

VIDO-InterVac - COVID-19 Vaccine Project in Saskatoon

ISSUE

VIDO-InterVac is exploring the possibility of expanding its research infrastructure in Saskatoon. As a result, it is seeking support from all orders of government, including the City of Saskatoon to proceed with the project.

RECOMMENDATION

That consideration of a report from the Administration as requested, be deferred to the February 16, 2021, Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on November 23, 2020, the Governance and Priorities Committee received a presentation from Dr. Volker Gerds, VIDO-InterVac, University of Saskatchewan, and legal counsel Doug Richardson, McKercher LLP, about the research centre's accomplishments and current work on the COVID-19 vaccine. VIDO-InterVac is proposing to construct a Containment Level 4 laboratory to enhance its vaccine research among other things.

The Committee resolved that Administration research this proposal and report back to the Governance and Priorities Committee by January 2021, and:

- Include other projects where municipal contributions have helped to support successful national proposals, including the amount of the City's contribution(s);
- Include outreach to proponents from Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the federal government, and the Saskatoon business community;
- Where possible, include economic activity and/or spinoffs as a result of previous contributions; and
- Coordinate an opportunity for Council to review the full presentation on the project.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Administration is still conducting research to address the Committee's direction and thus, requires additional time to assemble the report.

NEXT STEPS

The Administration intends to submit a complete report to the February 16, 2021, Governance and Priorities Committee meeting that aims to address the Committee's direction. The Administration has notified the proponents of this proposed change.

Report Approval

Written by: Mike Jordan, Chief Public Policy & Government Relations Officer
Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager

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