we agree in principle to the concept of partnering with our neighbours, the scope of this particular project is not clear. There are too many unanswered questions, undefined processes, a lack of details around many of the points of analysis and a lack of information regarding costs. The Town of Newmarket will need more specific details such as project costs and resource requirements before deciding on participating further.

It is recommended at this time that The Town of Newmarket continue to participate in the Joint Regional Portal Project until such time that the full impact of the project is identified. At that time, Council will be able to make a final decision based on costs and resource impacts in order to make an informed business decision.

Yours truly,



Robert K. Dixon, CMA,
Commissioner of Corporate & Financial Services/Treasurer

RKD:mw

copy: Mayor Tony Van Bynen
R.N. Shelton, CAO
Susan Chase, Director of Continuous Improvement
Mary Ann Wigmore, Acting Manager of Information Systems
Louis Shallal, Chief Information Technology Officer, Region of York