

Islands Trust Governance Task Force

Update
for Trust Council
December 2006

Background

- At the request of Trust Council, the Executive Committee created a Governance Task Force in April 2006.
- Terms of Reference, minutes and other information about the Task Force are regularly posted on the Islands Trust website.
- Trust Council approved the Governance Task Force's Initial Strategy in June 2006.

Initial Strategy

- The overall goal is to improve governance in the Trust Area during the 2005-8 term
- The Governance Task Force has identified four topic areas:
 - Political Representation
 - Financial Arrangements
 - Mandate and Policy Statement
 - Regulatory Authority and Coordination

Initial Focus Area

-- Political Representation --

- Trust Council approved an initial focus on:
 - Legislative change that would increase the number of local trustees in the most populous Local Trust Area(s), while retaining at least two trustees from each Local Trust Area and Island Municipality.
 - New political structures for integration/coordination of Local Trust Committees and Regional District decision-making (with CRD as pilot area).
 - Legislative change that would enable Trust Council to increase the number of Executive Committee members.

Political Representation

-- Progress to Date --

- Further conversations with staff of Ministry of Community Services have confirmed that:
 - legislative changes will not happen before 2008.
 - legislative changes could happen as late as 2008 and still apply to the 2008 Local Government Elections, if necessary.
 - the Ministry considers changing the number of trustees in a local trust committee or in Trust Council is a significant legislative change.
 - the Ministry requires a complete analysis of existing governance issues and options and a comprehensive public consultation program before proceeding with any significant legislative changes.

Political Representation

-- Next Steps --

- Staff have now had further discussions with Ministry staff to clearly identify expectations for Governance Study.
- Terms of Reference for a Governance Study, have been finalized.
- EC meeting with Minister of Community Services on October 16 confirmed need for Governance Study and public consultation.
- Ministry staff have endorsed draft Terms of Reference for Governance Study.
- Minister of Community Services and CRD Electoral Area Director for SSI have agreed to cost share in Governance Study
- Request for Proposal has now been posted.
- Governance Study planned for Jan-Apr 2007, followed by public consultation phase.

Political Representation & Structure

Next steps (Cont'd.)

- Staff to explore new political structures or strategies to more formally integrate decision-making and coordinate activities with Regional Districts with an initial focus on the Capital Regional District.
- CRD Senior staff have confirmed a willingness to participate in governance review work.

Initial Strategy

-- Areas for Later Focus --

The Task Force's Initial Strategy also identified the following topic areas for later focus:

- Financial Arrangements/Resource Allocation
- Mandate/Policy Statement
- Regulatory Authority and Coordination

Next Focus Area

- Financial Arrangements -

- The Governance Task Force identified the 'Financial Arrangements' as its next focus area.
- In Sept., Trust Council endorsed a formal working relationship between the Governance Task Force and FPC representatives (Tom Johnstone and Brian Hollingshead).
- An initial discussion meeting was held Oct. 24.

Financial Sub-committee

-- Initial Area of Discussion --

- Fairness in the use of tax resources and local planning allocation.
- Identification of core and non-core Local Planning Services.

GTF and FPC Liaison

- Options for Further Study in 2007-8 -

- Explore different delivery options for planning services*^{\$}.
- Provide a greater proportion of planning service through LTA tax levies, while maintaining basic services.
- Develop strategic funding plan, including expanded capacity to identify and access revenue sources*^{\$}.
- Explore closer coordination with CRD on SSI (as a pilot area)*^{\$}.
- Review trustee remuneration principles and formula*.

* *Identified in Strategic Plan*

^{\$} *Additional funds requested in 2007-8 budget proposal to enable further study.*

Financial Arrangements

Current Complementary Initiatives

- Budget allocation model.
- Management consideration of planning staff realignment (occurs on an ad hoc basis to respond to local needs. Further work pending time-tracking data and LPS service review).
- Corporate Services Review (1st phase completed). Implementation for consideration in 2007-8.
- LPS Process review (1st phase complete; next steps under consideration).

