



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 14, 2017
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Meeting Date: April 11, 2017

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
SUBJECT: Three-Year Progress Update of the Downtown Eastside Plan

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT SUMMARY

Council approved the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Plan in March 2014, setting out the policies, strategies and Quick Start and Short Term actions needed to achieve the long term vision that:

“the neighbourhood will be made up of mixed-income communities with a range of affordable housing options (including social housing) for all residents, local serving commerce, social services and cultural activities where all feel welcome, valued and at home”.

The DTES Plan also incorporated outcomes from the Social Impact Assessment study (SIA), including the Social Impact Objectives, the Social Impact Management Framework, identification of community assets and the SIA Monitoring Indicators. These are essential for guiding the management of change in the DTES.

As part of the implementation of the plan, the plan strategies are to be monitored, evaluated and updated regularly. Specifically, Council directed staff to begin implementing initiatives in the Action Plan and report back in three years on the SIA indicators to monitor the pace and impact of neighbourhood change in the DTES.

Key highlights from this monitoring include:

- **Homelessness remains high in the DTES.** Homelessness in DTES has increased from 730 to 972 between 2014 and 2016. Homelessness in the city overall has also increased as indicated in Table 2. Homelessness is not confined to municipal boundaries and is the result of the cumulative impact of a number of factors, including structural, systemic and individual causes. The loss of affordability in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels is also a key driver of homelessness, with only 17% of private rooms currently renting at the shelter component of income assistance, compared to 24% in 2013. This issue is further compounded by the fact that Provincial welfare rates have remained frozen since 2007. Despite having made significant progress on social housing targets, with 789 units approved, under construction or completed inside the DTES since the approval of the DTES Plan, there is an urgent need for partnerships and a firm commitment from all levels of government to deepen the levels of affordability to enable access for the City's lowest income tenants.
- **Acute and urgent health inequities persist.** Life expectancy is notably lower in the DTES than for the city overall. Although health and drug policy initiatives succeeded in increasing life expectancy in the DTES throughout the 1990s and 2000s, there has been a slight decline recently. Ongoing challenges, most notably the current opioid overdose crisis, will likely continue to negatively impact health outcomes unless more systemic change is achieved, specifically through actions by the provincial and federal governments on health care solutions.
- **Progress made in response to community's call for action on poverty reduction and job creation.** The City secures jobs for inner-city residents generated from large scale development through Community Benefits Agreements. For example, the Community Benefits Agreement with Parq Casino (39 Smithe Street) requires 10% of all full-time equivalent employment during construction and ongoing operations are filled by residents from the DTES, Strathcona and Mt. Pleasant. The construction for this project has started and will generate 207 jobs for inner-city residents, which includes residents of the DTES. Further, several initiatives are currently underway through the recently approved Community Economic Development Strategy. These include new social purpose real estate partnerships to address concerns around displacement of local businesses that vulnerable populations rely on and scaling up and expansion of the DTES' employment based social enterprise sector. The strategy also calls for securing City-owned real estate assets for programming and services relating to low-income micro-entrepreneurship, peer supported employment, co-working, and other income generating and employment initiatives. Further, the strategy also seeks to intensify supported low-barrier job creation on employment lands.

The report is comprised of three parts.

- **Part 1 - Plan Monitoring and Evaluation**, which includes an update on plan targets, community assets, social impact indicators and achievements of the action plan.
- **Part 2 - Strategic Analysis** which includes an analysis on the outcomes of the plan for residents of the DTES based on changes observed in the neighbourhood.
- **Part 3 - Priorities for next three years** which include challenges, opportunities and recommended next steps.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

In March 2014, Council Approved the *Downtown Eastside Plan and Social Impact Assessment (SIA)*.

In October 2014, Council approved the *Healthy City Strategy 2014-25*.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Providing periodic progress reports to Council on implementation of Community Plans, as well as identifying new issues, is important for aligning plans with action and for maintaining community trust in city policy and follow-through. This kind of reporting will become a more regular function of the Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department, as new plans and policies are created. The Department will also examine other recently adopted plans to evaluate progress reporting commitments and potentials, and including these in our long-term reporting schedules.

The current 3-year report on Downtown Eastside Plan indicates both substantial progress and a number of issues that need continued focus, including SRO upgrades, additional social housing production, attention to low-income serving and culturally relevant retailing, elevated focus on the opioid crisis, as well as additional public realm improvements. This report demonstrates that a number of city agencies and partners are needed to effectively implement plans. To that end, part of Planning's role is to coordinate action and reporting amongst these groups.

This DTES progress report also indicates the potential need for district liaisons as a continuing function in the Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department, particularly for communities in stress or to major high levels of growth and change, so that community have point of contact for planning and community development issues. This function, which is not currently part of the Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department work plan and budget, will be examined in coming work program and budget development.

REPORT

Background/Context

The Downtown Eastside (DTES) comprises the seven mixed income neighbourhoods of Gastown, Victory Square, Chinatown, Oppenheimer District, Thornton Park, Strathcona and the Industrial Lands.

At the time of Plan approval in 2014, using Census 2006 data, at least half of the 18,500 residents earned below the estimated median income of \$13,700 per annum (compared to the city-wide median of \$47,300). Despite the high level of poverty and vulnerability, the DTES is a very creative, diverse area with close-knit communities, a mix of land uses, unique heritage assets and cultural amenities.

The nine objectives of the plan are:

- Improved well-being for all.
- Healthy homes for all.
- Vibrant and inclusive local economy.
- Improved transportation and infrastructure and safety.
- Arts and culture opportunities.
- Celebrate heritage.
- Improved, safe, accessible parks and open space.
- Community place-making.
- Well-managed built form.

Part 1: Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation process includes how the targets of the plan are met, tracking the status of community assets, the effects of change and development on low-income and vulnerable residents using the Social Impact Indicators, and the overall achievement of the Action Plan. Part 1 of this report provides an update in these four areas.

Figure 1: Plan Monitoring and Evaluation



DTES Plan Targets

The DTES Plan targets are outlined in Chapter 18 of the DTES Plan. These are 30-year targets, to be achieved by year 2043. In addition, some of the targets also have 10-year interim targets and these are identified in parentheses in Table 1. Since the adoption of the plan three years ago, significant progress has been made towards achieving the plan targets, including the social housing targets both inside and outside the DTES. Progress was also made in achieving upgrades to SRO rooms and the creation of short-term job opportunities. The plan targets are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: DTES Plan Targets

Area	30-Year Target (by 2043)		2016	% of 30-Year Target
Housing	3,000 (1,650 by 2024)	units of secured market rental housing*	535	18%
Housing	8,850	units of new affordable home ownership*	172	2%
Housing	4,400 (850 by 2019, 1,400 by 2024)	units new social housing inside the DTES*	789	18%
Housing	3,350	units social housing outside the DTES*	798	24%
Housing	1,650	rent subsidies	346	21%
Housing	2,200 (1,900 by 2024)	units upgrades to SRO	1028	47%
Housing	1,900 (1,300 by 2024)	scattered supportive housing sites	335	18%
Local Economy	2,800	retention of existing businesses	2,756	-1.5%
Local Economy	3-5%	growth in business (jobs)	4.7%	Within range
Local Economy	Reduction	in empty storefronts	Stable	n/a
Local Economy	3,500	employment opportunities (jobs)	1708	49%
Well-Being	148	age 0-4 childcare spaces*	12	8%
Well-Being	144	age 5-12 childcare spaces*	25	17%

*approved or under construction

1. Community Assets

Participants from the Social Impact Assessment public workshops in 2012 identified a number of community assets. Many, including community hubs and providers of basic needs, like the Carnegie and Evelyne Saller Centres, are unchanged since the adoption of the Downtown Eastside Plan in 2013.

