

# CHILD CARE STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

## Introduction

The Child Care Strategy for New Westminster (February 16, 2009) defines the City's role in developing a comprehensive child care system and recommends 21 actions over three years in support of developing such a system.

Regarding the City's role, it states:

***The City of New Westminster is committed to being a leader and an active partner with the senior levels of government, the School District, businesses, child care providers, faith organizations, parents and the community in developing and maintaining a comprehensive child care system. A comprehensive child care system is one that includes the provision of quality programs that are accessible and affordable.***

As part of Recommendation #2 of the Child Care Strategy (herein referred to as the Strategy), it called for the establishment of an Implementation Group to assist in the implementation of the Strategy and to prepare an annual report on the progress in implementing the Strategy. It also called for the examination of child care related issues or situations that may have arisen since the preparation of the Strategy.

The Child Care Strategy Task Group, whom helped prepare the Strategy, incorporated this recommendation for two reasons: (1) to build in an accountability component through monitoring and reporting; and (2) to ensure that the Strategy remains relevant and responsive in light of unforeseen issues or situations. It was also a recognition of the fact that the earlier 'Caring for Children' Child Care Strategy for New Westminster (1995), while comprehensive and forward thinking, did not achieve many of its objectives as there was no City staff person assigned to implement it and there was little follow-up to determine if actions were actually implemented.

## Purpose

This report provides a progress update on the implementation of the Recommended Actions. While it is primarily focused on Year 1; it does reference actions in Years 2 and 3, as progress was made on these actions as a result of opportunities which presented themselves.

For each action, it provides a written description of the progress made in implementing that action, along with an indication as to whether it has been fully, partially or not completed at all. With regard to those actions that have been partially or not completed at all, an explanation is provided as to why? For example, reasons could include lack of staff time, need to engage external expertise, etc.

Of the 17 actions in Year 1, eleven have been fully completed, four have been partially completed and two have not been completed at all. As such, the majority of these actions (65%) have been fully completed. Additionally, of the two actions in Year 2, one has been fully completed and of the two actions in Year 3, both have been fully completed.

Regarding the actions that have been partially or not completed at all in Year 1, the major limiting factor to their completion was the number of actions in Year 1 combined with a lack of dedicated staff time. Other limiting factors were the amount of staff time allocated to preparing a proposal for licensed child care as part of the development of three new schools under the Neighbourhoods of Learning Project, which was not an identified action in Year 1; the amount of staff time allocated in support of a development variance permit and two rezoning applications for three new group child care facilities; and opportunities which presented themselves, which meant that staff time was allocated to completing actions in Years 2 and 3.

### Child Care Situation:

Since the completion of the Child Care Needs Assessment (October 28, 2008), there has been a net increase of 152 licensed child care spaces in New Westminster. With regard to new spaces, there have been 142 group child care (see chart #1) and 35 family child care spaces created. There are also another 50 group child care spaces which may be created subject to rezoning approval. With regard to lost spaces, there have been 25 licensed or license not required child care spaces that have closed.

Chart #1:

Child Care Provider	Sub-Area	Total Spaces	0-36 months	30-60 months	Pre-School	School-Age
• Core Education and Fine Arts (CEFA)	Downtown	68	36	32	-	-
• Graham Montessori School	Uptown	54	-	24	20	10
• Queen Elizabeth Out-of-School Care	Queensborough	20	-	-	-	20
		142	36	56	20	30

There are also 25 licensed group child care and 20 school age care spaces proposed as part of the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre and 108 licensed group child care and 50 school age care spaces proposed as part of the development of three new schools under the Neighbourhoods of Learning Project. Regarding the former, Council endorsed in principle the preliminary concept plan for a Queensborough Child Development Hub, which would be anchored by the above cited licensed child care spaces, in October 2008. Regarding the latter, a proposal has been submitted which outlines socio-economic needs and vulnerability rates in the two neighbourhoods in which the three schools will be located, along with a listing of proposed community uses and space requirements.

