

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, April 21, 2004

SUBJECT:

Municipal Comments on the Consultants' Final Report, Regional Housing Affordability Strategy

BACKGROUND:

On October 15, 2003, the Regional Planning Committee authorized the release of the above report and the Discussion Paper on Housing Trust Funds to the member municipalities for their review and comment. The covering letter to the member Councils asked that comments be provided specifically on the region-wide initiatives identified in the Final Report.

Requests for comments were also sent to other stakeholder groups, including those represented at the Advisory Committee and in the focus groups.

Initially responses were requested by December 31, 2003. This was later changed to March 31, 2004 at the request of some municipalities.

DISCUSSION:

Attachment A is a summary of the Consultants' Final Report, including the seven strategic directions and four key recommendations.

Responses have been received from Victoria, Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney, Colwood, Highlands, and Langford. Metchosin and Sooke have not (yet) commented; View Royal, Juan de Fuca EA and Esquimalt have no comment.

Attachment B is a matrix that gives an outline of each municipality's position. Attachment C contains copies of the municipalities' full responses.

Once direction is received from the Committee and Board, a final strategy will be drafted containing the supported regional-scale strategies and recommendations for consideration in May.

An action plan will also be prepared that would outline:

- a) what further steps the Regional District will take with respect to the Strategy and its implementation;
- b) a process for review of the draft final strategy by municipalities;

- c) a process for public review, to obtain feedback from a wider public than has so far been involved in the process; and
- d) further work with other housing stakeholders to determine their level of support and commitment to the recommendations.

The latter is considered appropriate since this is and always has been a community-based and driven strategy that required involvement and commitment beyond that of municipalities or the regional district alone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Regional Planning Committee:

1. discuss the responses received from the member municipalities on the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy reports, and
2. make recommendations to the Board on the content of the final strategy and an action plan.

RGS IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

RHAS is an implementation initiative of the RGS.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Chris Goldburn, MCIP
Manager, Information Services

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director, Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director