A total of \$977,846 in DTES Capital Grants were awarded to 37 projects to improve community assets, including the Vancouver Japanese Language School and Hall, PACE Society and YWCA Crabtree Corner.

There has been a net increase in built and committed childcare spaces, including 60 school age care spaces opening in the new Crosstown Elementary School and 37 childcare spaces committed to be built at the Gastown Parkade. Some new cultural spaces have been added, such as MakerLabs on East Cordova Street. Also, the new nēca?mat ct Strathcona library branch and Crosstown Elementary School will open in 2017.

In terms of the number of social enterprises in the DTES, staff and the Community Economic Development Strategic Action Committee have identified a baseline of 61 Social Enterprise in the DTES, 7 privately owned social ventures with supported low-barrier employment and social procurement mandates and 6 Social Enterprise Incubator/Accelerator/Social Finance

organizations. With the baseline established, future monitoring will be able to track changes in this sector.

Future major projects in and around the Downtown Eastside are likely to change the assets in the area. Developments in the Thornton Park neighbourhood and the False Creek Flats, including the new St. Paul's Hospital and the removal of the viaducts, could alter the landscape by adding significant park spaces, housing and other amenities. With these changes, future asset monitoring will provide opportunities for further community participation.

2. Social Impact Indicators

Indicators for housing, development and well-being were identified in the 2014 Downtown Eastside Social Impact Assessment report, and it was recommended that these indicators are updated every three years. Where possible, data has been collected annually for each indicator. Table 2 below compares the 2013/2014 baseline indicators with the most-up-to-date data available.

The indicators show persistent challenges for housing, poverty, health and safety even as progress is made enabling more social housing and rent subsidies. The decrease in life expectancy in the Downtown Eastside is a particular concern and there continues to be severe and acute health needs requiring urgent intervention. Further analysis of the data related to poverty, homelessness and wellbeing can be found in Part 2.

Table 2: Social Impact Indicators

Theme	Social Indicator	Baseline	Current	Units	Geography	Data Source
Housing	AFFORDABILITY Homelessness	1,600 (2013)	1,847 (2016)	People who are homeless	City of Vancouver	Homeless Count
Housing	Income assistance cases (including Disability Benefits, pensions)	38% (2013)	36% (2014)	Percent of tax families who report income assistance	Downtown Eastside	Tax Filer, Income Assistance
Housing	Private SROs at shelter component of income assistance	24% (2013)	17% (2015)	Percent of units at or below \$375 rate	Downtown Eastside	City of Vancouver, Low-Income Housing Survey
Housing	Rent Subsidies	283 (2014)	629 (2016)	Number of subsidies	Downtown Eastside	BC Housing
Housing	CONDITIONS SRO Upgrades	N/A	1028 (2016)	Number of SRO upgrades	Downtown Eastside	City of Vancouver, Housing

Theme	Social Indicator	Baseline	Current	Units	Geography	Data Source
Housing	SUPPORTS Supportive Housing	2,777 (2013)	2,777 (2016)	Number of units	Downtown Eastside	City of Vancouver, Housing
Housing	Scattered Sites Supported	19 (2014)	354 (2016)	Number of units	Downtown Eastside	BC Housing ¹
Development	Change in Total Downtown Eastside Land Value	Baseline year (2013)	+58% (2017)	Percent increase since 2013 baseline	Downtown Eastside	Property Tax Reports (via Open Data Catalogue)
Development	Development Permits	22 (2014)	12 (2016)	Number of permits issued	Downtown Eastside	City of Vancouver, Planning
Well-Being	Life Expectancy ²	77.56 (2007- 2011)	76.94 (2011- 2015)	Years	Downtown Eastside Local Health Area	BC Stats
Well-Being	Total Crime	7,699 (2013)	7,923 (2016)	Reported Incidents	Downtown Eastside	Vancouver Police Department
Well-Being	Property Crime	3,556 (2013)	5,152 (2016)	Reported Incidents	Downtown Eastside	Vancouver Police Department
Well-Being	Violent Crime	1,797 (2013)	1,454 (2016)	Reported Incidents	Downtown Eastside	Vancouver Police Department
Well-Being	Early Development Instrument	52% (2011- 2013)	52% (2013- 2016)	Vulnerable children percent	Strathcona	UBC Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP)
Well-Being	Sense of belonging, connectedness, feeling accepted at 'home'	58% (2013- 2014)	Forthcom ing	Percent indicating Strong/ Some-what Strong	Strathcona	My Health My Community

¹ VCH has not added any new scattered sites since 2014

² Standardized Mortality Ratio was also included as an indicator in the DTES Plan. However, 2016 data is not readily available. Instead, this report uses Life Expectancy as an indicator of residents' well-being.

3. Implementation of the Action Plan

There are a total of 77 projects in the Action Plan, of which 26 are Quick Start actions to be implemented within the first three years of the Plan. Out of these 26 Quick Start actions, 5 were completed and 21 have been initiated. Completed actions include:

- Action 3 - piloted the Neighbourhood Fit evaluation tool as part of the Social Impact Management Framework
- Action 21 - amended the SRA By-law and increased the fee Council can require for a conversion or demolition permit from \$15,000 to \$125,000 per room.
- Action 35 - relocated the DTES Street Market to its permanent location at 501 Powell Street and completed upgrades to the safe vending site at 62 E Hastings Street.
- Action 57 - completed three rounds of Society Buildings Matching Grant Programs to support critical upgrades and received Council approval for the launch of the Society Legacy Program for the twelve priority Society-owned heritage buildings in Chinatown.
- Action 61 - initiated work on updating the Vancouver Heritage Register.

Of the remaining actions, which were to be implemented within 10 to 30 years of the plan, one was completed, 48 have been initiated and two have not yet started. Table 3 includes a three-year summary of work completed, organized by the nine plan objectives. For an update on all 77 projects, please see Appendix A.

Table 3: Implementation of the Action Plan Summary

Improved Well-being for All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction nearing completion for a City-funded multipurpose room within the new Crosstown Elementary School. This multipurpose room will enable the school to provide 60 new school-age care spaces, and child and family community programming. • Planning work underway for a new 37-space childcare project at Gastown parkade. Construction is expected to begin in late 2017. • \$80,000 annually to support Strathcona Food Program • Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions Actions included: response to the opioid crisis and support towards DTES Second Generation to provide improved services for people with serious mental health and addictions.
Healthy Homes for All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress made in meeting secured market rental and new social housing units targets (including first 60/40 project in the DEOD). • \$1.26 million in Council-approved SRA grants to upgrade 251 SRA-designated rooms across 4 buildings. • Funding to First United (\$40,000) and 390 Main St. (\$2,000/year x 5 years) for tenant advocacy. • SRA Bylaw amended to increase amount Council can require for a conversion or demolition permit from \$15,000 to \$125,000 per room. • Update and reset of Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2012-2021 through launch of Housing Reset process. • SRO Task Force re-established to engage stakeholders (SRO owners, advocates,

tenants, workers, and non-profits) to build on the DTES Plan objectives and inform Housing Reset process and recommendations.

