

NO: **R119**

COUNCIL DATE: **May 28, 2012**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 23, 2012**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development
General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture**

**Joint Campus City-
SD**

SUBJECT: **Letter of Intent between the City of Surrey and the Surrey Board of Education
– Partnership for Creating a Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports
Excellence**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Planning and Development Department recommend that Council:

1. Endorse the concept of and plan of action in relation to the development of a Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence (“the Campus”) in the Grandview Heights area of Surrey as documented in the Letter of Intent (the “LOI”) that is attached to this report as Appendix “A”;
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign the LOI on behalf of City Council as a demonstration of the City’s commitment to pursuing with the Surrey Board of Education the development of the Campus in accordance with the objectives and general approach outlined in the LOI; and
3. Authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the Surrey Board of Education as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to execute a Letter of Intent with the Surrey Board of Education related to the planning and development of a Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence in the Grandview Heights community of South Surrey.

BACKGROUND

Over the last 6 months City staff and Surrey School District staff have been meeting with consultants from Education Research and Development Corporation (ERDC), who are advocating for the development of co-located joint-use centres as a means to enhance service delivery to the public and gain efficiencies in public expenditures through economies of scale. As a result of these discussions it has become evident to both City staff and School District staff that the concept has merit for application in Surrey.

Having reached the above conclusion, in February 2012 staff from each of the Surrey School District and the City of Surrey with the assistance of representatives of ERDC presented the concept to those present at a Surrey City Council/Surrey Board of Education liaison meeting. The participants in that meeting from each of the City and the Surrey Board of Education agreed that the concept should be pursued with the Grandview Heights community recreation centre and the Grandview Heights high school being the nucleus of the initial focus for the planning and development of the concept.

DISCUSSION

With the informal endorsement of members of City Council and the Surrey Board of Education, staff from each of these respective organizations has developed a draft Letter of Intent (LOI) that articulates the concept of a Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence (“the Campus”) and outlines generally the commitment of each of the parties toward pursuing the planning, design and development of the Campus in the Grandview Heights area of South Surrey.

Such a partnership will be targeted toward the following outcomes:

- Broadly-based partnership involving the City of Surrey, Surrey Board of Education and other public agencies and not-for-profit organizations;
- Create new synergies through shared resources and skills = efficiencies through economies of scale;
- Allow for convenient public access to services through co-location;
- Deliver added value through leveraging resources;
- Community-based / community-generated design;
- Collaboratively developed plan; and
- Thematically integrated facilities, spaces and services linking healthy living with lifelong learning and sports excellence.

Subject to endorsement of the LOI by City Council, City staff and School District staff will immediately engage in the process documented in the LOI toward planning the Campus. Further reports complete with appropriate recommendations will be forwarded to Council and the Board of Education as the plan for the Campus evolves. The Grandview Heights swimming pool project, which is currently in the preliminary design stage, will be designed to allow for its proper integration with the Campus.

The Surrey Board of Education endorsed the execution of the LOI at its Regular meeting on May 17, 2012.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The development of the Campus will assist in achieving the goals of the City’s Sustainability Charter; more particularly, the following:

- Embrace an accessible and diverse culture;
- Have a network of accessible health and social services;
- Promote a Society where all residents feel a sense of belonging;
- Provide a range of accessible and affordable recreation, cultural and library services that respond to the needs and interests of the City’s diverse population;

- Design neighbourhoods that are friendly and responsive to the unique needs of children, youth, seniors and those with special needs; and
- Support and foster a broad range of accessible life-long learning opportunities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, it is recommended that Council:

- Endorse the concept of and plan of action for the development of a Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence (“the Campus”) in the Grandview Heights area of Surrey as documented in the Letter of Intent (the “LOI”) that is attached to this report as Appendix “A”;
- Authorize the Mayor to sign the LOI on behalf of City Council as a demonstration of the City’s commitment to pursuing with the Surrey Board of Education the development of the Campus in accordance with the objectives and general approach outlined in the LOI; and
- Authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the Surrey Board of Education as information.

Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix “A”: Letter of Intent - “Partnership for Creating a Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence in Surrey – The Grandview Heights Project”

Appendix "A"

May 14, 2012

Letter of Intent

Partnership for Creating a Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence in Surrey

The Grandview Heights Project

Introduction

The City of Surrey, the Surrey School District and other public agencies and organizations such as the Fraser Health Authority and Provincial government departments are all involved in constructing infrastructure and in delivering services from that infrastructure for the citizens of the City of Surrey. The delivery of some of these services can be enhanced and significant efficiencies gained if the City, the School District and other public agencies and organizations work together in planning and constructing infrastructure and delivering services in a co-located/joint-use manner.

With this in mind the City of Surrey and Surrey Board of Education intend to work together and encourage other partners to work with them, collaboratively, to establish a **Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence** (the "*Campus*") in the Grandview Heights area of Surrey, to serve as a model for the development of similar co-located/joint-use facilities in other areas of Surrey to the benefit of the citizens of Surrey. It is expected that this could become a model for application in other communities in the Province.

This letter of intent outlines the nature and purpose of the *Campus*, the terms of the partnership essential to creating the *Campus*, the community of focus for the *Campus*, the planning process and other relevant terms and understandings.

Vision: The City of Surrey and the Surrey Board of Education with other partners will establish a model for the Province in creating a partnership-driven, community center promoting healthy living, lifelong learning and sports excellence through co-located integrated facilities and services.