### **Analysis:**

The majority of the new group child care spaces created or pending rezoning approval are for-profit operations and their fees may not be affordable to moderate and lower income families. With regard to the child care facilities proposed for civic and school facilities, if realized, they would target non-profit operators and given low or subsidized lease rates, their fees would likely be affordable to moderate and lower income families. As such, there is a key role for the City and School District, through the lease of space, in ensuring affordability, which is a central tenant in the development of a comprehensive child care system.

There are a large percentage of child care operations which are housed within facilities with uncertain lease arrangements, serious building deficiencies and/or non-optimal spaces (e.g., basements). In fact, 46% of respondents to a service provider questionnaire reported that their tenure arrangements were insecure or relatively insecure. Given the potential to accommodate child care operations within new civic and school facilities, and the establishment of a civic child care grant program, there is the potential to relocate some existing operations which face an uncertain future and to address building deficiencies and issues related to physical accessibility.

The majority of new group child care spaces target the care needs of children three to five years. In fact, of the 142 group child care spaces created and the 50 group child care spaces pending rezoning approval, 55.2% target the care needs of children three to five years. Based on the Child Care Needs Assessment (October 27, 2008) and based on child care requests to the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral, the two care types that are most in demand are infant/toddler and school age care.

Despite the creation of 142 group child care spaces, with another 50 group child care spaces pending rezoning approval, and the creation of 35 family child care spaces, only 20 of these new or pending child care spaces are located in Queensborough. The reasons for this lack of activity could be many and include: buildings and lands which are being held for speculative purposes; issues related to the floodplain; and limited appropriately sized and located commercial spaces. The proposed development of a Child Development Hub, anchored by licensed child care, as part of

the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre, would significantly increase the supply of child care in this under-resourced neighbourhood.

## **Recent Developments and Trends:**

Some of the contributing factors behind the net increase in child care spaces include:

- the preparation of the Needs Assessment and Strategy which have raised community awareness about child care needs and opportunities;
- the development of civic policies, regulations and practices to encourage and facilitate child care (e.g., the use of development variance permits to enable a portion of the required parking for child care operations to meet licensing requirements for outdoor play space);
- the downturn in the economy which has made family daycare homes more popular for those wanting a home-based business while also caring for their children;
- the low commercial lease rates, combined with the willingness of some landlords to enter into longer-term lease arrangements with child care operators, have made child care operations in such spaces more feasible and sustainable; and
- the low mortgage rates which have made the purchase of a building or home for child care purposes more attainable.

## **Directions Arising from Year 1**

- **Recommended Year 1 Actions Still Requiring Attention and Steps Needed to Implement Them**

Action #7: That discussions be held with Community Care Licensing and YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral and that interviews be conducted with recent child care applicants who have inquired about or applied for a rezoning application or development variance permit in order to identify potential undue policy, procedural or regulatory obstacles in the development of child care.

Action #8: That a survey be conducted with municipal facility managers to identify underutilized spaces that could potentially and reasonably accommodate child care programs. This listing could form the basis for further discussion around the appropriateness and feasibility of using these spaces for licensed child care purposes.

Action #10: That discussions be initiated with Parks, Culture and Recreation to determine its interest, capacity and readiness in providing licensed play-based programs and accessible, recreation-based, after-school care and drop-in programs.

Action #16: That presentations be made to Residents' Associations regarding their receptiveness to a zoning amendment which would permit group child care operations with up to 16 spaces as an outright use in all single detached dwelling districts. The presentations would commence in fall 2010 and the feedback received would inform a Report to Council in spring 2011.

