

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: May 3, 2022		
Subject: Community Benefit Agreements		
Motion for Council to Consider:		
<p>That Halifax Regional Council direct the Mayor to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, requesting that the power to develop, enter into and enforce Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) be added to the HRM Charter.</p>		
Reason:		
<p>CBAs are formal, negotiated and legally-binding agreements that set out specific benefits a community will receive in exchange for being impacted by a development project. The benefits may be training, employment opportunities and procurement from local businesses in the construction and development phase, affordable housing in the project itself, and broader community and environmental additions to the area such as green space, energy efficiency and child care Both Ontario and British Columbia have enacted legislation enabling municipalities to undertake CBAs.</p>		
<p>HRM has been researching the benefits of CBAs, particularly in regards to work with African Nova Scotian communities. The 2016-21 Economic Growth Plan proposed including community benefits in development approvals as a way to foster social inclusion. The 2022-27 Economic Strategy builds upon this, with the objective of growing Indigenous and African Nova Scotian economic prosperity. Maximizing the economic impact and social benefits of major projects through CBAs is an action in the Strategy.</p>		
<p>Council has also endorsed the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity - a collaborative plan developed and owned by the African Nova Scotian community to advance economic development and community priorities. One of the Plan's actions is to include CBAs as part of HRM's Planning and Development strategies for ANS communities. CBAs increase community engagement and built trust by enabling the community to have influence over development projects and see their priorities actioned. CBAs would support HRM's work to incorporate a more Afrocentric perspective into the planning and development process.</p>		

Halifax is growing at an unprecedented rate. CBAs would allow residents some say over the impact a development will have in their area and ensure their priorities are addressed in public realm improvements. HRM could leverage CBAs to meet policy goals around community economic development, employment and poverty reduction, social inclusion and land use planning.

Outcome Sought:

Amendment to the HRM Charter enabling HRM to undertake Community Benefit Agreements.

Councillor Iona Stoddard

*District 12: Timberlea - Beechville - Clayton Park
- Wedgewood*