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HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING COALITION STRATEGIC PLAN

(Regional Council at its meeting on January 26, 2006, requested that the following report be forwarded to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Community and Social Services for information.

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, November 30, 2005, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council endorse the Human Services Planning Coalition's Strategic Plan as approved by the Human Services Planning Coalition on November 23, 2005.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request Council to endorse the Human Services Planning Coalition's Strategic Plan as approved by the Human Services Planning Coalition on November 23, 2005.

3. BACKGROUND

The Human Services Strategy was adopted by Regional Council in November 2000. The Human Services Planning Branch was established in February 2001 to implement the recommendations of the strategy. The strategy also recommended, once established, the planning and advisory body be reviewed and evaluated after several years of operation.

On November 17, 2004 Western Management Consultants completed a Review and Evaluation of the HSPC. The review found broad support for the HSPC, its purpose, its structure and its activities. It also recommended HSPC focus on the details of its vision for sustainable, long-term, integrated planning for human services in York Region. This direction aligns with the Region's plan on growth management and the review and update of the Human Services Strategy in 2006.

In early spring 2005, Jackie Schach of Delta Consulting Group was retained to guide HSPC through a strategic planning process. HSPC representatives completed an on-line survey which asked their opinion and advice on some of the conclusions and recommendations from the 2004 Review and Evaluation. This feedback was used to structure the HSPC's Strategic Planning session in May 2005. Subsequently, a draft Strategic Plan was developed and vetted with the broader community in late summer and early fall.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Human Services Planning Coalition Advisory Committee

On September 28, 2005 the HSPC passed a motion to establish an Advisory Committee to review and provide input to the final Strategic Plan and Action Priorities. Membership of the Advisory Committee included the following HSPC representatives:

- Lorne Zon, Senior Vice President, Markham Stouffville Hospital
- Bill Innes, Chief Executive Officer, Community Care Access Centre
- Roger Manning, Executive Director, Catholic Community Services of York Region
- Catherine Campbell, Consultant, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Culture, Tourism and Recreation
- Graham Constantine, President & CEO, Unionville Home Society
- Frank Folz, Executive Director, Coalition for Affordable Housing in York Region
- Diane Bladek-Willett, Director, Health Information & Planning, York Region Health Services Department
- Staff support provided by Susan Taylor and Dina Riccardi of the Human Services Planning Branch

The HSPC Advisory Committee met twice and had the plan endorsed by HSPC at its November 23, 2005 meeting. (*See attachment.*)

4.2 Highlights of Strategic Plan

The HSPC Strategic Plan is founded on a vision that York Region's human services are necessary to create healthy, sustainable communities. The mission is to bring about transformational change in how human services are planned and delivered. By sharing resources and combining its efforts, the HSPC will create an effective long-term, integrated planning framework for human services in York Region. Results will be achieved through:

- Identification of on-going needs and long-term solutions
- Coordination of funding and planning
- Acting as a conduit of information
- Marshalling resources.

There are two Strategic Directions to guide the plan, one is process and the other is project-based. The first Direction involves engaging stakeholders in partnerships with the HSPC by undertaking the following Action Priorities:

- Establishing influential relationships between the HSPC and all levels of government—federal, provincial, regional and municipal
- Improving the effectiveness of our relationships with agencies and community partners
- Engaging Regional businesses, employers and organized labour
- Implementing a comprehensive communications plan

The second Strategic Direction calls for the facilitation of results-based projects that address the significant cross-sectoral issues. There are several key projects that fall under this Direction such as:

- The Research & Innovation Action Group will continue a partnership with York University, move forward on the York Pulse project and support other relevant research opportunities.
- The Inclusivity Action Plan (IAP) will establish a cross-organizational Funding Advisory Committee to develop and implement a funding strategy. Another key deliverable of the IAP will be to implement a communications plan to brand and market the project to stakeholders.
- Health Care Sector representatives of the HSPC will explore the feasibility of establishing a sector-specific interest group to provide input to the health care transformation agenda.
- Housing Sector representatives of the HSPC are proposing that HSPC have a more active voice on the need for affordable housing choices.
- Recreation and Cultural representatives of the HSPC will hold a Municipal Cultural Planning Forum to increase the understanding by municipal leaders in York Region of the significance of culture in economic development and municipal planning.

4.3 Relationship to Vision 2026

Human services planning and the HSPC meet a number of goals in Vision 2026. The most compelling is goal 6 which states “York Region will grow at a pace that supports health communities, economic vitality, sustainable natural environments and effective human services.”

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the consultant was approved in the 2005 budget. Activities and resources to implement the Strategic Plan will be managed within the approved 2006 budget. There are no other direct financial implications at this time.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local municipalities are important partners in the provision of human services in York Region. Programs and services provided by the Human Services Planning Branch continually and consistently include representation of the interest of area municipalities.

7. CONCLUSION

Regional Council is a key partner in the continued success and viability of the Human Services Planning Coalition. The Strategic Plan has renewed and strengthened HSPC's vision for sustainable, long term, integrated planning for human services in York Region.

It is recommended that this report be received for information and updates on the HSPC Strategic Plan be brought back to Planning Committee as the plan is implemented.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)