- **New Areas or Issues Requiring Attention**

- Examine the implications arising from the introduction of full-day Kindergarten in September 2010 – i.e., what will be the impacts on family, group and school age care programs?
- Prepare information for business organizations and major employers regarding the benefits of child care. These benefits include enhanced productivity and improved labour force recruitment and retention. Additionally, encourage the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce to support the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's resolution, "Increasing Canada's Productivity through Early Childhood Development." This resolution states:

*That the federal government, in cooperation with the provinces, territories and other stakeholders should fund and assist in the development of a provincially-delivered early childhood development program to improve the long-term productivity of Canada through a better educated, more highly skilled workforce, resulting in superior economic performance.*

- Survey child care operators as to their current operating hours and ask them if they have considered offering non-traditional hours (e.g., evenings, statutory holidays and weekends). Additionally, ask them about the barriers or challenges to offering non-traditional hours and the strategies or supports needed to offer such hours.

- **New Developments and Trends to be Tracked**

- The changing demographics in Queensborough and the implications for child care in this neighbourhood. The Port Royal development appeals to young families with two parents in the labour force. As such, this development, and others, will increase demand for child care in this under-resourced neighbourhood. Based on the Child Care Needs Assessment, there were 3.8 group child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 in Queensborough compared to 14.6 group child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 for the City-as-a-whole.
- The erosion of funding for child care and early childhood development under the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. This erosion has significantly reduced funding for capital and operating grants for child care, and resulted in program cuts – e.g., Mother Goose, Roots of Empathy, etc.
- The increasing diversity and multiculturalism in New Westminster. What will be the impacts on the child care system? How can the child care system be more responsive to the needs of new immigrants and refugees?

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>1. That the responsibility for child care reside within the job description of the Social Planner 2 position within the City of New Westminster and that this position receive adequate resources and support to perform the prescribed duties in this area.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The job description for the Social Planner 2 position states: "You will develop and implement social planning policy in areas such as homelessness and affordable housing, <b>child care</b>, multiculturalism, and neighbourhood community development." It also states: "You will work closely with the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department on arts and culture, <b>early childhood development</b>, youth and seniors issues." Additionally, it states: "You will act as the staff liaison for City social planning committees; serve as the City's representative to outside social agencies; and review development applications with social planning components or issues or where there is an opportunity to promote social innovation."</p>	✓		
<p><b>2. That a Child Care Strategy Implementation Group be established to assist in the implementation of the new Child Care Strategy.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The New Westminster Early Childhood Development Committee's Child Care Action Team, as part of its mandate, will support the implementation of the Child Care Strategy and inform the preparation of an annual progress report on the implementation of the recommended actions as contained in the strategy. This body formed the nucleus of the Child Care Strategy Task Group which was responsible for the preparation of the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, thus its members are knowledgeable about child care and familiar with the recommended actions. They also have a vested interest in ensuring that the recommended actions are implemented.</p> <p>Given the reactivation of the Child Care Action Team after its involvement on the Child Care Strategy and given the fact that this body would include many of the same members as a Child Care Strategy Implementation Group, it was seen to be preferable to work within an existing structure rather than create a new one.</p>	✓		

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>3. <i>That the City continue to participate on the Public Partners Child Development Committee which is working to develop four ECD Hubs serving six neighbourhoods in New Westminster.</i></b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City, through Parks, Culture and Recreation and Social Planning, are active members on the Public Partners Child Development Committee. The City is also a signatory to the Public Partners Child Development Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU sets out a vision, purpose, desired outcomes and procedures. Other signatories include Fraser Health, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, School District #40 and the United Way of the Lower Mainland. The City is also an active member of the Early Childhood Development Committee and several of its Action Teams.</p> <p>The Public Partners Child Development Committee has been recognized for its innovation and success and has been asked to present at several major conferences.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p><b>4. <i>That a Child Care Protocol be developed whereby the City and School District jointly work to stabilize and increase the viability of existing child care programs so that there is no loss in spaces within their collective control and that they plan for and develop new child care spaces on City/School District lands and promote joint use of space.</i></b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>On November 9, 2009, City Council unanimously endorsed a Child Care Protocol between the City and School District. This protocol, which has also been endorsed by the School District, recognizes that licensed child care is an essential community-based service and that it makes a significant contribution to the social and economic development of New Westminster. This protocol contains seven key objectives, including maintaining and, where necessary, stabilizing existing child care spaces within their collective control, and planning for and developing new child care spaces on their collective lands.</p> <p>This protocol is further evidence of the collaboration which is occurring between the City and School District and it has been shared with the Ministry of Education as part of the proposal to develop licensed child care and early childhood development facilities under the Neighbourhoods of Learning Project within the three new schools planned for New Westminster.</p>	<p>✓</p>		

