

**Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, October 19, 2005**

SUBJECT:

Regional Social Sustainability Strategy Proposal

PURPOSE/PROBLEM:

Development and Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) comments on the Community Council proposal to develop a social sustainability strategy for the Capital Regional District.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

March 16/05: Mabel Jean Rawlins-Brannan, Executive Director of the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (Community Council), addressed the committee on the topic of working in partnership toward the development of a regional social sustainability strategy. The Committee resolved to refer the proposal for discussion and comment to DPAC.

June 10/05: DPAC reviewed the materials submitted to RPC on March 16th and heard a presentation by Ms. Rawlins-Brannan, and the recommendation that a regional social plan be included in the regional growth strategy. DPAC passed a resolution of support for the development of a sustainable social framework for the region (see DPAC minutes of June 10, 2005 under item 9 on the agenda)

ALTERNATIVES

1. To include the development of a regional social sustainability policy within the scope of the RGS interim update, scheduled for completion in 2006.
2. To consider the issue of regional social sustainability in the five-year review of the RGS, scheduled for 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

GROWTH MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) does not directly address the question of social sustainability. RGS initiatives to develop more compact, mixed-use and complete communities with improved housing affordability, particularly for moderate income households, increased transportation choice and enhanced economic opportunity nonetheless implicitly bear on the question of social sustainability.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

While there is interest at DPAC in the proposal, the purpose of the RGS interim update is to incorporate revisions stemming from the adoption of regional context statements, the update of electoral area official community plans, and recommendations flowing from the regional sub-strategies for transportation, economic development and housing affordability, and other incidental amendments. A social sustainability strategy would be a new policy area for the RGS and as such, is outside the currently defined scope of the interim update.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Regional Planning Committee direct staff to consider the issue of regional social sustainability in the five-year review of the RGS, scheduled for 2008.

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