Vibrant and Inclusive Local Economy

- Over \$1.26 million in DTES Capital and CED Grants were awarded to non-profit groups for CED projects since the Plan was approved.
- DTES Street Market relocated to 501 Powell and operating on Saturdays and Sundays, with additional market space at 62 East Hastings on weekdays.
- The DTES CED strategy, which was co-created with the community via the Community Economic Development Strategic Action Committee (CEDSAC), was adopted by Council in 2016.
- The Low Barrier Employment and Income Generating Hub at the Lux Hotel was awarded to local social enterprise EMBERS and partner group Urban Core Community Workers Association to operate.
- The Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES) has been formed. 57 commercial units to start have been designated for a cross-subsidized portfolio in order to mitigate displacement of low-income serving retail.
- Construction upgrades for the 312 Main Street Centre for Social and Economic Innovation are nearing completion as of 2017 and tenant agreements are being signed
- A major summit on Community Economic Development is organized by the City and Simon Fraser University, showcasing leadership and innovation in local economic development

Improved Transportation

- Completed multiple upgrades for crossings, curb ramps, bike lanes, crosswalk, surface treatment and lighting to improve safety.
- Started traffic analysis for Water Street rehabilitation project.

Arts and Culture Opportunities

- \$2.2 million in cultural grants to non-profit groups to support arts and cultural programs in the DTES
- Awarded \$660,000 Cultural Infrastructure Grants to support cultural spaces
- New artists' studios, maker spaces and performance spaces to be included in the 312 Main project.
- 50,000 square feet of community arts space being developed by BC Artscape
- A refresh of Vancouver's Culture Plan in 2018 which will include a diversity and equity strategy

Celebrate Heritage

- The Chinese Society Legacy Program, with a cost estimate of \$36 million to rehabilitate 12 Society Heritage buildings, was adopted by Council. The City committed \$3.6 million (10 percent) of the program cost to kick-start fundraising.
- Support is being provided to the Japanese Canadian community to apply for National Historic Site designation and future projects in Japantown/Powell Street to honour history and memories.

Parks and Open Space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivors' Pigeon Park Totem Pole installed in November 2016. • Community information bulletin boards were installed.
Community Place-making
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood Alley Square detailed design underway. The detailed design is expected to be completed in summer 2017, with anticipated construction in 2018, pending Council approval and budget availability.
Well-managed Built Form
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloted the Neighbourhood Fit evaluation tool in the Community Based Development Area to raise awareness and voluntary compliance with social impact objectives for the DTES. This is being adopted as a standard practice in the DTES over time. There is an opportunity to link the tool to a draft Citywide Community Benefits Agreement policy that is under development and anticipated to report to Council in 2017 • Economic revitalization update and development policies improvements to Chinatown underway, anticipated report to City Council in summer 2017. • The Hastings-Kiwassa Urban Design Guidelines are being developed and anticipated to be completed in summer 2017.

Part 2: Strategic Analysis

4. City investments into the neighbourhood

The City supports the non-profit sector in the neighbourhoods through a number of capital and operating grants programs. Since the adoption of the Plan, the City has awarded \$10.2 million for 370 grants to over 100 non-profits for cultural and social infrastructure, upgrades to heritage buildings, upgrades to SRO rooms, and community economic development projects. Further, an additional \$600,000 has been approved and dedicated to DTES already.

In addition, the City awarded \$1.1 million in social grants to 28 non-profit programs and a total of \$250,000 to 9 childcare programs. In all cases, the City's investment was used to strategically leverage matching investments from other funders at an approximate 4:1 ratio.

In addition, the City invested \$9.1 million to improve the public realm and complete necessary infrastructure upgrades in the neighbourhood. These projects include upgrades to the dragon lights, new pedestrian ramps, new community bulletin boards, replacement of water main pipes, and a new Powell Street overpass and protected bike lanes.

These investments are an important part of the implementation of the DTES Plan by leveraging resources and building partnerships with the community.

5. Outcomes of the plan to residents

Poverty

The Downtown Eastside remains, if not the “poorest postal code in Canada”³, an area with a high concentration of income poverty. A key objective of the *Social Impact Assessment (SIA)* is to ensure that the benefits of change in this area accrue to members of the low-income community. While only limited recent income data are available, there is a recent trend of a slight decline in low income rates: within the V6A postal code area, the rate of tax filers below the after-tax low income measure declined from 47% in 2010 to 44% in 2014⁴.

The number and rate of households receiving income assistance is also trending slightly down: 38% of households reported receiving social assistance income in 2010 compared to 36% in 2014⁵. However, there remain clear and visible gaps in the neighbourhood as residents struggle to meet their basic needs. Systemic change remains difficult without action from senior governments, and over the coming year the City will be pursuing strategies to address poverty, including more deliberate focus through the *Healthy City Strategy and a poverty reduction plan*.

City policies call for the development of mixed-income neighbourhoods in the Downtown Eastside without displacing these existing low-income communities. Citywide housing and demographic dynamics impact how this can be achieved. Median income remains much lower in the Downtown Eastside than in the city overall, and has increased at a similar rate. The number of high-income earners appears to be growing at a faster rate in the Downtown Eastside than in the city overall: from 2010 to 2014 the number of people reporting incomes over \$100,000 increased by 84% in the V6A postal code compared to 37% across the city.⁶ Fears of gentrification and displacement remain salient, and City initiatives to foster inclusive communities, including economic development are being developed.

Community Economic Development

The *DTES Community Economic Development strategy* addresses the local economy as a livelihoods continuum, from survival and informal work to supported employment, formal employment and entrepreneurship. A key objective is to connect economic opportunities and reduce poverty across this continuum. In the past three years the City has provided over \$1.26 million in DTES Capital and CED grants to support CED projects.

Small Businesses and Retail Gentrification

Despite a 1.5% decrease in local businesses, on the whole the small business economy of the DTES is healthy. The decrease in businesses can be attributed to a few outliers in particular and is not broadly indicative. For example, two commercial buildings on Main Street with multiple small businesses were redeveloped into mixed use buildings. Although the total floor

³ The V6A forward sortation area had a rate of 44% below the after-tax low income measure in 2014 income tax returns; in other urban areas, portions of Winnipeg, Montréal and Toronto had higher rates.

⁴ Based on Statistics Canada, T1 Family File, accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.

⁵ Based on Statistics Canada, T1 Famile File, as above. Note that “households” are an aggregation of families filing taxes together and individuals not in families.

⁶ Statistics Canada, T1 Family File, as above.

area of ground floor retail spaces has remained roughly equivalent to before, these new developments have larger ground floor commercial units rather than multiple smaller ones. Larger commercial units with single tenants pose a challenge to achieving the target of increasing the number of businesses in the DTES.

Another pertinent issue is the displacement of community retail assets that vulnerable segments of the local population rely on for daily needs. In Chinatown in particular, longstanding businesses provided cultural appropriate goods and services to many low-income seniors in the area. Their closure and displacement created particular stress to these residents and also detracted from the intangible cultural character of Chinatown. To address concerns around retail gentrification and displacement of local retail and cultural assets, BC Housing, Vancity Community Foundation and the City created the Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES). This new non-profit focuses on leasing commercial spaces specifically for local low-income needs, with 57 commercial retail units providing a starting portfolio for CIRES to manage with a cross-subsidy approach.

Low-income self-employment, binning and vending

Substantial progress was achieved in supporting the DTES Street Market to build capacity and introduce peer-based security and registration of members. This ultimately led to the relocation of the weekend market to 501 Powell Street with a small subsidiary market on 62 East Hastings during the weekdays. The City also provided a grant to the Binners Project's universal binning and vending cart to further support self-employment.

The Lux Hotel's ground floor commercial retail unit will become a hub connecting low-income residents and those with barriers to a range of income generating, employment and capacity building opportunities along the "livelihoods continuum". Staff are recommending to Council to consider a lease to the social enterprise EMBERS who are working in partnership with the Urban Core Community Workers Association to create an Income and Employment Hub in this space (Please reference report RTS # 1991).