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>5. <i>That discussions be initiated with the Public Partners Child Development Committee to determine if this body would consider expanding its mandate to include child care. Recently, this body signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop four Child Development Hubs in New Westminster.</i></b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The mandate of the Public Partners Child Development Committee encompasses child care, as all four Child Development Hubs will be anchored by licensed child care. Additionally, the mandate of the committee was recently broadened to also include the middle years (i.e., children aged 6 to 12 years), which is consistent with the Child Care Strategy (i.e., 0 to 12 years). Complementary, the Early Childhood Development Committee's Child Care Action Team has been reactivated and one of its five goals is to support the implementation of the Child Care Strategy, including monitoring progress related to its implementation. It will also raise awareness about and advocate on behalf of child care and ensure that child care issues are represented at the Early Childhood Development Committee.</p>	✓		
<p><b>6. <i>That child care be designated as a 'standard' community need similar to park land and that child care planning be integrated into the municipal planning process. Additionally, that child care be considered in all appropriate development projects, including through the negotiation of developer contributions, and that neighbourhoods be planned as 'child-friendly' places.</i></b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Child care planning has become more integrated into the municipal planning process and is a consideration in all appropriate development projects in which a developer is seeking an increase in density or some other benefit. As evidence, the Senior Social Planner is involved in all major land use planning and development processes and, as part of this position's involvement, is seeking to identify potential child care opportunities. Child care targets are also being developed to guide municipal planning, particularly with regard to identifying and addressing gaps.</p> <p>Neighbourhoods are also being planned as 'child friendly' places. As evidence, the new Downtown Community Plan includes the following strategy: "Support the Downtown as a family-friendly neighbourhood, with sufficient services and amenities to meet the needs of households with children and youth." Additionally, it incorporates a number of specific actions, including: "encouraging the development of more ground-oriented housing and housing suitable for families" and "establishing guidelines for unit size distribution in new developments (e.g., number of 1BR, 2BR and 3BR)." This 'child-friendly' lens will be applied to other neighbourhoods, including the update to the Queensborough Community Plan.</p>	✓ (ongoing)		

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>7. That a review of municipal policies, regulations and procedures be conducted to ensure that no undue procedural obstacles exist in the development of child care. This review could include discussions with Community Care Licensing and YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral; an examination of other jurisdictions; and interviews with recent child care applicants.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City has reviewed its policies, procedures and regulations related to child care. Based on this review, it will be implementing a fee change whereby applicants seeking a rezoning for a group child care will be charged the lowest possible rate. The City has also confirmed that applicants who seek to rezone a single detached dwelling to facilitate the development of a group child care will continue to be assessed and taxed as Class 1, Residential and not Class 6, Business and Other.</p> <p>Additionally, all child care inquiries and rezonings are handled by the Social Planner, which is a senior position within Development Services. As such, a consistent message is provided and the inquirer or applicant is provided with expert advice and assistance related to their needs.</p> <p>It is proposed that this recommended action be addressed in Year 2. As a first step, discussions could be held with Community Care Licensing and the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral. As a follow-up step, interviews could be conducted with recent child care applicants who have inquired about or applied for a rezoning application or development variance permit in order to identify potential undue policy, procedural or regulatory obstacles in the development of child care.</p>		✓	
<p><b>8. That a review of City-owned lands and buildings be conducted to identify and inventory sites/spaces that could reasonably accommodate child care facilities/programs. Additionally, that the School District, other levels of government and major landowners be encouraged to conduct similar reviews.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Given the number of recommended actions in Year 1; given a number of unanticipated actions (e.g., the development of a proposal under the Neighbourhoods of Learning Project), and given the completion of several recommended actions in Years 2 and 3 (as a result of opportunities which presented themselves), progress was not made on this recommended action.</p> <p>It is proposed that this recommended action be addressed in Year 2. As a first step, a survey could be conducted with municipal facility managers to identify underutilized spaces that could potentially and reasonably accommodate child care programs. This listing could form the basis for further discussion around the appropriateness and feasibility of using these spaces for licensed child care purposes.</p>			✓

