



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Enhanced Cold Weather Drop-In Services

Date:	June 9, 2015
To:	City Council
From:	Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Internal Services\Fp\Cc15017Fp

SUMMARY

At its meeting of May 21st, 2015, the Community Development and Recreation Committee recommended that funds be provided to ensure that enhanced Cold Weather drop-in services, (set out in the report titled "Feasibility of Enhanced Cold Weather Drop-In Services"), are implemented in January, 2016. The Committee also directed that the Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer report directly to City Council on identification of source of funds \$416,000 to implement this recommendation. This report responds to the Committee's request.

The City continues to face significant budgetary challenges with the projected pressure estimated at \$355 million in 2016 or a potential 14% tax increase. There are significant challenges within Shelter, Support and Housing Administration in the upcoming years exacerbated by the Provincial loss in Toronto Pooling Compensation and the loss of Federal funding due to operating agreement expiries for Social Housing properties. With no additional funding forthcoming from other orders of government, the administration of the social housing portfolio is at risk.

As this service improvement was not included in the 2015 Approved Operating Budget, the report recommends Option 1 that the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration submit a business case for enhanced Cold Weather drop-in services for consideration through the 2016 City Operating budget process. Option 2 provides a temporary funding source if Council wants to proceed in advance of the 2016 Budget.

It is further recommended that any proposed service level enhancements be included in the Service Level Review presentation to the Community Development and Recreation Committee meeting on June 24, 2015 to allow Committee and Council to consider the

challenges and the resulting "action plans" and "strategies" relative to other service priorities, competing service demands and within the context of City's financial condition or affordability framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer recommends that:

1. City Council delete Committee Recommendation 2, Item CD4.4 and replace with Option 1 as follows;
 - a. City Council authorize the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to submit a business case for enhanced Cold Weather drop-in services for consideration through the 2016 City Operating budget process.
2. City Council direct General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to include the proposed service level enhancements in the Service Level Review presentation to the Community Development and Recreation Committee meeting on June 24, 2015.

Financial Impact

The recommended Option 1 has no financial implications. Should Council adopt Option 2 then the cost of the service improvement would be \$416,000.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 21 2015, Community Development and Recreation Committee recommended that funds be provided to ensure that enhanced Cold Weather drop-in services, set out in the report titled "Feasibility of Enhanced Cold Weather Drop-In Services (May 6, 2015) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, are implemented in January, 2016. The Committee further requested the Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer to report directly to City Council on identification of source of funds.

On February 10 and 11, 2015, City Council directed the General Manager, SSHA, to report to the May 21, 2015 meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the feasibility of operating additional drop-in and/or warming services during the 2016 winter season, complementing and supplementing the Out of the Cold program and schedule, regardless of any issuance of Extreme Cold Weather Alerts. (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD1.6>)

At the meeting held July 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2014, City Council adopted a report reviewing the City's cold weather protocols and the health impacts of cold weather. Council directed the General Manager, SSHA, to issue a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) in 2014 to establish community interest in operating and/or co-ordinating 24-hour drop-in services during Extreme Cold Weather Alerts.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD30.6>)

At the meeting held December 16, 17 and 18, 2013 City Council received a report on the feasibility of establishing 24-hour warming centres during Extreme Cold Weather Alerts.

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-64903.pdf>)

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting of May 21st, 2015, the Community Development and Recreation Committee adopted the report titled "Feasibility of Enhanced Cold Weather Drop-In Services" (May 6, 2015). In that report, staff recommended that the enhancement of community-based cold weather services be considered as part of the 2016 budget review process for implementation in 2016/17. However, the Committee moved a motion for the proposed enhancement to be implemented in 2015/2016 without identifying any funding source. Further, the Committee requested the Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer to report directly to City Council on identification of source of funds to implement this recommendation.

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer considered 2 options as presented below:

Option I

Given that the necessary on-going funding to support the service improvements was not included in the 2015 Approved Budget, it would be inappropriate to make service level changes in advance of the 2016 Budget. Consequently, a more appropriate course of action would be to reinstate the original staff recommendation included in the report "Feasibility of Enhanced Cold Weather Drop-In Services" (May 6, 2015) requesting the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration submit a business case for enhanced Cold Weather drop-in services for consideration through the 2016 City Operating budget process.

The discussion of service levels would also be undertaken during the upcoming Committee Service Level Review process.

Option 2

Should Council choose to go ahead with the proposed enhancement for implementation in January 1, 2016, one-time funding of \$416,000 will have to be provided from the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund for 2015/2016 winter season with future on-going funding to be considered as part of the 2016 budget process.

COMMENTS

City Council, at its meeting of May 5, 6, 7 2015, approved a report titled "Recommended Multi-Year Service-Based Planning and Budgeting Process" for staged implementation of the approved multi-year service-based planning and budgeting process for the City, with the implementation beginning with a service level review by Standing Committees in June 2015 for the 2016 Budget process. Standing Committee recommended service level changes will be forwarded to the Budget Committee which will review the recommendations and their financial impacts in the context of the City's financial outlook. These recommended service level changes along with budgetary guidelines will be utilized by City Programs, Agencies, the Budget Committee and Executive Committee to establish their 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets and Plans.

The City continues to face significant budgetary challenges in the upcoming years. Given significant financial constraints, it is prudent to ensure there is an alignment of scarce resources to Council's priorities and directions over a multi-year time frame.

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SIGNATURE

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