

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

3. Advancing Britannia Renewal

Submitted by Councillors Fry and Carr

WHEREAS

1. The Britannia Community Services Centre (BCSC) is a 17+ acre site completed in 1976, combining the original 1911-built Britannia Secondary as a Community School incorporating Britannia Elementary, and an integrated community centre including an ice rink, swimming pool, assorted recreational and social programming, and a Vancouver Public Library. The Vancouver School Board owns 70% of the BCSC site and the City owns 30% of the site.
2. The Centre serves some of the City's most at-risk communities in Grandview Woodland and Strathcona/Kiwassa. These neighbourhoods relative to the rest of the City have higher rates of low incomes, the lowest median incomes, high rates of early childhood vulnerability, and a significant number of low income seniors including those with limited English language skills. The neighbourhoods are also noted for cultural diversity with significant numbers of refugees and new Canadians, and both the city's largest urban indigenous population and arts and culture workforce.^{1,2}
3. By the late 1990's the Britannia Centre had begun to show its age, deficiencies and deterioration. Led by the BCSC Society and community, a needs assessment in 2005 inspired a Facilities Master Plan in 2007, and culminated in a 2011 Strategic Master Plan. The 2011 Master Plan suggested a new pool facility, integrated service delivery, and arts and culture programming, but was not funded in the City of Vancouver's Capital Plan of that same year.
4. Capital Funding for Britannia Renewal planning was approved by voters in 2014, with the Renewal project itself expected to span three four-year capital budgets. Planning for the Britannia Renewal helped inform the 2016 Grandview Woodland Community Plan. In 2018, the Britannia Renewal Masterplan³ was approved unanimously by Council following in-depth community consultation and extensive work with partners including the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library, and Britannia Community Services Centre Society.
5. The vision for Britannia Renewal is inclusive, community-driven, and strengthened by innovative partnerships to create an integrated hub of education, arts, culture, recreation, wellness, and sustainability. The project contemplates renewed and reimaged rink and aquatic facilities, with recreation, library, arts and culture, social development, indigenous space, food hub, education and non-market housing.⁴

6. Future population growth and needs that would be met by Britannia Renewal are suggested by new development proposed for the area, including approved below market rental, supportive, and social housing as well as increased density contemplated along the Hastings Corridor and Broadway Station areas as part of the DTES Local Area Plan (2014), Grandview Woodland Community Plan (2016), and emerging direction from the Vancouver Plan.
7. The 2018 capital plan commitment to a twelve year phased renewal has not yet delivered re-zoning or new construction, and currently the necessary funding for future phases, including construction, is unavailable.
8. The City of Vancouver's capital planning dedicates significant funding to building new and renewing ageing amenities and infrastructure, including parks and community facilities such as recreation centres, and libraries, municipal facilities, affordable housing, public safety facilities, and more.⁵Capital funding sources include City contributions (via property tax, user fees and parking revenue), Development contributions, and Partner contributions including other governments.
9. The Britannia deficiencies and deterioration identified twenty-five years ago have become even more urgent. In summer 2023 partners shifted funding and planning from renewal, to assessing and advancing critical maintenance and repair needs for existing facilities at Britannia and prioritizing that work⁶, in order to ensure that the facilities can continue to serve the community.
10. Work and planning done so far in collaboration and good faith with community and partners will be essential for any future implementation, noting that there is currently no timing, phasing, or funding for a future Britannia Renewal.
11. The City of Vancouver is committed to advancing reconciliation, equity, and anti-racism, for a fairer, safer, more inclusive city, upholding the rights and dignity of all people, addressing historic, current systemic injustice, and reducing harm for all people in Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirms its commitment to advancing Britannia Renewal planning and the vision developed collaboratively by community and partners to date, as necessary to the health, equity and growth of Grandview Woodland and Strathcona/Kiwassa area, for consideration in future Capital Plans;

FURTHER THAT, notwithstanding the commitment to Britannia Renewal planning, Council recognizes the need to prioritize available funding toward critical maintenance and repair needs at Britannia;

AND FURTHER THAT Council affirms City of Vancouver's commitment to working with Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver

School Board, Vancouver Public Library, and Britannia Community Services Centre Society (BCSCS) to achieve the Britannia Renewal goals.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back in Q2 2024 in the context of new Britannia infrastructure priorities and available funding, with revised high level plans for:
- i. Potential re-phasing and/or reconfiguration of Britannia Renewal as currently contemplated;
 - ii. Potential re-phasing and/or reconfiguration of Britannia Renewal that could be incorporated into committed repair and maintenance of existing facilities;
 - iii. Funding needs, targets and sources, including other orders of government and public benefit contributions from current contemplated zoned capacity or a new zoned capacity of local development on site, adjacent to the site, and in the catchment area;
 - iv. Timelines and targets for a renewed or potentially reconfigured Britannia Renewal plan;
 - v. Considerations around interest and participation of Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to engage with Provincial partners including but not limited to Ministries of Finance, Housing, Children and Family Development, Education and Childcare, Municipal Affairs, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Britannia-adjacent MLAs, as well as area-adjacent MPs and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and Pacific Economic Development Canada program for funding opportunities and potential partnerships to prioritize and advance the Britannia Renewal.

¹ <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/social-indicators-profile-grandview-woodland.pdf>

² <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/social-indicators-profile-strathcona.pdf>

³ <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/britannia-master-plan-2-plan-overview.pdf>

⁴ <https://britanniarenewal.org/the-vision/>

⁵ <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/capital-plan>

⁶ <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/britannia-renewal-project.aspx>