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>9. That consideration be given to building or incorporating space for child care facilities as part of the development of new municipal facilities or major renovations to existing ones.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Child care has been a consideration in all new municipal facilities or major renovations to existing ones. With regard to the Queensborough Community Centre, a Child Development Hub forms part of the expansion plans. As proposed, this hub would have 45 licensed child care spaces. On October 6, 2008, Council endorsed in principle the preliminary concept plan for a Queensborough Child Development Hub. With regard to the future development of the Gaswork site on Twelfth Street, one of the possible uses for the 'community hub pavilion' is licensed child care. As documented, the "child care centre could have direct access to secured outdoor play space."</p> <p>With regard to the Downtown Civic Multi-Use Facility, design and programming constraints precluded the inclusion of licensed child care. Additionally, with regard to the Youth Centre at Moody Park, the centre's budget (about \$2.5 million) and size (about 4,000 square feet) precluded the inclusion of licensed child care.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p><b>10. That Parks, Culture and Recreation examine the feasibility of providing licensed, play-based pre-school programs (that complement and not replace its tiny tot programs). Additionally, that Parks, Culture and Recreation examine the feasibility of providing accessible, recreation-based, after-school care and drop-in program options.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Given the number of recommended actions in Year 1; given a number of unanticipated actions (e.g., the development of a proposal under the Neighbourhoods of Learning Project), and given the completion of several recommended actions in Years 2 and 3 (as a result of opportunities which presented themselves), progress was not made on this recommended action.</p> <p>It is proposed that this recommended action be addressed in Year 2. As a first step, discussions could be initiated with Parks, Culture and Recreation to determine its interest, capacity and readiness in providing licensed play-based programs and accessible, recreation-based, after-school care and drop-in programs.</p>			<p>✓</p>

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>11. That targets be established for the number, type and location of child care spaces which are required to meet current and future needs by sub-area in New Westminster. These targets would be based on the amount and type of projected development, the anticipated rate of population growth and the needs assessment information.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Based on the child care needs calculator developed by the City of Vancouver, and background research into other jurisdictions, a child care needs formula has been developed and piloted for City of New Westminster. This formula, which takes into consideration the number of residential family units (i.e., two or more bedrooms), the female labour force participation rate and the child care use rate, yields information as to the number of additional child care spaces that are required as a result of new residential development. The child care use rate, which measures the percentage of children who will need some form of licensed child care outside the home, was calculated at 55% for New Westminster. This calculation is based on New Westminster Child Care Questionnaire for Parents, which was completed by 428 parents and represented the child care needs of 732 children.</p> <p>The child care needs formula will be used in the planning of community amenities and services associated with population growth and new residential development in New Westminster.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p><b>12. That a step-by-step guide to establishing a new child care operation in the City be prepared. This guide would provide information on the different types of child care; the Zoning and Building Code requirements; the municipal approval process; and relevant contact information. This guide would be regularly updated and reflect any changes and would be available in hard copy and on-line.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>A step-by-step guide has been developed and will soon be available on the City's website. This guide outlines the key steps needed to establish a licensed group child care facility in New Westminster. As part of the guide, it contains valuable information and links with regard to locational and financial considerations which will impact the sustainability of the operation. It also contains valuable information and links with regard to the City of New Westminster's Zoning Bylaw and the BC Building Code. Regarding the former, it includes information as to when a rezoning is necessary and the process involved. Regarding the latter, it includes information on Part 3 of the BC Building Code, which applies to child care operations with an occupancy load exceeding 10 people (including staff).</p>	<p>✓</p>		

