

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, July 20, 2005

SUBJECT:

Regional Economic Blueprint – Response from Municipalities

BACKGROUND:

- Jan. 9/02 The Board approves execution of a partnership agreement with the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society (GVEPS), and a funding contribution of \$35,000 to the preparation of a Regional Economic Development Strategy, subject to receipt of final confirmation of project funding approval from Western Economic Diversification Canada.
- Nov. 24/04 Following presentation by GVEPS representatives, the Board referred the October 2004 Update of the Economic Development Opportunities Blueprint to the Committee for review and comment.
- Feb. 16/05 The Committee recommends to the Board that the Blueprint be referred to member municipalities and electoral areas for review and comment, and that the Union of BC Municipalities be formally requested to include \$35,000 in funding for Blueprint implementation in its request to access provincial funds for tourism related activities.
- Feb. 23/05 The Board directs that the Blueprint be referred to member councils and electoral area directors for review and comment, and for feedback regarding the potential role of local government in general, and the CRD in particular, in implementing the Blueprint.
- May 2/05 A funding request for \$35,000 for Blueprint implementation submitted to UBCM (Attachment A).

DISCUSSION:

Between February and June, Bruce Carter and Lorne Whyte of the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society (GVEPS) made presentations on the Blueprint to most CRD member municipalities upon request.

To date, responses have been received from Esquimalt, Central Saanich, Saanich and Oak Bay (Attachment B). Key points raised by these member municipalities include the following:

Municipality	On the Blueprint & the Partnership	On Role of Local Government and the CRD
Central Saanich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support inclusion of agricultural sector. – Move forward with a more positive approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Private sector should take lead role in implementation.
Esquimalt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does not support inclusion of the

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Municipality	On the Blueprint & the Partnership	On Role of Local Government and the CRD
		Blueprint in the RGS
Oak Bay	– Maintain the partnership	– Private sector should lead
Saanich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Endorse subject to more balanced emphasis on major centres. – Start implementation with establishment of non-profit, private sector driven and funding organization. – Focus implementation on governance and ongoing funding. – Approach senior government for start-up funding. 	– No comments

Comments received from the remaining member municipalities, as well as options for moving forward, will be presented at the September meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee receive this report as information.

RGS CONSISTENCY:

The Economic Development Opportunities Blueprint has been prepared under a partnership agreement between the CRD, the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society and others in response to RGS initiative 5.1.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Mark Hornell, MCIP
 Director - Regional Planning Services

ACTING CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

W. Eccleston, BA, BEd, MBA, CHRP
 Acting Chief Administrative Officer