Further, this hub complements the work to develop the 501 Powell Street CED Platform (currently used by the DTES Market and PHS Urban Farm) as well as 312 Main Street Centre for Social and Economic Innovation, which is finalizing tenancy agreements and slated to open in June of 2017. Collectively these three Social Innovation Hubs play a central role in supporting programming along the "livelihoods continuum".

Social Enterprise

A 2016 snapshot of the Social Enterprise Sector revealed that Social Enterprises focused on Employment, Arts and CED provide full-time employment to 92 people and part-time employment to 1,470 people with barriers while generating a gross annual revenue of \$14.92 million dollars supported by annual sales of \$12.14 million. This represents a cross section of the entire sector in the DTES

The Employment Based Social Enterprise Sector in the DTES is the largest and most advanced cluster of social enterprise in Canada. It has seen exponential growth in the past 15 years with support from the City of Vancouver through grants and procurement (e.g. micro-cleaning, catering, event support contracts). The sector is well positioned to expand with further investment and policy support. The cross section of the Social Enterprise sector

examined by SFU and Buy Social Canada's 2016 Social Enterprise Survey illustrates how the sector successfully leveraged \$2 million per year in various grants with over \$12 million in sales revenue for goods and services.

Low-Barrier Job Creation Feasibility Studies and Program Development

Further research and feasibility studies are being conducted throughout 2017 to inform large-scale low-barrier job creation initiatives in anticipation of future Community Benefits Agreements and the ongoing material, labour and service needs of development. These focus on:

- Supply chain relocalizing (Planned Manufacturing and Import Substitution)
- Non-profit and social sector leadership and employable skill development for youth at risk and with barriers
- Increasing social hiring in the small business sector
- Anchor Institution Social Procurement Engagement Strategy

The formation of a Social Procurement Round Table is in development with other large institutional, non-profit and private sector partners to scale up the employment based social enterprise sector in Vancouver.

Housing and Homelessness

Homelessness affects many people in the Downtown Eastside. The City's Annual Homeless Count showed that between 2014 and 2016, the number of street and sheltered homeless in the DTES increased by 33%, from 730 to 972. Citywide, the number of street and sheltered homeless increased by 15% during this same time period.

The increasing competition for affordable housing has created a downward pressure on available rental accommodation, as evidenced by near-zero vacancy rates and an increasing housing cost burden facing many of Vancouver's residents. Median market rents in purpose-built rental apartments in the East Hastings CMHC survey zone⁷ are lower than for the city overall, but are increasing: from 2015 to 2016, the median rent for a studio apartment increased by 10% in this zone, while median rent in the city increased by 5%.

The 2015 Survey of Single Room Accommodation and Non-Market Housing in the Downtown Eastside showed that the percentage of privately-owned SRO rooms renting at or below the shelter component of income assistance has decreased from 24% in 2013 to 17% (744 rooms) in 2015. The Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) also produces an annual SRO Hotel Report through a different methodology that only takes into account privately owned and operated SROs, excluding SROs that are privately owned but have come under non-profit management. Their data from their 2016 report shows that just 6% of the private stock (approximately 200 rooms) rent at \$375 or less. As income assistance rates remain frozen since 2007, it is increasingly difficult for lower income earners to access adequate and affordable housing.

In September of last year, the City struck an SRO Task Force in response to increasing concerns around safety and affordability in SROs as a result of the homelessness encampment at 58 W Hastings. The Task Force brought together a number of key stakeholders, including the City,

⁷ This zone includes the DTES as well as Grandview-Woodland and Hastings-Sunrise.

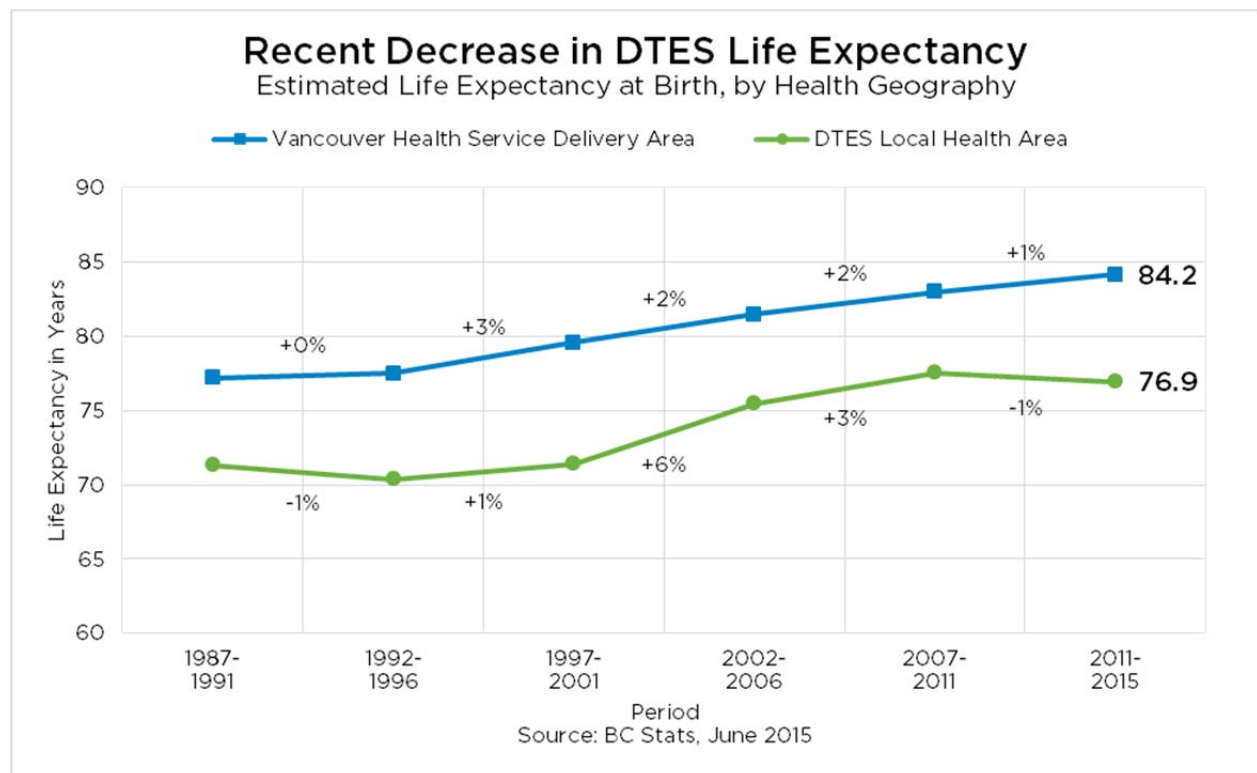
community partners, senior levels of government, the private sector and SRO tenants to identify concerns and develop near and longer-term recommendations to support the ongoing evolution of the SRO Strategy and inform broader initiatives including Housing Re:Set and a number of enforcement actions under the Development, Buildings and Licensing Department. The findings from the Task Force will be presented to Council alongside this report, while a full report back and accompanying recommendations will be brought to Council in July.

Available data from BC Housing shows that the number of rent subsidies in the Downtown Eastside have increased between 2014 and 2016, mostly at scattered sites throughout the Downtown Eastside. Since 2014, 1,028 SROs have been upgraded, and \$770,000 in grants have been dispersed towards upgrading of rooms in the DTES in order to improve tenant liveability while maintaining affordability. Progress has also been made towards the construction of new self-contained social housing units.

