Downtown Eastside Plan

Three-Year Progress Update

Presentation to Council

April 11, 2017
Overview

Recommendation: that Council receive this report for information

Presentation outline:
• DTES Plan background
• Plan progress
• Priorities for next three years
Downtown Eastside Today
Engaged community with strong sense of belonging
Downtown Eastside planning area
DTES Plan (2014)

Vision: “…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.”

Nine plan objectives:
Social Impact Assessment (2014)

- Community asset mapping
- Social indicators
- Objectives:
  - Maintain places and spaces important to the health and well-being of vulnerable residents
  - Focus future planning efforts where gaps exist
  - Monitor and measure progress and impacts of development and gentrification
Plan Progress Update
City investments in the neighbourhood

Over $20 million in capital and programming grants and infrastructure upgrades

- **$10.2 million** in grants:
  - cultural and social infrastructure
  - heritage buildings
  - SRO rooms
  - community economic development
- **$1.1 million** in grants to social programs and **$250,000** to childcare programs.
- **$9.1 million** to improve the public realm neighbourhood infrastructure
Action plan implementation

- 77 Projects in action plan
  - 26 quick starts
    - 5 completed
    - 21 initiated
  - 51 short to long-term actions
    - 49 initiated
    - 2 not yet started
Progress on 30-year targets: housing

- **Secured Market Rental Housing**
  - Target: 3,000 units
  - Achieved: 535 units
  - Progress: 18%

- **Affordable Home Ownership**
  - Target: 8,850 units
  - Achieved: 172 units
  - Progress: 2%

- **Social Housing Inside DTES**
  - Target: 4,400 units
  - Achieved: 789 units
  - Progress: 18%

- **Social Housing Outside DTES**
  - Target: 3,350 units
  - Achieved: 798 units
  - Progress: 24%

- **Rent Subsidies**
  - Target: 1,650 subsidies
  - Achieved: 346 subsidies
  - Progress: 21%

- **SRO Upgrades**
  - Target: 2,200 units
  - Achieved: 1,028 units
  - Progress: 47%

- **Scattered Supportive Housing**
  - Target: 1,900 sites
  - Achieved: 335 sites
  - Progress: 18%
Progress on 30-year targets: local economy, well-being

**Retention of Existing Businesses**
Target: 2,800 businesses
Achieved: 2,756 businesses

**Reduction in Empty Storefronts**
Target: Reduction
Achieved: Stable

**Business Growth**
Target: 3-5% growth
Achieved: 4.7% growth

**New Employment Opportunities**
Target: 3,500 jobs
Achieved: 1,708 jobs

**Childcare for Age 0-4**
Target: 148 spaces
Achieved: 12 spaces

**Childcare for Age 5-12**
Target: 144 spaces
Achieved: 25 spaces

-1.5%  N/A  In Range  49%
Homelessness remains high

- Homeless counted in DTES increased by 33% 2014-2016
- Only 17% of private rooms currently renting at the shelter component of income assistance, compared to 24% in 2013
- 789 social housing units approved, under construction or completed since the DTES Plan
- Urgent need for partnership and commitment at all levels of government to deepen affordability for low income residents

Data Source: City of Vancouver Homeless Count
Acute and urgent health inequities persist

- Life expectancy is notably lower in the DTES than for the city overall
- Severe and acute challenges from current opioid overdose crisis will continue to negatively affect health outcomes
- Systemic change is needed through health policy and actions by the provincial and federal governments

![Graph showing life expectancy trends](Image)
Persistent high poverty rate, low incomes

**V6A Low Income Rate**
- 47%
- 46%
- 42%
- 44%
- 44%

**City of Vancouver Low Income Rate**
- 22%
- 21%
- 20%
- 21%
- 20%

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

**V6A Median Personal Income**
- $26K
- $27K
- $28K
- $29K
- $30K

**City of Vancouver Median Personal Income**
- $16K
- $17K
- $17K
- $18K

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

Data Source: Statistics Canada, T1 Family File
Accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development
Employment barriers and inadequate income supports

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and National Household Survey

Data Source: Statistics Canada, T1 Family File

Accessed through Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development
Progress on poverty reduction and job creation

• Community Benefits Agreement leveraging jobs for inner-city residents

• Recently approved Community Economic Development Strategy:
  – New social purpose real estate partnerships (CIRES)
  – Securing City-owned real estate assets for programming and services
  – Intensify supported low-barrier job creation on employment lands
2016 DTES Population

- 19,955 residents (2016)
- Growth rate exceeding the city average

![Graph showing population growth rates]
Neighbourhood character and pace of change

16 mixed-use projects approved in the last 3 years:
• 929 housing units:
  – 315 social housing
  – 442 secured market rental
  – 172 condo ownership units
• First inclusionary zoning project approved

Development and Rezoning applications in-stream:
• 110 social housing units if approved
• 600 social housing units on three City-owned sites
Neighbourhood character and pace of change

- Community concerns on changing neighbourhood character, especially in historic Chinatown and Gastown
- Existing, traditional and local-serving businesses are under pressure, concerns about retail gentrification
- Work underway to protect Society-owned heritage buildings, study historic businesses, social purpose real estate partnership and review development policies in Chinatown
Priorities for the Next Three Years
Key priorities

- SRO Upgrades
- Additional social housing production
- Low-income serving and culturally relevant retail
- Focus on the opioid crisis
- Public realm improvements
Questions