The following are distinguishing features of the proposed model:

- Broadly-based partnership involving the City of Surrey, Surrey Board of Education and other public agencies and not-for-profit organizations;
- Create new synergies through shared resources and skills = efficiencies through economies of scale;
- Allow for convenient public access to services through co-location;
- Deliver added value through leveraging resources;
- Community-based / community-generated design;
- Collaboratively developed plan; and
- Thematically integrated facilities, spaces and services linking healthy living with lifelong learning and sports excellence.

The Campus

The *Campus* is a community place where services, activities and experiences are provided to residents by a range of agencies through integrated facilities and open spaces all reflective of the interests vital to the residents of that community and that enhance the quality of living and expand access to learning with a view to enhancing each person's sense of belonging, competence and self-determination.

The *Campus* is grounded on the premise that the most reliable and durable measure of a community's prosperity and sense of vitality is the general sense of well-being (i.e., sense of belonging, competence, and self-determination) among its citizens and the greatest determinant of a person's well-being is her or his access to learning and personal growth within a healthy community. This includes the mental, physical, social, emotional and spiritual domains of personal growth through the full cycle of each person's life from birth to old age.

The *Campus* will encompass the delivery of services by the City of Surrey and by the Surrey Board of Education and efforts will be made to engage with the Fraser Health Authority, the Provincial government and community-based partners with a view to encompassing within the *Campus* an even broader array of services for the community.

Personal learning and growth happen through formal education, recreation, sports, the arts, special events and day-to-day social / cultural interactions and experiences, to name only a few domains. In addition to learning and discovery, individuals revitalize, refresh and extend themselves through health care, physical recreation, social interaction, cultural identification and celebration, intellectual, social and emotional growth, and spiritual fellowship.

Community members will be directly engaged in planning the key functions and design of the *Campus*. The core values that will characterize their engagement and underpin the *Campus*'s functionality are:

- Inclusion, teamwork and responsibility;
- Innovation and high value service delivery;
- equity and responsiveness;
- respect, integrity and community-focus;
- relevance and vitality;
- sustainability; and
- quality.

Goal: To establish a new norm of civic partnership in co-creating, resourcing and managing integrated facilities and services that support the expressed interests and needs of the community both efficiently and conveniently.

The Intent

The City of Surrey and the Surrey Board of Education are forming a partnership with one another and with others towards creating a *Campus of Learning, Healthy Living and Sports Excellence* in the Grandview Heights community of the City of Surrey that will provide a broad array of services in support of the interests and needs of residents. The following is a list of some of the potential partners:

Other Potential Partners:

- Ministry of Education, Health, MCFD;
- Fraser Health Authority;
- Libraries;
- Sports, arts, cultural associations; and
- Not-For-Profit organizations.

The Project

The Grandview Heights area of Surrey is a newly developing community in South Surrey for which the City of Surrey, the Surrey Board of Education and other public and not-for-profit agencies will need to provide infrastructure and services. The Grandview Heights General Land Use Plan projects a “build out” population for this community of 40,000 and identifies the need for a community park and related recreational facilities along with new elementary schools and a new high school.

The City of Surrey has commenced acquiring land in Grandview for a community park and a related community recreation centre and has budgeted to build a 50-meter swimming pool within the next 30 months as the first phase of the Grandview Heights recreation centre.

A consultant has been retained to design the pool and a process of public engagement has commenced. It is expected that the pool will be opened prior to November, 2014. Other phases of the recreation centre could include gymnasiums, a fitness centre, multi-purpose spaces and a library, among other spaces. The community park, within which the recreation centre will be located, will contain play fields and other outdoor recreational facilities for both casual and programmed use.

The Surrey School District has Provincial approval to acquire land for a high school to be built in Grandview Heights and is in the process of determining a suitable site. The high school will include classroom space, common areas as well as gymnasium space and will require outdoor recreation space and play fields for school programming purposes.

The City of Surrey and the Surrey Board of Education recognize that the community of Grandview Heights and the above-described plans for infrastructure in that community offer the base for the development of the *Campus* concept as previously described in this Letter of Intent.

The following approach that will be applied by the City of Surrey and the Board of Education in pursuing the development of the *Campus* in Grandview Heights:

Overall General Approach:

- Invite provincial agencies, the Fraser Health Authority and other not-for-profit agencies to become involved in planning the *Campus*;
- Agree upon partnership terms that ensure collaborative, community-based planning and development;
- Engage the partners and members of the Grandview community in the visioning and design process for the *Campus*;

- Engaging appropriate external expertise, create a master plan for the *Campus* based on the principles and concepts outlined in this letter which upon completion will be forwarded for consideration by and approval of City Council, the Board of Education and the respective Boards of other partners that become involved;
- Acquire on a partner-by-partner basis land at appropriate locations with sufficient area to accommodate the various elements of the *Campus*; and
- Establish a schedule for development of the *Campus*, which is expected to be constructed in phases over a number of years.

Updates at Appropriate Stages:

The staff of the respective partner organizations will provide reports complete with appropriate recommendations to their respective Councils/Boards at appropriate stages in the planning and design process.

Commitment of Partners:

By signing this letter of intent the City of Surrey and the Surrey Board of Education are committing to diligently pursue the development of a plan for the *Campus* in collaboration with other appropriate partners all in accordance with the vision, principles and objectives herein set out.

Dianne Watts
Mayor
City of Surrey

Laurae McNally
Chair
Surrey Board of Education