To address the urgent need for social housing, three social housing projects are proposed on City-owned sites, including at 177 W Pender, 58 W Hastings and 124 Dunlevy. The project at 58 W Hastings will also include a major health facility to serve the area, and 124 Dunlevy will include a new purpose-built space for the Evelyne Saller Centre. These proposals are being reviewed and if approved, could add more than 500 units of social housing to the area.

Well-being

Figure 2 Life Expectancy in the DTES



Estimated life expectancy in the Downtown Eastside decreased from 77.56 years in 2007-2011 to 76.94 years in 2011-2015. This represents a setback after life expectancy had been on the rise since the mid-1990s when health outcomes related to HIV/AIDS began to improve. The recent decrease in life expectancy may be connected with surge in Downtown Eastside

residents affected with severe, untreated mental illnesses, addictions and other chronic diseases. As the life expectancy data only goes to 2015, it does not show the full impact of the ongoing opioid overdose crisis.

In 2016, the BC Coroner reported 922 illicit drug overdose deaths in Vancouver, a 80% increase from the number of deaths in 2015. Many of these overdose deaths are occurring in the Downtown Eastside, often indoors where drug users are using alone and in social isolation. The City is taking extraordinary action, including a 0.5% increase in property taxes dedicated to immediate steps to respond to the opioid overdose crisis. The City is using these funds to support impactful interventions guided by the Healthy City Strategy and building on the Four Pillars approach: treatment, harm reduction, prevention, and enforcement. Deployment of the Mobile Medical Unit to the DTES to offer urgently needed treatment capacity and lifesaving supports was one such initiative that would not have been possible without City support. We are aware that mental health and addictions challenges also need to be addressed at an upstream level, with action taken on root causes, and to recognize complex trauma like poverty, disconnection from Aboriginal culture and spirituality, and adverse childhood events.

Strathcona remains a neighbourhood with high levels of early childhood vulnerability, with no significant change in the vulnerability rate since 2004.⁸ Accessible and affordable childcare is a cornerstone of healthy childhood development, along with parenting and other community supports. Continued work to facilitate and enhance childcare opportunities in the Downtown Eastside is underway. A City-funded multipurpose room within the new Crosstown Elementary School will enable the school to provide 60 before- and after-school childcare spaces. An innovative childcare centre on the roof of the City-owned Gastown Parkade will add 37 childcare spaces for children. An overall social infrastructure plan is in development to guide the City's investments.

Public safety and street disorder remain concerns in the Downtown Eastside. The area continues to have a higher concentration of reported crime incidents than the Vancouver average, but there have been decreases in violent crime, and the increases in property and overall crime are consistent with the rest of the city. Key City actions include securing safe, legal and accessible spaces for street vending on City-owned lands.

A Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions sub-committee completed peer research on the wide variety of traditional, spiritual and cultural Aboriginal services offered in the Downtown Eastside, from traditional ceremonies to targeted support for vulnerable groups, and identified the need for more targeted funding to support this work. In February 2017, drawing on funds from the 2017 Contingency Budget for the Opioid Crisis, Council approved \$100,000 in funds to pilot new initiatives to promote Aboriginal health and wellness. The DTES will benefit directly from these programs.

6. Neighbourhood character and pace of change

The City continues to leverage private development in the DTES to deliver new social housing units using innovative zoning tools, with the goal of creating mixed-income neighbourhoods.

⁸ Based on UBC Human Early Learning Partnership, Early Development Instrument results.

Using these zoning tools, 16 mixed-use projects with housing have been approved in the past three years. These projects combined include 929 housing units, of which 315 are social housing units, 442 are secured market rental housing units and 172 are condo ownership units. In the past three years, the approval of social housing units has outpaced that of condo ownership units. Further, development and rezoning applications already in-stream have the potential to deliver another 110 social housing units, if approved. This combined with the approximately 600 social housing units on the three City-owned sites would amount to a significant contribution towards meeting the social housing targets of the Plan.

Despite the progress towards meeting housing goals and building balanced, mixed-income neighbourhoods, there is tension in the neighbourhood about the pace of change and strong concerns on gentrification in general. Further, it remains a challenge to deepen the level of affordability of these housing units, particularly social housing renting at welfare rate.

Twenty-two development permits were issued in 2014, compared to twelve in 2106. These include permits for new construction and alteration to existing buildings for residential, mixed-use and commercial projects. Although there were fewer permits issued in 2016, there are a number of development and rezoning enquiries and applications in stream.

As residents and businesses move into new developments that have been completed since 2014, the change in the neighbourhoods is becoming evident. Particularly in historic Chinatown and Gastown, newer, larger developments are changing the neighbourhood fabric and character and putting pressure on vulnerable residents and traditional businesses that rely on affordable rental rates.

In addition, it is likely that developments in the Thornton Park neighbourhood and the False Creek Flats, including the new St. Paul's Hospital and the removal of the viaducts, will accelerate demand for housing and commercial spaces, particularly in Chinatown and Strathcona. Planning staff are preparing improvements to development policies in Chinatown to address concerns of pace of change and character of new development. These policy changes will be brought forward to Council for consideration in summer 2017.

The City is also working closely with Chinese Societies to upgrade their buildings. In 2016, Council approved the Chinese Society Legacy Program to rehabilitate the twelve priority Society-owned heritage buildings in Chinatown. The community is preparing a fundraising strategy to leverage the City's commitment of \$3.6 million towards the program. The successful rehabilitation of these heritage buildings will contribute significantly to the protection of the physical and intangible heritage of Chinatown.

Part 3: Priorities for the next three years

A number of important projects have been initiated to continue the implementation process of the DTES Plan. The focus of the next three years is to implement the following:

- Construction of the childcare project at the Gastown parkade in late 2017 and with a targeted completion date in 2019.
- Continued support for the Societies to implement the Chinese Society Legacy Program, with a goal to begin rehabilitation for two to three buildings in 2018.
- Redesign of Blood Alley Square and request for funding for construction by summer 2017.

- Advance rezoning and development applications in 2017 for key social housing projects, including 177 W Pender, 124 Dunlevy and 58 W Hastings.
- Development of the Housing Reset strategy and aim for Council adoption of the strategy in Summer 2017.
- Continue to implement the Community Economic Development Strategy, including the creation of a social procurement round table with industry leaders, research on re-localizing supply chain needs of the construction sector, develop leadership and employable skill for youth at risk and with barriers, and complete CED quick-start projects that are already underway.
- Assist the community in place-making projects in the historic neighbourhoods, including Powell Street/Japantown.

With regards to monitoring of the area, staff note that accessing current, reliable data for the diverse people and economies in the Downtown Eastside remains challenging. Downtown Eastside population and income data from the restored 2016 long-form census will become available in 2018, and the City will continue to monitor and evaluate trends in the neighbourhood. This information will be included in the next full DTES Plan progress update, which will be completed in 2020.

Community participation

The community is a key partner in the development of the DTES Plan and staff continue to engage with the community in its implementation. Since 2014, staff organized over 50 public events and engaged with over 1400 people on different projects.

Financial

During the past three years there have been \$15.9 million of City investments made in the DTES, including \$9.1 million in direct infrastructure investments and \$6.8 million in grants. In addition, \$4.0 million of DTES specific approved funding is yet to be deployed, which is comprised of \$3.4 million that has been awarded to grant recipients but yet to be spent and \$600,000 already targeted for spending in the DTES, specifically for the DTES Capital Grants Program and the Heritage Façade Program. The \$600,000 is part of the 2015 to 2018 Capital Plan. Another \$900,000 from the 2015 to 2018 Capital Plan remains available for the DTES, subject to Council approval. Additional DTES projects may come forward as part of city-wide programs in transportation, community facilities or other service categories.

