

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 28, 2017
FROM:	SANDRA DATARS BERE MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEARNESS HOME
SUBJECT:	RENEWAL OF ONTARIO WORKS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PURCHASE OF SERVICES AGREEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home, the attached proposed By-law (Appendix "A") to approve the Amending Agreement **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting of March 28th, 2017;

- a) **TO APPROVE** the Amendment to Purchase of Service Agreement for Ontario Works Employment Assistance Services attached as Schedule A with the following corporations:
- College Boreal;
 - Daya Counselling Centre;
 - Goodwill Industries, Ontario Great Lakes;
 - Hutton House Association for Adults with Disabilities;
 - LEADS Employment Services London Inc.;
 - Literacy Link South Central;
 - Nokee Kwe Occupational Skill Development Inc.;
 - Pathways Skill Development & Placement Centre;
 - March of Dimes, Rehabilitation Foundation for the Disabled;
 - The London Community Small Business Centre;
 - WIL Counselling and Training for Employment;
 - Youth Opportunities Unlimited – London and Middlesex
- b) **TO AUTHORIZE** the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Amending Agreements.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Purchase Of Service Agreements - Ontario Works Employment Assistance Services (CPSC, Feb. 25, 2013 and December 3, 2012)
- RFP 12-07 Request for Proposal Ontario Works Employment Assistance Services (June 19, 2012); and,
- Ontario Works Employment Assistance Framework 2013 – 2018 (CPSC, March 5, 2012)
- Amendment To Purchase Of Service Agreement - Ontario Works Employment Assistance Services (November 25, 2013)

BACKGROUND

Through the City of London 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, Strengthening our Community - caring and compassionate services is a key area of focus which sets out to “eliminate barriers for individuals facing poverty and help them find pathways to be successful.” In support of this goal, this report requests an additional one year contract amendment to the existing Purchase of Service Agreements for the delivery of Ontario Works Employment Assistance Services. The current agreements were approved by Council on June 19, 2012 (RFP 12-07 Ontario Works Employment Assistance Services) for a three (3) year period, with options to extend the contract for two (2) additional one year periods.

As the delivery agent under the Ontario Works Act, the City has the responsibility to effectively deliver services that respond to the needs of our participants, in addition to providing income supports.

Provincial Ontario Works legislation places emphasis on employment outcomes with a focus on participant centred services which is currently reflected within London’s Purchase of Services Employment Assistance Framework. Provincial funding for employment services is based on the achievement of employment outcomes. The City’s current Employment Assistance service delivery

approach utilizes a combination of individualized services and supports while leveraging and maximizing services funded by other levels of government (including Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development & Employment and Social Development Canada) and contracting for specific employment assistance services with local service providers.

The City has Purchase of Service Agreements with the above noted non-profit employment agencies for the delivery of Essential Employment Supports, Skill Training directly linked to employment, Employment Placement, Self-Employment Development Services, and Specialized Individual Support.

The request for a one year extension comes as a result of several concurrent factors that all contribute to the OW Employment Assistance Framework; an update on London's Ontario Works Caseload profile, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC) 2017 pilot findings regarding our local labour market trends, 2017 London Economic Region report and local participation rates, and the completion of the Social Services Employment Assistance internal evaluation on each Purchase of Services organization.

This review will result in an updated Ontario Works Employment Assistance Framework and the basis for the next Request for Proposals targeted for early 2018. A report will be presented to Committee once actions are completed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no net budget impact as a result of these contract extensions. The cost of these Employment Assistance Service Contracts are included within the approved Ontario Works operating budget. The Council-approved 2016-2019 Multi-Year Budget includes a gross budget for Employment Assistance Service Contracts of approximately \$4.4 million in 2017; \$4.5 million in 2018; and \$4.5 million in 2019. This gross budget is funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services partially at 50% and partially at 97.2% in 2017 (scheduled to be 100% uploaded in 2018).

CONCLUSION

Social Services Senior Management and the Executive Directors of all twelve organizations are in agreement with requesting an additional one year contract renewal amendments to the existing Purchase of Service Agreements for the delivery of Ontario Works Employment Assistance Services.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
KEVIN DICKINS MANAGER, EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME SUPPORTS SERVICES, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEARNESS HOME	SANDRA DATARS BERE MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEARNESS HOME

- Cc. Elaine Sauve, Program Supervisor, Ministry of Community and Social Services
 Lynn Marshall, Solicitor II, City Solicitor's Office
 John Freeman, Manager, Purchasing & Supply
 Kyle Murray, Senior Financial Business Administrator
 Gail Devito, Financial Business Administrator