

<b>Request for Consideration</b>		
<p>x <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b></p>
<b>Council or Committee: CPED</b>		<b>Date of Meeting: Jan 18, 2018</b>
<b>Subject: Staff report regarding potential</b>		
<p><b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b> CPED recommend Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to assess options for requesting the transfer of the responsibility to operate and deliver housing programs and services within the boundaries of Halifax on behalf of the Province, including but not limited to the following considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transferring of the responsibilities of Housing Nova Scotia in the Halifax region, including Metro Regional Housing Authority (MRHA) to the municipality;</li> <li>2. Fund this transfer through property tax, by redirecting property tax points from the mandatory education funding collected by the municipality for the province, to ensure the core housing program operations would be funded by property tax revenue, rather than provincial grants;</li> <li>3. Require provincial participation and cost sharing in Federal housing and regionally significant housing programs with equitable per-capita distribution of funds based on population;</li> <li>4. Require the housing allowance paid to clients living in MRHA is the same as the program provides to other private and not for profit land lords.</li> <li>5. Make recommendations regarding management structure as either an arms length agency, a department of the municipality, or combination of options.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Reason:</b> The Halifax Housing Needs Assessment (2016) found approximately 1 in 4 Halifax households have a housing affordability issue.</p> <p>Since 1997 housing has been a provincial responsibility with minimal municipal involvement in delivery. At that time Halifax became one of the few if not the only major city in Canada without a housing department. Housing needs are met in other cities by closely coordinating the work of planning departments with affordable housing programs. The current structure across two orders of government creates some challenges in Halifax. Additionally, some issues are unique in Halifax, such as extreme weather response and shelter needs which may be best delivered through carefully tailored programs addressing urban housing and poverty needs.</p> <p>A significant concern is to ensure a transfer of responsibility &amp; authority with funding, rather than download the cost to the municipality. A way to ensure funding is transferred and controlled by the municipality would be to transfer "tax points" currently collected by the municipality for mandatory education and use those points to make housing self funding from property tax.</p>		
<p><b>Outcome Sought:</b> Examination of opportunities and risks of resuming responsibility for housing delivery in HRM</p>		
<i>Councillor Waye Mason</i>		<i>District 7</i>