

AGENDA INFORMATION


- ☒ Council Workshop
- ☐ Finance & Audit
- ☐ Advisory Oversight
- ☐ Other:


Date: February 9, 2021

Date:

Date:

Date:


Dept.
Manager


GM/
Director


CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COMMITTEE

January 26, 2021

File: 13.6480.35/001.000

AUTHOR: Tina Atva, Community Planning Manager
Nicole Foth, Community Planner

SUBJECT: Targeted OCP Review: Housing White Paper, Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the January 26, 2021 report entitled "Targeted OCP Review: Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input" is received for information.

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report provides information on a social equity lens, and how it applies to the Targeted OCP Review's four key topic areas (climate emergency, economy and employment lands, housing, and transportation). It also provides results from a workshop held with social service providers and their clients in December 2020.

SUMMARY:

A Social Equity Lens Paper was developed to inform the Targeted OCP Review, and to help shape potential actions that will be considered in the Action Plan. The paper applies a social equity lens to the four key topic areas. It outlines key considerations and impacts on different equity-priority groups¹, and identifies which of the potential actions would have positive impact on working towards a more equitable community.

This report is provided in advance of the second workshop in the February 2021 Council workshop series on the Targeted OCP Review. This workshop intends to discuss the Housing White Paper and the Social Equity Lens Paper.

BACKGROUND:

On May 27, 2019, Council endorsed a targeted review of the District's OCP. Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Targeted OCP Review was paused on March 24, 2020,

¹ The Social Equity Lens Paper refers to equity-priority groups as individuals and populations who are collectively being under-served, mis-served, or disadvantaged by policies, procedures, and programs. These groups face barriers that impact their ability to participate in a society equally.

along with most activities involving public engagement as the District and community members were responding to the pandemic. Before the pause, several project milestones had been met, including stakeholder workshops, the delivery of four White Papers and one Council workshop in early March 2020.

At the Regular Meeting of Council on October 19, 2020, Council endorsed an updated process and timeline for the Targeted OCP Review, and reaffirmed an intention to apply a social equity lens to this work. Revised milestones include Council workshops in early 2021, community engagement in spring 2021, a draft Action Plan in summer 2021, and the final Action Plan anticipated for presentation in September 2021.

ANALYSIS:

Housing White Paper and COVID-19 Supplement

The Housing White Paper was delivered in March 2020, however the Council Workshop presentation was postponed due to the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. This workshop will present the Housing White Paper, as well as the Housing COVID-19 Supplement. A summary of the Housing White Paper is available online at [DNV.org/community-environment/official-community-plan-white-papers#housing](https://dnv.org/community-environment/official-community-plan-white-papers#housing)

The staff report for the February 1, 2021 Council Workshop included the Housing COVID-19 Supplement and outlined the main findings from the Housing COVID-19 Supplement Paper as follows.

- Increase attention to implementing housing diversity across the housing continuum, with a focus on housing security for vulnerable populations (e.g. seniors, women, children, people with disabilities, people at risk of homelessness, and racialized communities);
- Continue to address demand for affordable housing;
- Consider needs of diverse and vulnerable households (e.g. low income, multi-generational, and larger households); and
- Leverage senior government funding and development industry partnership opportunities to secure affordable housing projects.

The COVID-19 Supplements will be available online at [DNV.org/official-community-plan-targeted-review](https://dnv.org/official-community-plan-targeted-review)

Social Equity Lens

A Social Equity Lens Paper (**Attachment 1**) was developed by the project consultant. In this context, social equity may broadly be described as a collective aspiration to a just, fair, and inclusive society so that all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. The paper provides an understanding of the following:

- Key social equity concepts (e.g. equity, bias, inclusion);
- Various equity-priority groups (e.g. low-income households, people with disabilities, Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC));

- Equity considerations for each of the Targeted OCP Review's four key topic areas, including input from the District's Social Service Stakeholder Workshop held in December 2020, such as
 - Barriers to employment opportunities based on limited transportation options, or discrimination or stigma about various equity-priority groups;
 - Unaffordable housing costs means less money for other basic household needs, such as food, or sharing housing with more people, or moving away.
- Reflects on the potential actions previously identified in the Targeted OCP Review process, and highlights which actions would likely have a greater impact on improving social equity in the District.

The Social Equity Lens Paper builds on the list of potential actions from the four White Papers by identifying actions that would have a positive impact on building more socially equitable community. A few examples from the paper are as follows.

