



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole of July 5, 2018**

Date: June 29th, 2018

From: Councillor Jeremy Loveday and Mayor Helps

Subject: Supporting the creation of more childcare spaces in Victoria West

Background

There is an acute need for more childcare spaces in the City of Victoria. In response to this urgent need and at the request of childcare providers, Mayor Helps convened the “Childcare Solutions Working Group”, which has been meeting regularly for the past year. The Working Group is comprised of non-profit childcare providers, a representative from the Province, representatives from Island Health, including the Chief Medical Officer, representatives from the school district, including the Superintendent of School District 61, and the business community including the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce.

Working collaboratively, the “Childcare Solutions Working Group” has identified a number of short, medium and long-term solutions including the addition of Modular Learning Studios to accommodate the increase in childcare capacity. It recently agreed that Victoria West should serve as the pilot project neighbourhood in which to first implement a Modular Learning Studio solution in 2019. Meanwhile, the Victoria West Community Association has been working to expand childcare offerings in Victoria West, exploring opportunities for funding, and the possibilities available to them for expanding the number of childcare space they offer at the Victoria West Community Centre.

To fully explore these options, and to prepare to make the most of available Provincial funding, City Staff support is needed. The Victoria West Community Centre is City owned and is located within Banfield Park so any changes or enhancements to the Victoria West Community Centre will need to be executed collaboratively by the City of Victoria and the Victoria West Neighbourhood Association.

It is recommended that Council authorize City Staff to assist the Victoria West Community Association with the exploration of upgrades and the associated City approval processes needed to increase the number of childcare spaces at the Victoria West Community Centre. Once the scale of staff assistance has been defined, Council will be advised of any material impacts to existing workload commitments or financial resources.

Recommendation

Council direct staff to assist the Victoria West Community Association with the exploration of upgrades and the associated City approval processes needed to increase the number of childcare spaces at the Victoria West Community Centre.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Councillor Jeremy Loveday.

Councillor Jeremy Loveday

Handwritten signature of Mayor Lisa Helps.

Mayor Lisa Helps