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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 23, 2016
FROM:	SANDRA DATARS BERE MANAGING DIRECTOR HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES & DEARNESS HOME
SUBJECT:	APPROVAL OF THE SERVICE MANAGER ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT FOR THE 2016 SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (SIF) FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PORTABLE HOUSING BENEFIT PILOT (SDV-PHBP)

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Housing, Social Services, and Dearness Home, the following actions **BE TAKEN**:

- a) Regarding the City of London’s participation in the provincial Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot (SDV-PHBP) under the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF), the Attached proposed By-Law Appendix “A” **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council Meeting on August 30, 2016, to authorize the signing of the Service Manager Administration Agreement for the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) attached as schedule substantially in the form of the agreement appended as Schedule “1” to the attached by-law; and
- b) The Mayor and the City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the said agreement and assignments in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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None

BACKGROUND

Intent of this Report:

To approve an administration and funding agreement with the Province of Ontario allowing London to participate in the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot (SDV-PHBP).

This report recommends that the City of London Municipal Council enter into an agreement with the Minister of Housing for the SDV pilot.

This agreement, although within the same 2016 SIF program, is separate from other new affordable housing and social housing funding that is also being delivered under these federal and provincial cost shared housing initiatives.

The by-law in Appendix A provides this authority to participate in pilot.

SDV-PHBP Program:

On April 4, 2016, the Province announced the Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit 2-year pilot initiative to help survivors of domestic violence explore housing options beyond the legislated Special Priority Policy (SPP) rules that exist within social housing. The City of London led a response to the call for pilot sites in partnership with local domestic violence service providers in time for the April 29th, 2016 cut-off for interested pilot participants.



On July 11, 2016, the Ministry of Housing (MoH) issued a letter of engagement to the City of London to participate in the SDV pilot. The letter reflected that London's participation and funding of \$750,000 for 2016/17 and \$750,000 for 2017/18 (provincial fiscal years) is contingent on Council's approval of the related administrative agreement.

Current Rules and Issues:

Currently, survivors of domestic violence (SDV) eligible applicants to social housing are able to apply as a prioritized population – allowing for fast access to available units – subject to eligibility and unit availability. This right to prioritized access for SDV eligible applicants is guaranteed under the Housing Services Act, 2011 and the former Social Housing Reform Act, 2000 (SHRA).

Although this prioritization generally provides faster access to housing, it is still subject to long wait lists as well as other limitations and challenges. Faster access can sometimes mean that SDV eligible applicants are congregated in social housing buildings or provider locations with higher vacancy turn-over. Also, the limitations of vacant stock mean that a SDV eligible applicant may be required to choose between moving to new neighbourhoods and the stability of known, preferred, or potentially even existing housing locations.

These SDV challenges for applicants, Service Managers, and social housing providers have been articulated across the province and were recognized in the Province's Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and recent 2016 LTAHS Update as being priority areas for review and change. These needs were also articulated in the City of London's Homeless Prevention and Housing Plan and related housing strategy.

Pilot Program:

The SDV-PHB pilot program, set to launch in September 2016, is a provincial budget initiative to provide survivors of domestic violence with the option to receive a portable housing benefit rather than waiting for an offer of social housing. Assistance can be provided to help survivor households to afford housing in the private market rather than having these households wait in shelters or precarious housing situations until a social housing unit becomes available.

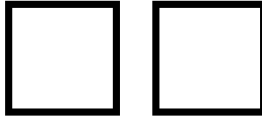
The initiative aims to increase a household's choice of where to live since it is not tied to a specific unit as is the case in rent-geared-to-income social housing units. The households would retain their priority status on the social housing waiting list while participating in the SDV-PHB pilot program.

Payments will be administered by the City as Service Manager with flexibility to use the program funding to design a local SDV-PHB program including the determination of the monthly supplement amount. The portable housing benefit can only be used for a monthly subsidy to approved households and to provide assistance with first and last month's rent.