Completion and timing of specific future projects are subject to approval as part of the City's Capital Plan and Budget processes.



CONCLUSION

This report provides an update on the implementation of the DTES Plan and the associated 30-year plan targets and social indicators. The next full DTES Plan progress update will be completed in 2020.

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Appendix A: DTES PLAN ACTION PLAN - 3 YEAR PROGRESS UPDATE

QS=Quick starts (within 3 years) | S=Short-term (within 10 years) | M/L=Medium/Long-term (with 30 years)

 COMMUNITY PLACE-MAKING		 WELL-MANAGED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT		
#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
1	Amend land use and development policies and by-laws to support plan implementation.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Liquor Policy for the DTES adopted (March 15, 2014) Micro Dwelling Policies and Guidelines adopted (March 15, 2014) Policies and Guidelines for the Upgrade of Rooms Designated under the Single Room Accommodation (SRA) Bylaw 8733 adopted (March 15, 2014) Rezoning Policy for the Downtown Eastside adopted (March 15, 2014) 	Ongoing
2	Develop a Powell Street (Japantown) Revitalisation program and public realm plan.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff is assisting community representatives in structuring the process to identify steps and scope the work 	In progress
3	Implement the Social Impact Management Framework to protect and enhance identified community assets, and manage neighbourhood change to provide benefits and opportunities for local residents.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piloted Neighbourhood Fit evaluation tool as part of the review process for new development applications (2015) 	Completed
4	Encourage the revitalization of laneways through temporary installations and development opportunities.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding provide for a mural on the Chinatown Plaza at Georgia St and south laneway from the DTES Capital fund (\$5,750), Graffiti Management Program (\$2,500), Great Beginnings (\$7,500) (to be completed 2016/2017) 	Ongoing
5	Work with the community to prepare a "Hastings Street Urban Design Framework", including developing Urban Design Guidelines (for Gore to Clark Avenues) and a public realm plan (Richards Street to Clark Avenue).	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement workshops held on Hastings Street and Kiwassa Urban Design Guidelines (2015/2016) Consultant to be hired to complete draft urban design guidelines by January 2017 	In progress
6	Work with the community to prepare a "Kiwassa Urban Design Framework", including	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement workshops held on Hastings Street and Kiwassa Urban Design Guidelines 	In progress

	developing Urban Design Guidelines and a Public Realm Plan.		(2015/2016) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant to be hired to complete draft urban design guidelines by January 2017 	
7	Support strategic public realm improvements to enhance and improve public realm safety, quality, and amenity, particularly for vulnerable populations.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing improvements such as upgraded crossings, curb ramps, crosswalks, surface treatments and lighting seek to enhance the quality of the public realm, as well as overall walkability and safety of the DTES 	Ongoing
8	Undertake improvements to Water Street and Maple Tree Square, including the public realm, pedestrian, cyclist, and traffic safety, and introduce amenities for community programming and celebrations.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation planning for Water Street underway (commenced 2015) 	In progress



IMPROVED WELL-BEING FOR ALL

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
9	Enhance residents' sense of safety, inclusion and belonging, including implementing actions from the City's Task Force on Sex Work and Sexual Exploitation and Missing Women's Inquiry.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning is underway for the Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee to engage with the National Inquiry Commission • Support the <i>Sex Work Exiting and Transition Consortium of Vancouver</i> to ensure that sex workers seeking options to transition from sex work are provided participant supports to address their basic needs while accessing program. 	In progress
10	Prepare a renewal strategy to identify and prioritize the expansion, relocation, and/or renewal of social facilities and non-profit community space.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are preparing for the next capital plan cycle which involves a deeper analysis of existing social facilities in the DTES 	Ongoing
11	Expand access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally-appropriate foods.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSC Grants provided to Potluck Cafe, Strathcona Community Centre Association, DTES Neighbourhood house, and Hua Foundation to improve procurement of healthy food in DTES; connect DTES residents with good food; and support the Chinese community to make sustainable food choices • Great Beginnings Funds to Potluck Café (DTES Kitchen Tables Project) to convene a network of over 40 	Ongoing

			<p>service providers to improve food purchasing and food provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$34K to Hastings Urban Farm to produce a farm manual and increase productivity and continuity during relocation 	
12	Prioritize the safety of women, children, seniors, and culturally-diverse groups through well-designed spaces and inclusive programs.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design work underway for the new Evelyne Saller Centre as part of the Roddan Lodge 	Ongoing
13	Decrease child vulnerability from 50% to 15%.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update 	Not yet started
14	Attract and retain food-related non-profit organizations and small businesses to be viable within the DTES.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An audit of business characteristics in the DTES is underway with community organizations, including examination of new or lost food assets Continue promote Vancouver Incubator Kitchen as a launching pad for small businesses and non-profits with food programming needs 	Ongoing



HEALTHY HOMES FOR ALL

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
15	Create 292 new childcare spaces for children aged 0-12 years of age.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 childcare spaces are approved, construction is expected to begin in late 2017 	In progress
16	Create 850 new social housing units in first 5 years (400+450).	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 789 new social housing units have been committed/approved in the DTES 	In progress
17	Increase affordable housing options for all residents in the DTES, including social housing (1,400 in the first 10 years), income supplements (1,650 in the first 10 years), secured market rental housing (1,650) and affordable home ownership options.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 789 new social housing units have been committed/approved in the DTES 629 units of rent subsidies were provided 535 units of secured market rental housing have been approved 	In progress
18	Leverage an expanded and targeted DTES rent subsidy program linked to the scattered site initiative.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 752 homelessness rent subsidies and 4,206 seniors and family rent subsidies being distributed citywide in Vancouver. We are working with BC Housing to determine specific metrics (distributing office, \$ amount, # of people assisted, time period of subsidy) to assess how subsidies are addressing DTES targets/need 	Ongoing

19	Offer grants to non-profits to upgrade SROs while maintaining affordability.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$180K grant approved to the Mah Society of Canada to assist with renovation of 36-SRA designated rooms at the Asia Hotel in Chinatown • \$190K grant approved to Lookout Emergency Aid Society to upgrade 38 SRA-designated rooms at Sakura Rooms • \$355K grant approved to Community Builders Society to upgrade 71 SRA-designated rooms at Dodson Rooms (25 E Hastings) 	In progress
20	Work with the Residential Tenancy Branch to improve tenant/landlord relations.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40K awarded to First United non-profit with expertise in mediating landlord/tenant conflict and assisting through the Residential Tenancy Branch arbitration process • \$2,000/year (2016-2021) grant to ACCESS to be put towards operating costs of RTB services at 390 Main St. 	Ongoing
21	Amend the SRA By-law and clarify the fee Council can attach to an SRA permit.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRA By-law amended to increase amount Council can require for a conversion or demolition permit from \$15K to \$125K/ per room 	Completed
22	Explore creative financing using a 'cost-benefit' approach for scattered supportive housing sites.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work being explored as part of Housing Reset 	In progress
23	Increase affordable housing options in neighbourhoods outside the DTES (including social housing, supportive housing/scattered sites, income supplements and market rental and homeownership units).	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval and implementation of Community Plans • Citywide Housing Reset process launched (update/reset of Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2012-2021). 	In progress
24	Improve condition and quality of 1,900 SROs including upgrades to buildings and units.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,028 upgraded rooms (committed, under construction and occupied) including: -BCH P3 (852 units), 376 Powell (38 units), 139 E Pender (36 units), 5 W Hastings (31 units), and 25 E Hastings (71 units) 	In progress
25	Improve housing and service options for people with mental health and addictions issues (1,300 scattered sites, 1,100 enhanced supports in BC Housing SROs, and 150 new residential beds in first 10 years).	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Supporting Tenants Enabling Pathways" (STEP) Pilot underway with BC Housing and VCH to align with people moving out of supportive housing (no long-term/scale up plan as of yet) • 2 New ACT teams funded by Ministry of Health (120-dau Plan) 	In progress

