



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Development of New Child Care Centres

Date:	October 17, 2007
To:	Community Development and Recreation
From:	General Manager, Children's Services
Wards:	39 and 1
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to spend funds from the Child Care Capital Reserve in accordance with the City's Child Care Service Plan for the construction of two new purpose built child care centres included in Children's Services' 2007 Approved Capital Budget and 2008 – 2011 Capital Plan. Approval is also sought to enter into agreements with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) for construction of a child care centre adjacent to Chester Le Junior Public School (Child Care Project B); and with the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) for the construction of a child care centre adjacent to St. Andrew Catholic School (Child Care Project C).

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (1) Child Care Centre B, approved in Children's Services 2007 Capital Budget be designated as the new purpose built child care centre adjacent to Chester Le Junior Public School, and Child Care Centre C, included in Children's Services' 2008 – 2011 Capital Plan be designated as the new purpose built child care centre adjacent to St. Andrew Catholic School;
- (2) funding of up to \$1.959 million for the construction of Child Care Centre B and funding of up to \$1.959 million for the construction of Child Care Centre C be drawn for the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose; and
- (3) the General Manager of Children's Services Division be delegated authority to execute agreements on behalf of the City with the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board and such agreements be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Children's Services' 2007 Approved Capital Budget includes a previously approved New Child Care Centre Project for the construction of four new child care centres over the period of the Council approved Child Care Service Plan. The project's estimated cost of \$8.0 million is funded from the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund.

The recommendations will have no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in Children's Services' 2007 Approved Capital Budget and 2008 – 2011 Capital Plan.

The Child Care Capital Reserve Fund, with a 2007 projected year end balance of \$11.8 million has sufficient funds to support these recommendations.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

The Best Start Service and Transition Infrastructure Plan was approved by City Council on October 26, 27, 28 and 31, 2005, in the staff recommendations in the recommendations section of the Policy and Finance Committee Report 9, Clause 21.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/council/cc051026/pof9rpt/cl021.pdf>

Child Care Project A, Thorncliffe Park Child Care Centre, was approved by City Council at its meeting on April 25, 26 and 27, 2006. The approved budget was \$1.959 million.

<http://www.toronto.ca/children/pdf/thorncliffe.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Best Start Service and Transition Infrastructure Plan outlined the allocation of Best Start funding for child care expansion projects including construction/renovation funding and start-up funding for each new child care space created under the Best Start Plan. Despite the cancellation of the federal-provincial agreement for Early Learning and Child Care, there was sufficient funding from the first two years of Best Start to complete 55 projects identified in Phase 1 and a handful of the highest priority projects in Phase 2.

The New Child Care Project was developed to increase child care in the most underserved areas of the City. The Best Start Infrastructure plan outlined the areas of the City with poorest access to child care and is consistent with the Child Care Service Plan. Child Care Project A was approved in order to maintain services in Thorncliffe Park.

As noted above the Children's Services Capital Budget includes the development of a new child care fully funded through the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund. Funds from the Reserve have been used to maintain existing child care centres facing loss of their location (e.g., Thorncliffe Park) and to support the growth of child care in accordance

with the Child Care Service Plan. This report names Chester Le and St. Andrew elementary schools as the next two centres in the New Child Care Centre Project.

COMMENTS

Subject to suitable design Child Care Project B adjacent to Chester Le Junior Public School, 21 Chester Le Blvd, Toronto, Ontario M1W 2K7 in Ward 39 is expected to provide 66 new spaces including 46 spaces for children 0-4 years including: 10 Infant, 20 Toddler, 16 Pre-school and 20 JK / SK.

Child Care Project C adjacent to St. Andrew Catholic School, 2533 Kipling Ave. Etocicoke, Ontario M9V 3A8 in Ward 1 will is expected to have 46 new spaces for children 0-4 years including: 10 Infant, 20 Toddler, and 16 Pre-school. The additional spaces will supplement the 20 JK / SK spaces previously developed under Phase 1 of Best Start.

Consistent with the Best Start Phase1, operator selection will be done through a joint Expression of Interest Process with the school board for sites where there is no existing child care operator. The operator will be required to enter into a purchase of service agreement with the City for provision of child care subsidy and meet all of the City's service contract requirements.

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SIGNATURE

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