

## **Bridging High-Risk Gang Involved Youth to Labour Market Participation – Additional Requested Information**

<b>Date:</b>	May 8, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>From:</b>	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

---

This report provides additional information about a proposed one-year youth gang intervention project, *Bridging High Risk Gang Involved Youth to Labour Market Participation* (the "Bridging Project"). Due to recent changes to the design of the Bridging Project at the request of Public Safety Canada, the Project's funder, the Project will be significantly scaled back, with a smaller project design to be finalized by the end of May.

This report recommends that the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, report to the June 6, 2012 meeting of City Council with an amended set of recommendations to the report BU24.2 *Bridging High-Risk Gang Involved Youth to Labour Market Participation*, including the additional information on the Project requested by the Budget Committee at its April 27, 2012 meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

**The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:**

1. Executive Committee direct that the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration report directly to City Council's meeting of June 6, 2012 with an amended set of recommendations to the report BU24.2 *Bridging High-Risk Gang Involved Youth to Labour Market Participation*, and the additional information related to BU24.2 requested by the Budget Committee at its April 27, 2012 meeting.

## **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of April 27, 2012, Budget Committee considered the report BU24.2 *Bridging High-Risk Gang Involved Youth to Labour Market Participation*. The Committee directed the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report directly to the May 14, 2012 Executive Committee meeting on:

1. Further background information on the identification and targeting of selected neighbourhoods and/or wards for this program.
2. A process for other Wards to access funds for programming and strategies under this spending envelope.

A summary of the Budget Committee's deliberations on report BU24.2 can be found here: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.BU24.2>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Staff have been working closely with representatives of Public Safety Canada (PSC) to reach agreement on funding for a one-year follow-up initiative to the City's *Prevention Intervention Toronto* (PIT) program for at-risk and gang-involved youth, which concluded on March 31, 2012.

At its April 27, 2012 meeting, the Budget Committee considered a report from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA), recommending the approvals required to accept funds from PSC for this follow-up initiative, *Bridging High-Risk Gang Involved Youth to Labour Market Participation* (hereafter referred to as the "Bridging Project".) As with the PIT pilot project that preceded it, the Bridging Project is a targeted place-based initiative, that will operate in the neighbourhoods of Dorset Park, Rockcliffe-Smythe and Weston-Mt Dennis. In considering the report, the Budget Committee directed staff to provide additional information regarding the geographically targeted nature of the Bridging Project to the Executive Committee for their consideration in conjunction with the original report.

## **COMMENTS**

Since the Budget Committee's meeting of April 27, 2012, staff have continued to meet with representatives of PSC to finalize remaining elements of the Bridging Project's design and refine Project funding timelines, pending City Council approvals necessary to proceed. On May 4, 2012, City staff were informed by federal representatives that PSC was only able to support a Bridging Project model of limited scope and capacity that would not include some significant Project components originally envisioned by City staff.

Discussions between the City and PSC representatives continue with the goal of finalizing sufficient project funding to support a scaled-back project design that meets the goals and objectives of both orders of government while still supporting gang-attached youth transition to career-focused labour market entry. City staff expects negotiations will be concluded by the end of May. Until all elements of the revised Bridging Project's design have been finalised, staff will not be in a position to accurately respond to the Budget Committee's request for additional information on the Project's scope.

Once project design and funding timelines have been finalized and confirmed with PSC officials, the Executive Director, SDF, will report to the June 6, 2012 meeting of City Council with an amended set of recommendations to the report BU24.2 *Bridging High-Risk Gang Involved Youth to Labour Market Participation*, and the additional information on this project requested by the Budget Committee at its April 27, 2012 meeting.

## **CONTACT**

Lydia Fitchko  
Director, Social Policy, Analysis and Research  
Social Development, Finance & Administration  
Tel: (416) 392-8614  
Fax: (416) 392-4976  
email: [lfitchko@toronto.ca](mailto:lfitchko@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Chris Brillinger  
Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration