

October 3, 1995

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE CITY OF SURREY AND
THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGARDING RESOLUTION OF
OBJECTIONS TO THE LIVABLE REGION STRATEGIC PLAN**

BACKGROUND

On December 9, 1994, the GVRD Board approved in principle the Livable Region Strategic Plan and forwarded it to member municipalities and others for comment, in accordance with the Board's Procedural Resolution regarding preparation and adoption of a strategic plan.

By letter of June 8, 1995, the Clerk of the City of Surrey conveyed the City's comments on the Livable Region Strategic Plan. The City accepted the vision and general planning objectives of the Livable Region Strategic Plan but identified a number of concerns that, if unresolved, would prevent Surrey from accepting the Plan as a regional growth strategy under the Growth Strategies Statute Amendment Act.

On June 30, 1995, the GVRD Board extended the period for final adoption of the Livable Region Strategic Plan for 90 days to permit time to resolve objections to the Strategic Plan. Any objections still outstanding at that time would, under the Board's procedures, be noted in the text of the adopted Plan. The Board resolved to complete by October 31, 1995 the adoption process for the Livable Region Strategic Plan.

RESOLUTION OF OBJECTIONS

The City of Surrey and the Greater Vancouver Regional District agree that the following understanding resolves the City's objections to final adoption of the Livable Region Strategic Plan.

(a) Objection: implicit growth targets for Surrey.

The Livable Region Strategic Plan contains growth targets for the GVRD and for the Growth Concentration Area within the GVRD. A part of North Surrey is included within the Growth Concentration Area. The Strategic Plan does not prescribe municipal growth targets.

The City of Surrey acknowledges the Livable Region Strategic Plan's longer term growth management objectives as a framework for the Official Community Plan in order to achieve region-wide land use, transportation and environmental goals. The GVRD

acknowledges the City of Surrey's objective to achieve not only the development of Surrey City Centre and an increase in population in North Surrey but also the development of more complete communities in other parts of the municipality.

The City of Surrey undertakes to contribute to the growth management objectives of the Livable Region Strategic Plan through planning for growth within the Growth Concentration Area of the City of Surrey and the phasing of development to achieve that objective. The GVRD acknowledges the past land use decisions of the City of Surrey as of the date of this agreement and the constraints on growth within the Growth Concentration Area from land availability, redevelopment potential and market forces. Further, the GVRD acknowledges that the City of Surrey will achieve the growth management objectives of the Livable Region Strategic Plan to the extent possible, given the constraints noted above, and if the growth objectives for the Growth Concentration Area are not being achieved then additional growth capacity may need to be found, first, within other parts of the Growth Concentration Area or, second, within other parts of the GVRD such as the City of Surrey community of Cloverdale.

(b) Objection: withhold acceptance of the Livable Region Strategic Plan as a "Regional Growth Strategy" under Bill 11 on the grounds:

- that it may infringe on local autonomy in planning and development,
- that it will have the effect of limiting completion of Cloverdale and future urban development of Grandview Heights, and,
- that the Future Surrey and Official Community Plan processes have not been completed.

The City of Surrey and the GVRD acknowledge that that it is reasonable and proper for Greater Vancouver's growth to be managed under the provisions of the Growth Strategies Statute Amendment Act in that it provides a non-hierarchical framework for regional and municipal planning and a process for resolving disputes between equal partners. The City of Surrey and the GVRD agree that growth management concerns are resolved by the understanding set out in (a) above, which provides the basis for a regional context statement.

(c) Objection: a number of proposals should be reviewed in working towards acceptance of the Livable Region Strategic Plan and a regional context statement for Surrey's Official Community Plan. These include:

- completion of communities through additional urban development,
- concurrent review and acceptance of the Livable Region Strategic Plan and regional context statement to reflect Future Surrey and the Official Community Plan update, and,
- transportation proposals that modify or add to those in the Livable Region Strategic Plan.

The City of Surrey and the GVRD acknowledge the need to ensure coordination between the Livable Region Strategic Plan and Surrey's Official Community Plan, and the implementation of the Plans. The City of Surrey and the GVRD acknowledge that these issues will be addressed during further work on Surrey's Official Community Plan and on implementing and refining the Livable Region Strategic Plan.

Approved by GVRD Board: *October 27, 1995*

Approved by Council: *October 10, 1995*