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work through Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions 	
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VIBRANT INCLUSIVE LOCAL ECONOMY

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
26	Achieve a 50% reduction in vacant storefronts through retail strategies	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacant storefronts have remained stable City has now partnered with BC Housing and Vancity Community Foundation to create CIRES (Community Impact Real Estate Society) a social purpose real estate collaboration focusing on culturally appropriate and socially inclusive retail programming in vulnerable neighbourhoods. 	Ongoing
27	Increase local employment (a target of at least 1,500 jobs over 10 years) encouraging inclusive local hiring opportunities	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RFP for the Lux was successfully awarded to EMBERS and Urban Core to manage a low-barrier income generating and employment hub in the ground floor CRU. 	Ongoing
28	Assist BIAs to enhance the local business environment and attract new businesses at a ten-year target rate of 3 to 5% growth.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs in businesses grew by 4.7% Three of the local BIAs are working together on a Canada 150 stewardship program to enhance the DTES public realm in partnership with local non-profits and social enterprise. Hastings Crossing BIA successfully hosted the "Experience Hastings Crossing" weeklong event in 2017 showcasing the ways in which businesses and non-profits work together for community good. Strathcona BIA won a Best In the West BIABC Award for their "Made in Strathcona" local manufacturing marketing campaign. 	In progress
29	Work with developers to allocate affordable space for important community assets and social enterprises (especially in CBDA)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with ATIRA Housing to incentivise community amenity space in their new building at 420 Hawkes Ave 	In progress
30	Use City-owned properties, affordable leases, and revitalization tax supports to provide affordable goods and services to the area.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New commercial real estate management and tenant recruitment non-profit formed (August 2016) to acquire 57 CRUs in BC Housing properties using a cross 	In progress

			subsidy model to decrease lease costs for community serving (low-income in particular) retail. Finance and Real Estate expressed an interest in exploring the potential to include City-owned CRUs.	
31	Facilitate social and green enterprise practices, innovative business methods to achieve Social Impact objectives and Greenest City Action Plan objectives	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of the Neighbourhood Fit pilot evaluation tool to achieve development and business aligned with the Social Impact Objectives 	In progress
32	Identify, secure and maximize economic/business assets that serve the low-income community (particularly in the CBDA)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging a consultant to study San Francisco's Legacy Business Program, and retail retention challenges and local serving business displacement in other cities. 	In progress
33	Investigate regulatory changes and building code modifications to accelerate small conversions and renovations of business premises to allow business owners who wish to make physical improvements.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal discussions between Planning, Building, Licenses and Permitting staff on the creation of a commercial renovations centre to streamline small business applications and provide additional support to expedite permits for small businesses 	In progress
34	Ensure the regulatory environment and city infrastructure maximizes opportunities for industrial lands	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CED Strategy drafted, and RFP issued for research and consulting support on the potential of import substitution strategy to meet the material demands of future development and construction sectors 	In progress
35	Support a permanent location for the DTES Street Market for safer survival vending, and opportunities for sale of locally-produced arts and crafts.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DTES Street Market relocated to 501 Powell Street (2016) Upgrades completed to the safe vending site at 62 E Hastings (2015/2016) 	Completed
36	Undertake a study of vending alternatives and the establishment of neighbourhood market-selling facilities.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Economic Development Platform, established on City-owned 501 Powell Street, is home to the DTES Street Market and an urban farm both operated by the Portland Hotels Society (2016) 	In progress
37	Work with the four Business Improvement Associations to create a neighbourhood-wide business characteristics survey.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys have been conducted by Hastings Crossing BIA, Carnegie Community Action Project and Strathcona Residents Association 	In progress
38	Work with Vancouver Economic Commission and Business Improvement Associations to	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With support from the BIA Program, VEC shared recent research into trends, and data informed the RFP 	In progress

	attract suitable new enterprises with retail strategies		for further research into appropriate responses	
39	Establish new neighbourhood retail centres (e.g. focus areas of Powell Street (Japantown), Hastings Crossing, Main Street and Hastings East) to serve local needs	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the Hastings and Kiwassa Urban Design guidelines underway 	In progress
40	Innovate and support opportunities for market-selling, small business and micro-enterprise opportunities for DTES residents to build the survival economy.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CED Strategy includes custom Binner cart pilot to reduce theft and loss of goods with a focus on the needs of those in survival economies RFP undertaken for the Lux connecting survival economy work to other forms of more structured capacity building and income generation (September 2016) 	In progress
41	Promote a social procurement policy for the DTES in partnership with key stakeholders.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CED Strategy includes dedicated business development support program for social enterprise and community accountable social impact businesses 	In progress



IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
42	Upgrade streets and sidewalks to make walking more convenient and safe, especially for seniors and residents with mobility challenges.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalk ramps installed at 10 intersections (2014-2016) New pedestrian & cyclist-activated signal and zebra crosswalk at Jackson and Powell Streets installed (2015) Intersection upgrades at Columbia and Pender Streets, including restoration of granite curbs, granite cobble-lined crosswalk, and stamped concrete (2016) New pedestrian zebra crosswalk in front of Lord Strathcona Elementary School planned (2016/2017) Signal timing changed at 4 locations along Prior/Venables to make all 10 signals along Prior the same length (2016) Audible tones installed for visually impaired at Main & Keefer (2016) Count down pedestrian indicators installed at 2 locations (2014, 2016) 	Ongoing

43	Add walking and cycling routes and connections with improved comfort and safety.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New protected bike lane on Cambie (Dunsmuir to Water Street) in Gastown, and upgrades to bike facilities on Beatty Street (2016) Powell Street Overpass (2014) protected bike lane, and two pedestrian sidewalks added to improve safety and connectivity to planned Portside Greenway, including new pedestrian activated traffic signal at Glen Drive & Powell, and new full traffic signals at Hawks, and E Cordova & Powell Public Bike Share launched in 2016, including stations in DTES (current and planned) 	Ongoing
44	Prioritize transit and transit amenities for bus passengers.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning with TransLink for 135 to a B-Line service to improve overall travel times, route reliability and service on Hastings Street (conversion planned for December 2016) 	In progress
45	Support the local economy through more efficient goods movement and loading facilities.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work to improve safety at active rail crossings to Transport Canada safety standards Installed temporary tour bus zones in Gastown during the summer (2016), and ongoing review with the Gastown BIA to provide loading and tour bus parking Working with the Chinatown BIA and the Chinatown Revitalization Committee to update parking and loading zones, and install parking meters in Chinatown 	Ongoing
46	Pursue public access to the former CPR right-of-way to enhance walkability and public amenity.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed 	Not yet started



IMPROVED SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
47	Improve existing and new opportunities for community access and programming in plazas and gathering spaces, and encourage community stewardship.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enns Gauthier Landscape Architects hired to redesign Blood Alley Square and Trounce Alley, including the completion of a stewardship strategy (2016) Public gathering places secured through community benefit agreements at 420 Hawks Ave and 970 Union 	In progress

