

## **Child Care Development in Thorncliffe Park School**

<b>Date:</b>	February 1, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Children's Services
<b>Wards:</b>	26
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

---

This report seeks approval to fund a new child care centre in Thorncliffe Park Elementary School from the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund. It also seeks authority to enter into an agreement with the Toronto District School Board for the construction of the child care centre as part of an expansion project at the school.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The General Manager, Children's Services recommends that:

- 1) City Council approve funds of up to \$3.8million for the construction of a new child care centre at Thorncliffe Park Elementary School, 80 Thorncliffe Park Drive, to be funded from the Child Care Capital Reserve fund;
- 2) City Council increase the 2010 Operating Budget for Children's Services by \$3.8 million gross and \$0 net with funding from the Child Care Capital Reserve fund;
- 3) City Council direct that the General Manager of Children's Services Division be delegated authority to negotiate and execute agreements on behalf of the City with the Toronto District School Board for the design and construction of this project, and such agreements be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager and the City Solicitor; and
- 4) this report be forwarded to Budget Committee for its consideration.

## **FINANCIALIMPACT**

The Toronto District School Board is undertaking an expansion at Thorncliffe Park Elementary School. There is an opportunity for the City to build additional spaces for child care as part of the construction project. The City will determine how the centre will be operated during the project's design and construction phase. In making this decision, City staff will consider the 2010-2014 Child Care Service Plan. The total project cost (minus the school age room to be funded by the TDSB) is estimated at \$3.8 million, to be funded from the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund. The Child Care Capital Reserve Fund's projected year-end balance as of December 31, 2009 is \$10.543 million, with \$3.652 million committed for various projects in 2010, leaving a balance of \$6.891 million after withdrawals in 2010. The TDSB needs reassurance at this time that the funds are available and can be accessed at the appropriate time.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

City Council at its meeting of May 17, 2005 considered a report dated April 11, 2005 from the General Manager of Children's Service and approved the City of Toronto's Child Care Service Plan for 2005-2009.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/council/cc050517/pof5rpt/cl020.pdf>

Amendments to the plan were approved at Council meetings of October 26, 2005; See Approval of the Best Start Service and Transition Plan as Amendments to the 2005-2009 Toronto Child Care Service Plan Appendix 1 Best Start Transition Infrastructure Plan.

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

Council at its meeting of December 1, 2 and 3, 2008 adopted draft principles for the 2010-2014 Child Care Service Plan.

[http://www.toronto.ca/children/pdf/serviceplan\\_2010-2014.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/children/pdf/serviceplan_2010-2014.pdf)

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Children's Services Child Care Capital Reserve Fund is intended to support growth of child care in communities that are significantly deficient and to support the growth of child care in accordance with the Child Care Service Plan. Creating new child care in schools provides an opportunity for integration of early learning environments by combining child care with kindergarten programs. The opportunity to build additional space for child care during the construction of the school expansion is particularly timely because of the implementation of full day learning. The licensed capacity would include 20 infants, 20 toddlers, and 48 pre-schoolers for a total of 88 children. The TDSB would fund shared space in a school age room for an additional 30 school age children bringing the total new child care spaces to 118.

## **COMMENTS**

Both the Best Start Service and Transition Plan and the City's Child Care Service Plan identify the need to increase child care services in communities that are not receiving their equitable share. Lack of physical child care space is the largest barrier to equitable access to child care subsidies. Through the use of reserve funds, this report proposes the creation of up to 88 new child care spaces in a community that is deficient of child care. The TDSB would fund shared space in a school age room for 30 school age children bringing the total new child care spaces to 118. The space that Children's Services is providing is for children up to age 3.8 and therefore will not be impacted by the Early Learning Program or by the full implementation of the Charles Pascal vision.

In order to equitably distribute the limited number of subsidy spaces among city wards, ward equity targets were established. A ward's equity target is based on dividing the number of available subsidized spaces by the ward's proportion of the City's low-income children. In terms of ward equity ceilings for child care subsidy, Ward 26 is the most underserved ward in the City of Toronto. The equity ceiling is 1,138 and there are 814 children enrolled. This means that the difference is 326 or 29% under equity. All 24,000 budgeted subsidies for the City of Toronto are currently being utilized and placement is occurring as withdrawals occur based on age and geographic equity principles.

## **CONTACT**

Gail O' Donnell  
Manager, Capital Projects  
Tel: 416-397-5086  
Email: [godonnel@toronto.ca](mailto:godonnel@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Elaine-Baxter-Trahair  
General Manager, Children's Services