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>13. That a child care page be created under the resident section of the City's official website. This site would provide direct access to the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy; the Step-by-Step Guide to Establishing a New Child Care Operation; and other municipal documentation and initiatives related to child care and early childhood development. The site would also contain links to relevant websites, including the Early Childhood Development Committee, Fraser Health and the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>A child care page has been created and contains the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, as well as other municipal documentation and reports related to child care and early childhood development. The site also contains links to other relevant websites. The child care page can be accessed at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.newwestcity.ca/business/planning_development/social_planning/articles21.php">http://www.newwestcity.ca/business/planning_development/social_planning/articles21.php</a></p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p><b>14. That child care information targeting developers and realtors be prepared. This information, which could be in the form of brochures or pamphlets, would raise awareness about investment opportunities.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>A brochure targeting realtors has been developed and will soon be available on the City's website. This brochure outlines the benefits associated with operating a child care facility; contains information about funding opportunities and zoning requirements; and provides links to resource materials. The brochure, when finalized, will be distributed to realtors in New Westminster and also be available under economic development page on the City's website.</p>		<p>✓</p>	
<p><b>15. That the City lobby the senior levels of government for increased funding and support to child care operators, caregivers and families.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City has written a number of letters to the senior levels of government with regard to child care related issues, including a letter opposing decreased grant amounts under the Minor Capital Fund for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation which is administered by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and a letter in support of a National Child Care Strategy to the Government of Canada.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>16. That child care operations with up to 16 spaces be permitted as an outright use in all single detached dwelling districts. No rezoning would be required and approval would be the responsibility of City staff and would be subject to Provincial Licensing requirements.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Considerable work has been undertaken in support of this recommended action. A report was prepared which identified potential benefits and challenges associated with such a zoning amendment. Regarding challenges, a major concern was the potential for increased traffic and parking at the neighbourhood level. To address this concern, consideration was given to limiting the number of group child care operations to one per block front in single detached dwelling districts; however, such a zoning regulation was determined to be invalid by the City's Solicitor. More specifically, it was deemed that one property owner's rights cannot be altered or dependent on the actions of another property owner. Consideration was also given to requiring prospective child care operators to contract the services of a professional engineer to undertake a transportation assessment; however, this was deemed to present another obstacle in the development process, given that an assessment can cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000.</p> <p>At a Planning Division meeting on February 15, 2010, a presentation was made based on the above cited report, including the benefits and challenges. Based on the ensuing discussion, it was determined that there needed to be consultation with all Residents' Associations with regard to their receptiveness to the proposed zoning amendment, particularly with regard to traffic and parking impacts and how best to mitigate them.</p> <p>It is proposed that this recommended action be addressed in Year 2. As a first step, presentations could be made to Residents' Associations starting in fall 2010. These presentations would outline the benefits and challenges associated with the proposed zoning amendment and gain feedback as to neighbourhood receptiveness. This feedback could be contained in a Report to Council in spring 2011, if it is determined that there is adequate community support to move forward.</p>		✓	

