



COMMUNITY SERVICES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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January 24, 2014

**JOINT INFORMATION REPORT 2014-02
COMMUNITY SERVICES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

TO: Mayor Van Bynen and Members of Council
SUBJECT: Post-secondary update
ORIGIN: Chris Kallio, Economic Development Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Joint Report Community Services/Economic Development and Chief Administrative Officer 2014-02 dated January 24, 2014, regarding an update on Provincial direction for post-secondary investment, and subsequent local response, be received for information.

COMMENTS

This report updates a number of reports over the past two years with respect to post-secondary developments and potential opportunities for the Town of Newmarket, most recently confidential information report 2013-42 dated November 25, 2013. Since last fall, the Post-Secondary Community Collaborative Working Group (CCWG) has been established, and with the assistance of the Delta Consulting Group, is in the midst of developing a Newmarket-specific strategy for post-secondary investment. Both Mayor Van Bynen and Regional Councillor Taylor sit on the CCWG, and ongoing monthly meetings are occurring with the goal of delivering this strategy by April, 2014.

The Provincial government release of the post-secondary "Major Capacity Expansion Policy Framework" the week of December 16, 2013 has accelerated the expected time lines for a Provincial call for proposals for new post-secondary institutions, which is now likely within 60 days. Highlights of the policy framework include:

- All existing colleges and universities will be invited to submit proposals for new campuses or facilities—i.e., the process will be institution-led not community-led. This is now a post-secondary institution driven process that means interested communities will require a willing post-secondary partner in order to be considered.
- Confirmed significant support in the form of financial and/or land contributions from local municipalities (upper and/or lower tier) is part of the criteria and will likely be a required component of any successful proposal.
- Substantial land capacity is required to accommodate 1,000 students in the short-term and up to 10,000 students long term. This means communities will need to identify sites capable of supporting these targets.

The policy framework provides a checklist of considerations that must be met in order to begin the process leading to an approved location. It is anticipated post-secondary institution submissions that meet the checklist

criteria will then be afforded an opportunity to submit a detailed proposal to the Province for further consideration.

Numerous meetings have occurred since the release of the Ministry policy framework to determine Newmarket's suitability as a post-secondary location in relation to the new criteria, and to explore external partnerships. These have involved the Mayor and Regional Councillor, senior staff, and outside parties that could positively influence our standing/alignment with the Ministry checklist. York Region initially indicated it would not lead post-secondary attraction efforts but only support local communities as needed, however, this position may be changing given the importance of post-secondary education to the future growth and stature of the Region.

Next Steps

In summary, the post-secondary issue is evolving rapidly as a result of recent Ministry directives. Communities in Ontario with an interest in post-secondary investment, including Newmarket and other York Region communities, are assessing their competitive positions in preparation for an imminent Provincial proposal call. As we receive further information of both a confidential and non-confidential nature, further reports to Council will follow.

BUDGET IMPACT

Operating Budget (Current and Future)

This initiative is currently being carried out through existing staff resources and budgets. Any future financial impacts, if and as appropriate, will come to Council for review as part of a formal business case and financial model.

CONTACT

For more information on this report, contact:

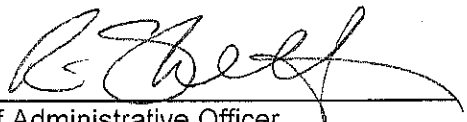
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Economic Development Officer



Commissioner, Community Services



Chief Administrative Officer