Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 22, 2014

REPORTS

Minute No. 105 Homelessness Partnering Strategy - Renewal of Agreement

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to proceed with negotiations to renew the agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Canada whereby the City will fulfill the role of Community Entity in Winnipeg to administer funds under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

2. That if such negotiations are successful, the City enter into an administration agreement with the federal government that sets forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which the City will fulfill the role of Community Entity in Winnipeg to administer funds under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and that the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of such administration agreement.

3. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated authority to negotiate and approve on behalf of the City any future renewals of such administration agreement and that the Chief Administrative Officer also be delegated the authority to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all agreements required to implement the intent of the foregoing.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: ***Renewal of Agreement for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy***

Critical Path: **Executive Policy Committee – Council**

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
W. Yee	B. Thorgrimson	M. Ruta CFO	D. Joshi A/CAO

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Public Service be directed to proceed with negotiations to renew the agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Canada whereby the City will fulfill the role of Community Entity in Winnipeg to administer funds under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).
2. That if such negotiations are successful, the City enter into an administration agreement with the federal government that sets forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which the City will fulfill the role of Community Entity in Winnipeg to administer funds under the HPS and that the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of such administration agreement.
3. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated authority to negotiate and approve on behalf of the City any future renewals of such administration agreement and that the Chief Administrative Officer also be delegated the authority to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all agreements required to implement the intent of the foregoing.
4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On March 21, 2012, Council concurred with a recommendation by the Executive Policy Committee, “that the City of Winnipeg enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada to assume the role as Community Entity for delivery of Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding in Winnipeg through March 31, 2014…”. The City entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada on April 25, 2012 to fulfill this role,

and is now acting as Community Entity in Winnipeg for administration of HPS funds. The agreement expires on March 31, 2014 and is available for renewal for up to a five-year period. As Council approved the current agreement up to March 31, 2014, Council approval is required for continued activity.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

By continuing as the delivery agent for HPS funds, the City will ensure that funding for homelessness is consistent with City of Winnipeg policies and procedures.

The City will administer direct funding for solutions for homelessness with no requirement for contribution from its operating budget.

Administration costs of the City will be covered by a portion of the funding provided by the Government of Canada; therefore, the administration of the project will be cost neutral to the City's budget.

The City will be required to adhere to funding criteria established by Service Canada regarding how it can process, approve and monitor applications and funding recommendations.

HISTORY

The Government of Canada, through Employment and Social Development Canada (previously Human Resources and Skills Development Canada), provides funding for projects that support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This funding has been known since 2007 as the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and until early 2012 was administered in Manitoba directly by the federal government. This model of administration was known as "Shared Delivery", whereby federal staff would solicit proposals, disburse funding and monitor progress of approved projects.

In 2011, HRSDC directed its administration to shift funding delivery to a model known as the "Community Entity" (CE) model, under which a local organization delivers funding on behalf of the Government of Canada. The Housing Development Division of the Planning, Property and Development Department requested and received authorization from Council on April 27, 2011 to submit a proposal to assume the role of Community Entity, and that proposal was ultimately successful.

On March 21, 2012, Council approved, "that the City of Winnipeg enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada to assume the role as Community Entity for delivery of Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding in Winnipeg through March 31, 2014…". On April 25, 2012, the City of Winnipeg entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada to assume the role of Community Entity in Winnipeg for administration of Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funds. The agreement provided a total of $11,514,688, to be split evenly between fiscal years 2012-13 and

2013-14 ($5,757,344 per year). The agreement was later amended to accommodate eleven projects for which negotiations had begun through Service Canada under the Shared Delivery model, but were then transferred to the City for administration. These additional projects increased the funds available to the City by $2,345,120 for a total available funding of $13,859,808 over the two-year period.

Under the current agreement, the City recovers 100% of costs associated with administering HPS funds. Administrative costs include staffing (0.5 FTE Coordinator, 3 FTE Program Officers, 1.6 FTE Program Assistants and 0.5 FTE Clerk), office (rent, phones, etc.) and operational costs. To date, the City has been successful in negotiating 43 agreements with a combined total of $12.45 million in addition to administrative costs recouped by the City.

The current agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Canada expires on March 31, 2014, and the two parties must renew this agreement in order for the City to continue in its role as Community Entity for administration of HPS in Winnipeg. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) for HPS in Winnipeg has recommended to the Government of Canada that this agreement be renewed. The new HPS funds have been committed by the federal government for five years, and the renewal of the City's agreement can be up to that length of time. The CAB will provide a recommendation to the federal government for the length of the City's renewal, and a five-year term is preferred.

The Government of Canada provides funds for CE administration and for projected sub-project costs in advance; therefore, the City will assume no interest expenses or risk associated with financing of CE activities.

In the report: ***Agreement with the Government of Canada to Deliver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Funding,*** adopted by Council on March 21, 2012 the Public Service noted 4 primary advantages to becoming the Community Entity (CE), and 8 operational objectives, these are:

Primary advantages to the City and Federal Government:

1. Increased flexibility to address local needs and issues; (achieved)
2. Ability to approve sub-projects more quickly; (achieved – time cut almost in half)
3. Opportunity to align delivery of homelessness projects and services with other policies and plans of the City; and
4. Opportunity to work more closely with the community and service delivery organizations related to homelessness in Winnipeg. (achieved)

Operational objectives:

1. Issue two annual CFPs for HPS funding.
2. Provide initial screening of proposals upon closure of each CFP.
3. Present proposals to CAB for evaluation.

4. Prepare recommendations for funding based on internal evaluation and CAB recommendations.
5. Prepare Legal Agreements between City and proponents for approved projects.
6. Monitor project delivery and expenditures.
7. Prepare project payments according to schedules established for individual projects.
8. Prepare quarterly reports for Service Canada on CE operation.

All eight of the operational objectives were accomplished; of the four advantages to becoming CE, the Public Service has achieved 3 and has moved forward on aligning delivery of homelessness projects and services with other policies and plans of the City; this item is a long term objective.

Since 2012, the City in its capacity as a Community Entity has committed approximately $13.3 million to projects that address homelessness in Winnipeg. Of the 43 projects that have been approved for funding, 29 are service delivery projects, 11 are for capital construction (both new construction and renovation of existing facilities) and three comprise a combination of capital construction and service delivery.

Examples of Capital construction projects include 40 new two-bedroom residential units at 207 Edmonton (Marie Rose Place) and up to 30 living spaces for young adults at 88 Arthur (Pam Am Place).

Examples of Service delivery include the North End Women's Centre who provide addiction counselling and aftercare services for women living in 6 transitional housing units and Resource Assistance for Youth – funding allows them to provide meals, clothing, and other supports for an average of 26 homeless youth per day.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** December 2, 2013

Project Name:

Renewal of Agreement for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report. All costs including both grants related to sub-projects approved under the HPS and HPS administrative costs are 100% funded by the Government of Canada.

"Original Signed By"
Mike McGinn, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there was consultation with:

Legal Services Department

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Division: Housing Development
Prepared by: Dave Dessens
Date: *December 2, 2013*
File No.

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