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>17. That larger child care operations be permitted in all residential zones, subject to Council and public review of applications. Approval would be the responsibility of City Council. In conjunction, review and establish parking requirements for such uses; develop guidelines with regard to building, siting and design; and require operators to document potential neighbourhood impacts (e.g., noise, parking and traffic).</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Progress has been made on this recommended action. Off-street parking requirements have been reviewed and confirmed for group child care operations which are located in single detached dwelling districts. 'Good Neighbour Guidelines' have also been developed for group child care operators located in residential zones. These guidelines address and provide strategies for mitigating issues associated with parking, traffic, noise and privacy. Additionally, neighbourhood impact assessments or statements, most of which deal with parking and traffic, have been reviewed in other jurisdictions. Based on this review, consideration will be given to developing such tools for New Westminster.</p>		✓	
<p><b>18. That child care be designated as a preferred community amenity and that density bonusing be used to create new child care spaces. In exchange for extra density, a developer would provide either a purpose-built child care facility or cash contributions-in-lieu to a Child Care Development Reserve Fund.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>On October 5, 2009, City Council endorsed the recommendation that 10% of all density bonus revenues be allocated for child care facilities. Under the new density bonusing system, it is estimated that the City may receive approximately \$60 million (present value) over the next 20 years – i.e., \$20 million in the first decade and \$40 million in the second decade. As such, approximately \$6 million may be available for child care capital projects over the time period in question.</p> <p>Since the financial analysis was completed, the land values have dropped and the pace of development has slowed considerably. This will impact the overall amount and timing of total revenues collected from density bonusing. As such, it will likely be several years before the City sees significant, steady revenue from the density bonusing system.</p> <p>Additionally, and not part of density bonusing, the City negotiated a voluntary amenity contribution of \$100,000 from Aragon Properties Ltd. related to Port Royal Lot 5. This contribution will be allocated towards the Child Development Hub which could form part of the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre.</p>	✓		

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>19. That a joint Employer-Employee Committee be established to review the City's personnel policies and practices and, where possible, recommend adjustments to assist City employees to better balance their responsibilities to both work and family. This committee would also determine the child care needs of City employees and explore options in meeting those needs, including the possible development of child care spaces for use by City employees. Based on the results of the review, consider encouraging other major employers in New Westminster to establish child-friendly workplace policies and on-or-off site child care facilities.</p> <p>Status Update: This recommended action fall under Year 2 and no progress has been made towards its implementation.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>20. <i>That a Child Care Development Reserve Fund be created to assist with the capital costs of developing new child care facilities and to fund a Child Care Grant Program. Where possible, this fund would be used to leverage senior government funding thus maximizing the dollars available for child care. It would be funded by cash contributions from developers who are building projects that capitalize on the density bonusing system, as well as other potential sources of funding.</i></p> <p>Status Update: On October 5, 2009, City Council endorsed the recommendation that 10% of all density bonus revenues be allocated for child care facilities. Under the new density bonusing system, it is estimated that the City may receive approximately \$60 million (present value) over the next 20 years – i.e., \$20 million in the first decade and \$40 million in the second decade. As such, approximately \$6 million may be available for child care capital projects over the time period in question.</p> <p>Since the financial analysis was completed, the land values have dropped and the pace of development has slowed considerably. This will impact the overall amount and timing of total revenues collected from density bonusing. As such, it will likely be several years before the City sees significant, steady revenue from the density bonusing system.</p>	✓		

Recommended Actions	Completion Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p><b>21. That a Child Care Grant Program be established that would include both Capital Improvement and Program Stabilization Grants. The former would assist existing child care operators to expand, renovate or repair their facility; enhance physical accessibility; or purchase new equipment. The latter would assist child care operators to stabilize their financial situation, restructure their financial systems and conduct long-term financial planning.</b></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>On January 25, 2010, City Council endorsed the establishment of a Child Care Grant Program subject to the continuation of seven day parking metres after the three to four month trial period. The program, which would be funded through Sunday parking metre revenues, would make up to eight grants of \$5,000 available annually to licensed, non-profit child care operators in New Westminster. The grants would assist child care operators to address building deficiencies and purchase needed equipment and furnishings to meet Provincial licensing requirements for health, safety and quality standards. As such, it would assist existing child care operators to remain operational. It would also enable child care operators to make improvements, which would enhance quality and physical accessibility, and could result in an increase in spaces.</p>	✓		