

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 20, 2005

PARTICIPATION IN "ONEYORK" INITIATIVE

Recommendation

The City Manager and the Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, recommend:

1. That the City of Vaughan does not participate in the OneYork initiative at this time; and
2. That staff continue to monitor the establishment of OneYork organization and its progress; and
3. That when available, future OneYork services be considered as required, and be evaluated and acquired in accordance with the City's purchasing policies.

Economic Impact

There is no immediate economic impact resulting from the recommendations of this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the purpose and status of OneYork initiative, and to provide Council with staff recommendations in respect to OneYork.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 2004, the Regional Municipality of York Council established an e-Government Sub-committee with the purpose to review the municipality's Information Technology (IT) initiatives and make related recommendations to Regional Council. Regional Councillor Jim Jones was named as Chair of the e-Government Sub-committee. On March 31, 2005, Regional Council approved an e-Government Sub-committee recommendation to start a OneYork initiative.

The purpose of OneYork initiative is to create a single governance and operations structure for technology and telecommunications infrastructure for OneYork participants. The targeted participants are local municipalities, universities, schools, hospitals and libraries in York Region. The rationale for OneYork is based on the assumption that pooling participants' resources and operating the shared technology and telecommunications infrastructure at "no profit", will make a positive impact on the overall cost of IT operations for the participants, as well as enable some participants to benefit from certain technology and telecommunications solutions that they could not afford on their own.

On February 15, 2005, Regional Councillor Jim Jones presented the rationale for OneYork initiative to the City of Vaughan Committee of the Whole (Working Session). On February 28, 2005, City of Vaughan Council directed the City Manager to consider the presentation made by Regional Councillor Jim Jones and to prepare an appropriate response following the area Chief Administrative Officers' (CAO's) consideration of this matter.

The area CAO's (or designates) met on several occasions to discuss the OneYork initiative and to develop a governance framework for future OneYork activities. In addition to the CAO's meetings, several meetings were held between OneYork potential participants' IT leaders to consider technology opportunities and potential impact to each participant's organization that would result from the OneYork initiative.

Based on the governance and technical discussions that took place, the following factors have influenced staff recommendations that are presented in this report:

- The scope, mandate and specific deliverables of OneYork initiative are unclear and inconsistent;
- The financial impact to each OneYork participant is undefined;
- The specific benefits to each OneYork participant are undefined;
- Other than a concept worthy of future perusal, there is no justifiable business case for OneYork;
- This is a grand-scale initiative which will require a considerable commitment of staff time and future funding;
- OneYork participants with well-established technology/telecommunications infrastructure and IT practices will be held back by other participants who need to evolve their IT environments;
- The City's current technology and telecommunications requirements are adequately addressed;

Having considered strategic, governance, technical, logistic, financial and resources aspects of OneYork initiative, staff concluded that this is a high risk initiative with little potential value to the City of Vaughan. Therefore, the City of Vaughan should not participate in this initiative at this time.

Should OneYork initiative result in the creation of a viable business venture that offers competitive services and/or products, the City of Vaughan should consider those services in accordance with the City's purchasing policies.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The recommendations of this report are consistent with priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

Having considered strategic, governance, technical, logistic, financial and resources aspects of OneYork initiative, staff concluded that this is a high risk initiative with little potential value to the City of Vaughan. Therefore, the City of Vaughan should not participate in this initiative at this time.

Should OneYork initiative result in the creation of a viable business venture that offers competitive services and/or products, the City of Vaughan should consider those services in accordance with the City's purchasing policies.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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