

TO: CITY MANAGER 2003 MAY 20

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 15.000

SUBJECT: RESUBMISSION OF BURNABY'S REGIONAL CONTEXT STATEMENT

PURPOSE: To recommend resubmission of Burnaby's Regional Context Statement to the GVRD Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the GVRD Board of Directors to request continued acceptance of Burnaby's existing Regional Context Statement.

REPORT

Burnaby's Official Community Plan (OCP), and its associated Regional Context Statement (RCS), were adopted by Council in 1998 June. Also in 1998, in accordance with requirements of the *Local Government Act*, the City submitted its RCS to the GVRD Board of Directors for acceptance.

Section 866(4)(c) of the *Local Government Act* specifies that a municipal council must "review the regional context statement at least once every 5 years after its latest acceptance by the (regional district) board and, if no amendment is proposed, submit the statement to the board for its continued acceptance." As it has been five years since the City of Burnaby submitted its RCS to the GVRD Board for acceptance, it is now time for the City to resubmit the statement, either in its present or an amended form.

Burnaby's existing RCS (provided to members of Council under separate cover) describes the relationship between policies in the OCP and the four fundamental strategies of the Livable Region Strategic Plan (LRSP):

- Protect the Green Zone;
- Build Complete Communities;
- Achieve a Compact Metropolitan Region; and
- Increase Transportation Choice.

The RCS has stood the test of time. It has provided a solid foundation for major planning decisions in Burnaby from 1998 to the present and should continue to reflect the City's general planning thrust for the foreseeable future. As noted in previous reports to Council, however, considerable uncertainty currently exists at the regional level due to such factors as introduction of the Sustainable Region Initiative and its implications for the LRSP, a growing "disconnect" between plans of

TransLink and the GVRD, and the impending decision concerning the Richmond-Airport-Vancouver Rapid Transit Line. Therefore, while the City will need to review and update its OCP (and associated RCS) in the future, staff would not propose to initiate such work until the foregoing uncertainties are resolved, and the GVRD renews its commitment to the LRSP or adopts an updated regional growth strategy.

Given the foregoing, it is recommended that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the GVRD Board of Directors to request continued acceptance of Burnaby's existing Regional Context Statement.



I.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JF/jc/sa

cc: City Solicitor