

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, October 17, 2001

SUBJECT:

Proposed Regional Economic Development Strategy - Project Status Update

BACKGROUND:

- Mar 28, 2001: Board approves \$35,000 as a contribution for costs associated with the preparation of a Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), to be carried out by the Capital Enterprise Partnership (CEP) (now the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society), subject to - approval of a project description, work plan, and a partnership agreement negotiated under section 176 of the *Local Government Act*.
- May 9, 2001: Draft of proposed REDS partnership agreement reviewed and discussed by representatives of the CEP (Lorne Whyte, Glenn Terrell), the CRD (Chairman Causton, Vice-Chair Hunter, Mark Hornell) and Mayor Beth Gibson (representing the Mayor's Economic Summit).
- June 5, 2001: CEP representatives Lorne Whyte, Ken Stratford and Doug Taylor meet with Mark Hornell to discuss revisions to the proposed partnership agreement.
- June 20, 2001: Committee approves in principle the proposed REDS Partnership Agreement.
- July 27, 2001: Comments received on proposed REDS partnership agreement from Regional Solicitor Colin Stewart.
- Aug. 1, 2001: The committee recommends to the Board that funding, previously approved in principle, for the economic development, housing affordability and transportation strategies be approved, prior to the Board receiving all the input and committee recommendations on the draft RGS.
- Aug. 8, 2001: The Board tables a committee motion to approve funding for the proposed REDS until after the Chairman has met with Minister Abbott and it has discussed the responses to the RGS pre-bylaw referral.
- Sept. 19, 2001: The committee requests an update on the status of the proposed REDS project.

DISCUSSION:

Following the Committee meeting on August 1st, two actions were initiated: the revision of the proposed partnership agreement as recommended in the letter of regional solicitor Colin Stewart (Attachment A); and the development of project terms of reference by the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society.

The solicitor's letter was referred to Doug Taylor of the GVEPS Board for review and comment, who verbally indicated on August 29, 2001 that GVEPS had no objections to any of the revisions proposed by Mr. Stewart. Attachment B includes the proposed partnership agreement revised as recommended by the regional solicitor. As noted in the August 1st staff report, the partnership agreement provides some

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direction to the content of the terms of reference with regard to shared goals (in the 7th recital and clause 1) and consultation in clause 3 (3)(c). The committee may wish to provide additional comments and recommendations to the Board of GVEPS regarding the scope and content of the project terms of reference.

At the present time, a subcommittee of the GVEPS Board is working to develop draft terms of reference for the project but a draft is not ready for publication. In this regard, the Committee should note clause 4 (1) of the proposed partnership agreement, that states that the CRD will make a contribution of \$35,000 to the GVEPS to undertake the REDS project, *upon the Board's approval of the Project terms of reference.*

RECOMMENDATION:

That Regional Planning Committee endorse in principle the proposed Regional Economic Development Strategy Partnership agreement as revised.

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director - Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director

Attachments
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