



## The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: July 13, 2016

Time: 3:33 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Vassilakos - Vice Chair, Councillor Ritsma

Regrets: Councillor Bunting, Councillor Clifford

Staff Present: Carole Desmeules - Director of Social Services, Kim McElroy - Manager of Ontario Works, Ramana Ganesaratnam, Manager of Housing , \*Grant Martin - Housing and Homelessness Coordinator, Joan Thomson - City Clerk, Caitlin Gillis - Council Clerk Secretary, Victoria Trotter - Recording Secretary

Staff Absent: Rob Horne - Chief Administrative Officer, Barb Hobson - Manager of Child Care, Corry Gunn - Manager of Anne Hathaway Day Care, Barb Smith - Administrative Assistant to the Director of Social Services, Andre Morin - Director of Corporate Services

Also present: Members of the Public, Media, Ron Latham, Tracy Birtch - Social Research and Planning Council, Erica Clarke - Social Research and Planning Council, Ryan Erb - Social Research and Planning Council

### 1. Call to Order

Councillor Henderson, Chair presiding, called the Meeting to Order.

## 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

### Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

None declared at the July 13, 2016 Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

## 3. Delegations

### 3.1 Social Research & Planning Council - 2015 Year End Report

**Staff Recommendation:** That the presentation on Community Trends Platform from Tracy Birtch of the Social Research & Planning Council be heard.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** Tracy Birtch, Erica Clarke and Ryan Erb of the Social Research and Planning Council provided an overview of the 2015 Year End Report.

A community trends platform is an online indicator system that identifies and tracks relevant data that speak to a community's well-being and is available to all members of the community. These indicators provide information on the overall direction of a community, providing data on where it is improving, declining, and/or staying the same.

The 2016-2019 Strategic Workplan included a Living Wage Report and Violence Against Women Report Evaluation.

At the Sub-committee meeting the Planning Council requested \$30,000 for the Social Research and Planning Council to fund a 0.5 FTE Community Research and Data Analyst position for Phase 2 of the Community Trends Platform project.

Sub-committee asked what the salary would be for the Analyst. The Planning Council responded that the salary would be \$60,000.

Sub-committee questioned if the donation from Huron County for \$30,000 in project funding would only be given if matched by the City of Stratford. The Planning Council confirmed yes and indicated that Huron County has indicated they will not donate to operational funding.

The Chair recognized and thanked several members of community groups and organizations who assisted with the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan and were present at the Sub-committee meeting.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

**Sub-committee Recommendation:** That the request from the Social Research and Planning Council for \$30, 000 to fund a 0.5 FTE Community Research and Data Analyst position for Phase 2 of the Community Trends Platform project be referred to the 2017 Budget deliberations.

Carried

#### 4. Report of the Housing and Homelessness Coordinator

##### 4.1 A 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys: 2015 Annual Progress Report (Year 2) (SOC16-011)

Paper copies of the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness 2015 Annual Progress Report PowerPoint presentation were provided at the Sub-committee meeting.

**Staff Recommendation:** That the report on the progress of the 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan for the City of Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys be received for information.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services provided an overview of the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys: 2015 Annual Progress Report including emergency housing, wait lists, strategic priorities and moving forward in 2016.

It was noted that the plan was approved in 2014 and is submitted on an annual basis to both the City and the ministry.

Sub-committee discussed whether there are any funds in the current budget that could be used towards data gathering and sharing. The Director of Social Services indicated there is not a lot of flexibility for the use of funding once Budgets are approved and they will be researching potential Provincial funding for data analysis.

\*The Housing and Homelessness Coordinator now absent from the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Sub-committee discussed there appears to be a growing gap in the required housing units in the plan and the number created to date. They questioned if an internal plan moving forward would be beneficial.

Staff stated that a master plan on housing is being prepared and that it should be presented to Sub-committee by September.

Sub-committee questioned how Stratford compares to other communities in regards to funding of new units. Staff indicated that in speaking with other managers in communities it appears they are reserving funds. Staff also noted that land is expensive and affordable land is required to build.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

**Sub-committee Recommendation: That the report on the progress of the 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan for the City of Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys be received for information.**

**Carried**

The Chair requested a procedural motion to hear the presentation in Item 3.1.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

**Sub-committee Recommendation: That the presentation on Community Trends Platform from Tracy Birtch, Erica Clake and Ryan Erb of the Social Research & Planning Council be heard.**

**Carried**

## **5. Report of the Director of Social Services**

## 5.1 2016-18 SIF\_Report (SOC16-014)

### Staff Recommendation:

- That the report on the New Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) for 2016-2018 be received for information;
- That the CAO and the Director of Social Services (Consolidated Municipal Service Manager) be authorized to sign and submit to the Ministry the Administrative Agreement with the province by no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> in order to participate in the additional funding for IAH and Seniors for 2016-17 and 2017-18;
- That the CAO and the Director of Social Services (Consolidated Municipal Service Manager) be authorized to sign and submit to the Ministry the Delivery and Fiscal Plan (PDFP) and Cash Flow Statement under the IAH, outlining how the notional funding allocation will be used under the 2016 SIF for 2016 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, by no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016;
- That the Director of Social Services (Consolidated Municipal Service Manager) be authorized to use up to 5% of the total funding allocation to assist with the administration costs of the 2016 SIF IAH from the funding period of 2016 ending March 31, 2018.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services provided an overview of the New Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) for 2016-2018 report.

