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To be listed on the Community Services  
Committee Agenda, 15 Apr 99

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DATE 15 March 1999

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Council

FROM/EXP. Social Services Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **SOCIAL FORECASTING UPDATE**

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BACKGROUND

In April 1998, the Community Services Committee (CSC) adopted a motion requesting that:

**“...Social Services work with Health, OC-Transpo, Regional Police, Homes for the Aged, and Community Partners to establish a Social Forecast, concurrent with any Fiscal Forecasts, and that they be presented together.”**

This report updates Committee and Council on the workplan for preparing the Social Forecasts.

DISCUSSION

Establishment of a Task Force

In September 1998, Regional Services and Community Partners were asked for representatives to constitute a Social Forecasting Task Force. Planning and Development Approvals and Economic Affairs were also invited to join the Task Force to provide assistance with the forecasting of demographic and economic indicators. As a result, a Task Force of 12 representatives was struck, including one representative from the community.

## Approach

Social forecasts will be presented to Committee and Council in a document to be entitled the Social Outlook Document (SOD). The preparation of the SOD includes the following steps:

### 1. Identification of the Indicators to be Forecast

The indicators to be included in the SOD are drawn from the broad areas of population, employment, public health, long-term care, public transit, policing and social services. Task force participants are responsible for identifying and selecting the specific indicators that are relevant to their areas of service provision. This step was completed at the end of January, 1999, with approximately 150 indicators identified for the SOD.

### 2. Forecasting and Reporting

The initial SOD will span 1999 to 2004. The subsequent five year forecasts (i.e. 2005 to 2009) will be completed by the end of 2004. Each five year forecast will be followed by annual updates which will report on any significant deviations from underlying assumptions and, if necessary, provide revisions to forecasts.

Service areas will be separately forecast and reported on. The individual service area reports will be compiled into a draft SOD which will then be edited for uniformity and consistency during May and June 1999. An Executive Summary will also be prepared and translated.

### 3. Submission to Committee and Council

The draft SOD will be submitted to CSC at the end of July, with a recommendation to schedule a public consultation meeting in September. The final report is expected to be submitted to CSC for adoption by Council in October 1999.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Subsequent to the scheduling of the public consultation meeting, the SOD will be circulated to area municipalities and a number of agencies, including the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Canadian Council on Ageing, the Vanier Institute of the Family, the National Council of Welfare and the Ottawa-Carleton Social Planning Council for review and comment. All comments received will be compiled and discussed in a staff report to be tabled at the public meeting in September. The final version of the SOD will reflect the outcome of the public meeting.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that approximately \$15,000 will be required to translate the Executive Summary of the SOD, and to finance costs associated with printing. The exact cost will not be known until the draft report is completed.

*Approved by  
Dick Stewart*

cc: Dr. Robert Cushman,  
Regional Medical Officer Of Health

Mr. M.J.E. Sheflin,  
Environment & Transportation Commissioner  
OC-Transpo Acting General manager

Mr. Brian J. Ford,  
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Mr. Garry Armstrong,  
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Mr. Nick Tunnacliffe,  
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Ms. Stella Andriopoulos,  
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