Transportation

- Prioritize transit through implementing transit priority measures;
- Build complete communities (e.g. Town and Village Centres) as an effective way to lower trip distances and support more cycling and walking;

Economy and employment lands

- Invest in housing and transportation to support low-income earners and as a way to enable those who work in service and care sectors to be able to live in the District;
- Facilitate the creation of affordable child care services;

Housing

- Facilitate development of a diverse supply of affordable housing options directed towards the Town and Village Centres;
- Continue to partner with non-profits and other levels of government to build affordable housing;

Climate emergency

- Increase energy efficiency of homes and buildings and switch to non-carbon energy sources;
- Encourage more people to walk, bike, take transit, and shift to electric vehicles.

The Social Equity Lens Paper also includes reflection questions that decision and policy makers may keep in mind when considering actions that can integrate a social equity lens. Overall, the paper highlights key considerations that bring a more holistic approach to the discussion of potential actions and the development of the draft Action Plan.

Social Service Engagement Results

To The Social Service Stakeholder Workshop Summary Report is available in **Attachment 2**. The workshop was hosted virtually on December 10, 2020 with 22 individual representing staff and clientele from 11 local social service providers.

The purpose of the workshop was to listen and learn about key issues facing equity-priority groups in the District, and the impacts of COVID-19 on these groups. The workshop fostered dialog around the four Targeted OCP Review topic areas and participants suggested options to address these issues.

The most frequently mentioned issues by participants include:

- Cost of living on the North Shore;
- Otherism – xenophobia, renter discrimination, and anti-newcomer sentiments; and
- Housing security and suitability.

The most frequently mentioned possible actions by participants include:

- Champion 15-minute neighbourhoods (neighbourhoods where all services and amenities are within a 15 minute walk), and invest in last-mile trips (routes between home and transit hubs);
- Diversify options for multi-family residential housing and provide options for a wider range of demographics; and
- Invest in outreach to youth and equity-priority populations.

Council Workshop Series

This report is provided in advance of the second Council Workshop in the February 2021 series on the Targeted OCP Review. The first workshop on February 1, 2021 plans to cover transportation, economy and employment lands, and climate emergency.

Workshop #2, this report – February 9, 2021

- Housing:
 - White Paper
 - COVID-19 Supplement Paper
- Social Equity Lens Paper
 - Social Services Stakeholders Workshop Summary

Workshops #3 and #4 – dates to be announced when agendas are published

- Facilitated discussion on draft actions to assist in developing a draft Action Plan.

Timing/Approval Process:

The updated process and timeline endorsed by Council on October 19, 2020, continues to guide the next steps of this project.

After the workshop series, community engagement on the draft actions and ideas for the Action Plan will take place. This is anticipated for spring 2021. A revised engagement plan will be reported to Council in advance.

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The draft Action Plan and presentation of the final Action Plan are anticipated for summer and early fall, respectively.

Staff will continue to provide regular email updates to Council at key milestones.

Concurrence:

The Targeted OCP Review is supported by staff from the Community Planning, Development Planning, Parks, Engineering, Transportation, Environment, Corporate Services, and Communications departments.

Conclusion:

This report presents the key findings from the Social Equity Lens Paper and its reflections on the four topics areas: climate emergency, economy and employment lands, housing, and transportation. The report also provides the results from the social service stakeholder engagement conducted in December 2020.

The Social Equity Lens Paper represents an exercise to deepen understanding, and to support decision making for the Targeted OCP Review's Action Plan, on social equity as it relates to Transportation, Economy & Employment Lands, Housing, and Climate Emergency. The paper provide valuable insight into the key impacts and considerations facing equity-priority groups on the Targeted OCP Review's four topic areas.

The aim is that this body of information will complement the foundational White Papers, and stakeholder input from the spring 2020 workshops, and inform development of the draft Action Plan. Additional Council workshops and community input will also be used to develop the draft Action Plan. The Action Plan is anticipated for Council consideration in September 2021.

Options:

1. THAT the January 26, 2021 report entitled "Targeted OCP Review: Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input" is received for information.

OR

2. No further action is taken.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Atva
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Nicole Foth
Community Planner

Attachment 1: Social Equity Lens Paper

Attachment 2: Social Service Stakeholders Workshop Survey Summary Report

Attachment 3: Presentation

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REVIEWED WITH:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office	_____	External Agencies:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Board	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NVRC	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch.	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Services	_____		
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