48	Rehabilitate Blood Alley Square/Trounce Alley in conjunction with adjacent development.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enns Gauthier Landscape Architects hired to redesign Blood Alley Square and Trounce Alley, including the completion of a stewardship strategy (2016) 	In progress
49	Enhance the public realm to improve walkability, and reinforce the distinct identity of historic areas.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community bulletin board installed in Chinatown (2016) Benches installed at Hastings and Princess (2015) Dragon fixture streetlights refurbished and upgraded with LED technology 4 new pedestrian wayfinding maps installed, and 4 existing wayfinding maps stands updated with new maps 	On going
50	Convert over-paved or under-used areas into mini-parks or plazas where possible.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring opportunities for potential public space at Heatley overpass, subject to Port of Vancouver planning processes 	In progress
51	Make existing parks more useable by adding new features.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood bulletin boards installed in McLean and Oppenheimer Parks, and Victory Square (2016) \$50K Park Board grant provided for installation of the Survivors' Pigeon Park Totem Pole (2016) 	In progress
52	Fill gaps and replace ailing trees, and plant new trees in areas with few or no existing street trees.	QS/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39 new street trees planted 	Ongoing
53	Explore opportunities to improve access to CRAB Park.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for improved pedestrian and bike access 	In progress
54	Create new gathering spaces by reallocating road/laneway space and as part of new development.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation planning for Water Street rehabilitation underway, including traffic data collection in Gastown 	In progress
55	Ensure gathering spaces have infrastructure, (e.g. water, power, lighting, etc.) to support programming.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood Alley Square and Trounce Alley Detailed Design currently underway will include infrastructure to support programming 	In progress



CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
56	Support community efforts to recognize Aboriginal heritage and the Salish Sea Civilization concept.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions engaged partners in discussions of Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Centre (2014) The City and Park Board are 	In progress

			working with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tslweil-Waututh to identify sites and provide the traditional place name for those locations	
57	Create a framework and business plan for a Chinatown Society Building Grants Program.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Society Legacy Program with \$3.6M committed towards total budget of \$36M approved (2015) Three round of Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grants allocated \$2,183,500 to 35 Societies for critical capital upgrades to their buildings (2014-2016) 	Completed
58	Implement the Council approved "Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan and Economic Revitalization Strategy" in the context of heritage.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100,000 grant awarded to the Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association to implement phase 1 of the Chinese Legacy Program (2015) Chinese Society Legacy Program with \$3.6M committed towards total budget of \$36M approved (2015) Three round of Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grants allocated \$2,183,500 to 35 Societies for critical capital upgrades to their buildings (2014-2016) 	In progress
59	Support community efforts to identify, conserve and celebrate tangible and intangible Aboriginal heritage.	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research currently underway to be completed in October Aboriginal heritage values (tangible) are being identified through the Heritage Register Upgrade consultation process 	In progress
60	Support community initiatives raised and noted in the Historical and Cultural Review - Powell Street (Japantown) document, i.e. raising the stature of the Japanese-Canadian heritage, applying for designation of the Vancouver Japanese Language School and Hall site as a National Historic Site of Canada	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff is assisting community representatives in structuring the process to identify steps and scope the work 	In progress
61	Initiate the work on updating the Vancouver Heritage Register.	QS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Heritage Action Plan, community engagement on updating the Heritage Registered undertaken (2015) 	Completed
62	Update the Vancouver Heritage Register to reflect broader heritage values	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work underway with report tentatively schedule for Council at the end of the year 	In progress
63	Prepare a Statement of Significance for the Powell	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of the background research work completed with 	In progress

	Street (Japantown) area and its character buildings.		additional staff or consultant to be engaged to draft the Statement of Significance	
64	Review, extend and expand the Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program (HBRP) and Heritage Façade Rehabilitation Program (HFRP) to other parts of the DTES, i.e. Powell Street (Japantown).	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City's Heritage Conservation Program, including its heritage incentives, is currently being reviewed under the Heritage Action Plan initiative. Report tentatively schedule for Council at the end of the year 	In progress
65	Enhance social housing proposals by applying heritage incentive programs to rehabilitate heritage buildings, in particular SROs and the Chinatown Society heritage buildings	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of \$150,000 of matching grants awarded through the Heritage Façade Rehabilitation Program to Chinese Society heritage buildings. Additional \$150,000 are currently under review in support of SROs in Gastown 	Ongoing
66	Identify, preserve and improve places with social and cultural meaning to the community.	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions are underway with the CED committee about intangible heritage and how it is defined 	In progress
67	Support preservation and rehabilitation of the Chinatown Society heritage buildings as cultural anchors	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100,000 grant awarded to the Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association to implement phase 1 of the Chinese Legacy Program (2015) Chinese Society Legacy Program with \$3.6M committed towards total budget of \$36M approved (2015) Three round of Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grants allocated \$2,183,500 to 35 Societies for critical capital upgrades to their buildings (2014-2016) 	In progress



ARTS AND CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
68	Encourage opportunities for public art to engage with and reflect the neighbourhood and wherever possible, involve neighbourhood-based artists.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public art commission for néca?mat ct Strathcona Public Library Branch awarded to DTES artist Erica Stocking (2016) \$50K Park Board grant provided for installation of the Survivors' Pigeon Park Totem Pole carved by long-time DTES resident Skundaal (Bernie Williams) (2016) 	Ongoing

69	Strengthen artists' entrepreneurial capacity and skills	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over \$5K awarded to community arts groups, including Community Arts Council of Vancouver, and Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC, for a series of capacity-building workshops for artists (2014) 	Ongoing
70	Explore enhanced opportunities for artists to sell their artwork on City and Park Board property	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a pilot program for mobile vending craft cart is underway 	In progress
71	Stabilise key existing physical assets and secure ownership in public domain	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$369K Cultural Infrastructure Grant towards purchase of additional space, and building upgrades to community venues including Bodega Studios (2014), Federation of Russian Canadians of BC (2014, 2015), Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (2016) 	Ongoing
72	Retain/create flexible multi-use neighbourhood spaces such as studios, offices, rehearsal/production and indoor/outdoor space	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$119,500 Cultural Infrastructure Grants Awarded to create, upgrade and improve arts and cultural spaces (2014-2016) 	Ongoing
73	Pursue opportunities for co-location or shared cultural spaces, and for sharing resources and services	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovations to first floor and basement in Woodward's for shared arts & cultural (2015) \$130K Cultural Infrastructure Grant for improvements to co-located admin offices and creation/production studios (2014-2016) 	Ongoing

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
74	Identify suitable potential locations for a neighbourhood energy centre or centres to serve the Downtown Eastside.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City-designated neighbourhood energy provider has installed a boiler plant 611 Main St to service adjacent developments until the low-carbon NEFC/Chinatown connection is established. 	Ongoing
75	Expand the existing neighbourhood energy services area to apply to all of the Downtown Eastside.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The viability and service area for neighbourhood energy is to be evaluated in coordination with implementation of the Zero-emissions building policy to ensure low-carbon goals for new buildings are achieved. 	Ongoing
76	Require designs of all new developments in the Downtown Eastside over 2000 square metres to use hydronic (hot	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood-energy building connectivity size will be re-assessed in conjunction with the pending Zero-Emissions building 	Completed

	water) heating systems, and required to connect to a neighbourhood energy system when one is in place.		policy to ensure new construction achieves low carbon goals in the most cost effective way.	
UTILITIES				
#	ACTION	TIME FRAME	3 YEAR PROGRESS	STATUS
77	Pursue opportunities for additional drinking fountains or bottle filling stations, such as in parks, public spaces, plazas, along bikeways and greenways, and as part of new developments, when opportunities arise.	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer drinking fountain installed at Hastings & Heatley (2016) 	Ongoing