The Federal government established the Social Infrastructure Fun (SIF) as part of its March 2016 Budget. On June 21, 2016, the Ministry of Housing announced the SIF funding allocation for the additional IHF, Seniors and Social Housing Improvement Program (SHIP) for the fiscal year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. The increase to the City of Stratford, Perth County and the Town of St. Marys to IAH & Seniors was \$762,700 for 2016-17 and \$551,300 for 2017-18. The increase to SHIP was \$939,300 for 2016-17 and no increase for 2017-18.

For the fiscal year of 2016 to March 31, 2017 the total funding allocation is \$7,702,000 and is to be committed before December 31, 2016.

In order to access the Social Infrastructure Fund a number of time sensitive deadlines and agreements are required by the Service Managers

(CMSM).

Sub-committee asked if staff believes they will be able to make the deadlines. Staff responded that they will be working with community partners and within their departments in order to meet the deadlines and receive funding.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

**Sub-committee Recommendation:**

- **That the report on the New Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) for 2016-2018 be received for information;**
- **That the CAO and the Director of Social Services (Consolidated Municipal Service Manager) be authorized to sign and submit to the Ministry the Administrative Agreement with the province by no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> in order to participate in the additional funding for IAH and Seniors for 2016-17 and 2017-18;**
- **That the CAO and the Director of Social Services (Consolidated Municipal Service Manager) be authorized to sign and submit to the Ministry the Delivery and Fiscal Plan (PDFP) and Cash Flow Statement under the IAH, outlining how the notional funding allocation will be used under the 2016 SIF for 2016 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, by no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016;**
- **That the Director of Social Services (Consolidated Municipal Service Manager) be authorized to use up to 5% of the total funding allocation to assist with the administration costs of the 2016 SIF IAH from the funding period of 2016 ending March 31, 2018.**

Carried

## **6. Report of the Manager of Ontario Works**

### **6.2 Exemption of Child Support & CPP Orphan Benefit Payments (SOC16-013)**

**Staff Recommendation:** That the pending changes to the Ontario Works regulations to fully exempt Child Support and CPP Orphan Benefits payments be received for information.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services provided an overview of the Exemption of Child Support & CPP Orphan Benefits Payment Report.

Currently, families receiving child support and CPP Orphan Benefit payments have their social assistance benefits reduced by the full amount of child support they receive. Starting February 1, 2017 for Ontario Works, child support and CPP Orphan Benefit payments will be fully exempt as income and will no longer be deducted from clients social assistance payments.

Sub-committee questioned if that means that staff can start to use this model now. Staff responded that they have to stay within the current guidelines until the February 1, 2017 date.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

**Sub-committee Recommendation:** That the pending changes to the Ontario Works regulations to fully exempt Child Support and CPP Orphan Benefits payments be received for information.

**Carried**

## **6.1   Addiction Services Initiative under Ontario Works Program (SOC16-012)**

**Staff Recommendation:** That the 2016-2017 Addiction Services Initiative Service Plan be received for information.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services gave an overview of the Addiction Services Initiative under Ontario Works Program report.

In 2004 the City of Stratford CMSM became one of the original pilot sites to deliver specialized programs with a focus on addictions within the province of Ontario. The City of Stratford CMSM partnered with Choices for Change, the primary addiction treatment delivery provider for this program.

For 2016, the annual operating budget for the program is \$133,850, funded at 94.2% provincially and 5.8% cost-shared between the City of Stratford, Perth County and the Town of St. Marys.

Sub-committee questioned how to proceed forward if the funding from the province ceases to exist. Staff indicated that if funding is not provided through the province they would need to look at the program with Council and decide how to move forward.

Staff stated that when the program was piloted in 2004 it was with the intent to roll out the program province wide and this has not happened over the last 12 years. Staff noted there is currently no wait list in our community while in other municipalities there can be long wait lists.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

**Sub-committee Recommendation: That the 2016-2017 Addiction Services Initiative Service Plan be received for information.**

**Carried**

## **7. Report of the Manager of Child Care**

### **7.1 Social Services - Leased Vehicle Purchase**

**Sub-committee Discussion:** This item to be considered at a later meeting.

### **7.2 New Business - Domestic Violence Funding**

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services stated that an application was completed in April 2016 for Provincial Funding for domestic violence. Confirmation was received this week that \$176,000 has been awarded for both 2016 and 2017 fiscal years. The first portion must be allocated by December 2016. Discussions with community partners will commence and a report will be brought to Council.

**For the information of Sub-committee at this time.**

## **8. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes**

There were no Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes to be received at this time.



**9. Next Sub-committee Meeting**

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is August 10, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting Start Time: 3:33 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 5:35 p.m.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

**That the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.**

**Carried**