Although the initial intent of the province was to seek 3 Service Management pilot sites, the strong interest in this initiative resulted in the province accepting the pilot participation of all 22 Service Manager applications that it received. Any funds issued would be exempt from being considered income for any Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program recipients noting supplements may be capped for this population.

The Ministry will be hiring a consultant to work with participant Service Managers, SDV applicants, and other program participants to externally evaluate the pilot to ensure it is achieving the desired outcomes and defining the most promising practices required to amend provincial rules on a long term basis. London will work with the Ministry, other sites, and the consultant to ensure the evaluations will be based on local information, service agency input and context, and results.

Service Managers will work with existing SPP applicant households to determine participant interest and eligibility for pilot activities throughout the 2 year pilot period.



Funding Plan and Administrative Agreement:

The Ministry of Housing (MoH) provided the notional funding allocations for the funding allowing for the following expenditure plan:

	Sept 2016 to Mar 31, 2017	Apr 2017 to Mar 31, 2018
Program Funding	\$ 675,000	\$ 675,000
Administrative Funding (at 10%)	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
TOTAL FUNDING:	\$750,000	\$750,000

In order to access and participate in 2016 SIF SDV-PHBP funding, the City of London must sign an agreement with the Province, ensuring the conditions of funding are met. This pilot will require more dedicated administrative involvement in financial allocations and work with local agencies and the province on this initiative.

This attached Administration Agreement outlines financial provisions, eligibility criteria, indemnification provisions, and general reporting and accountability provisions as a participant in the pilot. This includes shared data management, program tracking, and evaluation.

These functions will be performed by Housing Services within the Housing, Social Services, and Dearness Home with supports from our Corporate Services partners and local agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no anticipated funding or service impacts associated with the SDV-PHBP outside of the provisions provided for within the attached agreement.

Funding provided through this initiative can only be used within the intended purposes of the initiative and within the associated timeframes. Any program funding balances remaining at the end of the respective provincial fiscal period must be returned to the province.

Conclusion:

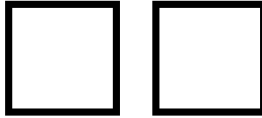
This initiative intends to address needs within a priority population of individuals and families that struggle with their own circumstances and the complexity of the current housing rules. The proposed plans provide short term and flexible solutions, but are still limited by the availability of affordable housing stock and related services.

The outcomes of this initiative will be reported to Council through Committee as possible, recognizing the terms and conditions of the agreement and the importance of the independent evaluation.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
STEPHEN GIUSTIZIA MANAGER HOUSING SERVICES	SANDRA DATARS BERE MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOUSING SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEARNESS HOME

- C. D. Mounter, City Solicitor's Office
- K. Murray, Financial Services
- Tony Brutto, Ministry of Housing (Municipal Services Office)

Attachment: Appendix A, By-law to Approve Administration Agreement for the Survivors of



Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot (SDV-PHBP)

Appendix A

By-law No.

A by-law to approve an agreement between The Corporation of the City of London (the City) and the Minister of Housing for the City to participate in and administer the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot (SDV-PHBP); and to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the agreement.

WHEREAS section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS section 9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the City of London (the City) is responsible for the delivery of housing services including the administration of the social housing waitlist, access to social housing units, and the eligibility of applicants and tenants including the Special Priority Population rules as legislated within the Housing Services Act, 2011;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed beneficial and expedient for the City to enter into an agreement with the Minister of Housing to participate in and administer the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot (SDV-PHBP);

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. The agreement between the City and the Minister of Housing attached as Schedule 1 to administer the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot (SDV-PHBP) be hereby approved.
2. The Mayor and the City Clerk be hereby authorized to execute the agreement approved in section 1, above, substantially in the form of agreement attached to this by-law to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.
3. This by-law shall come into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on August 30, 2016.

M. Brown
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk