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<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 17, 2012</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative:

- i) The attached proposed by-law **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on January 15, 2013 to delegate authority to the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services, or designate, to:
  - a) Enter into a Service Manager Agreement, substantially in the form attached as Schedule 1, for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the City of London;
  - b) Submit the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan to the Province of Ontario, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, substantially in the form attached as Schedule 2;
  - c) Enter into Purchase of Service Agreements, substantially in the form attached as Schedule 3, for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative between the City of London and the Service Provider; and,
  - d) Enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, Centre of Hope to operate the Housing First Temporary Support Fund on a short-term basis.
  
- ii) The attached proposed by-law **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on January 15, 2013 to:
  - i) Adopt the Housing First Temporary Support Fund Policy, substantially in the form attached as Schedule 4 to this report.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Funding Allocation for January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 (CSC: October 22, 2012)
- Elimination of Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSC: October 22, 2012)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Homelessness Social Assistance Regulation Amendments (CSC: September 10, 2012)
- Housing Services Act (CSC: December 19, 2011)
- London Community Housing Strategy 2011 Community Update Report (CNC: May 17, 2011)
- London Community Plan on Homelessness (CPSC: November 8, 2010)
- City of London Community Housing Strategy (CPSC: June 21, 2010)

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Provide the background information on the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) including a summary of the September 10, 2012 and the October 22, 2012 Community Services Committee reports;
- b) Provide an overview of the required next steps to meet the provincial contractual obligations of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and seek direction on the delegation to enter into a Service Manager Service Agreement with the Province of Ontario and submit an Investment Plan on program expenditures;



- c) Provide an overview of the current process with our community and the next steps, and to seek direction on the delegation to enter into Purchase of Service Agreements with funded agencies; and,
- d) Provide an overview and seek direction on the proposed transition to mitigate the impact of the elimination of Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit through a Housing First Temporary Support Fund.

Background Information on the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative

As reported at the September 10, 2012 Community Service Committee meeting, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) announced the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). This housing and homelessness program consolidation is a key part of Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy intended to reduce and prevent homelessness.

The provincial vision for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative is a better coordinated and integrated service delivery system that is people-centred and outcome-focused and reflects a Housing First approach to prevent, reduce and address homelessness. Two key outcomes have been established:

- i. Individuals experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing; and,
- ii. Individuals at risk of homelessness remain housed.

Under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, Service Managers will have increased flexibility to use the consolidated funding in any of the following service categories:

- Emergency Shelter Solutions (e.g. emergency shelter);
- Housing and Related Supports (e.g. rental allowance);
- Services and Supports (e.g. street and housing outreach, housing search); and,
- Homelessness Prevention (e.g. rent support/eviction prevention).

In addition, effective January 1, 2013, Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) will be removed from Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). A portion of the provincial expenditure from CSUMB will be re-allocated to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative based on a formula of the number of individuals who have a Deep Core Housing Need (households who spend 50% of their gross income on housing).

The new approach to the provincial homelessness program funding combines funding from five existing homelessness related programs into a single funding envelope along with the deep core housing need allocation. Program funding is intended to provide greater flexibility to use the funding to address local homelessness related priorities.

As reported at the October 22, 2012 Community Services Committee meeting, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing confirmed the funding allocation for the City of London under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative. For the period January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013 one time funding of \$1,893,588; and from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 on an annualized basis \$7,996,302.

The legislated and program changes taking place by January 1, 2013 provides insufficient time to develop an implementation change plan that fully considers a system response for individuals/families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and funded agencies and services and the broader community to engage in a fulsome change process. A transitional change plan will be put in place for January 1, 2013 to minimize disruption to individuals and families in need.

Over the past several months, City staff have been working closely with the London community and the County of Middlesex to determine both the need and expectations of services and programs and the funding model. These efforts are strongly linked to the London Community Housing Strategy and the London Community Plan on Homelessness, both of which were approved by Council in 2010. These plans form the basis of how we are proceeding with the implementation of the homelessness to housing with support continuum based on the three anchors of securing housing; housing with support; and housing stability.



### Service Manager Service Agreement

The Service Manager Service Agreement (SA) is an Agreement that contains an accountability framework between the Province and Service Managers (designated municipalities) and outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties. Service Managers who participate in the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative must sign a Service Agreement with the Province. No funding can be released prior to signing of the Service Agreement. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has also developed Program Guidelines for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative. These Guidelines provide a framework for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and are designed to assist Service Managers with the delivery of the program in their local communities and are included as a Schedule in the Service Agreement.

The City of London was provided with the template of the Service Manager Service Agreement and the Program Guidelines for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative on November 16, 2012.

The Service Agreement outlines:

- Timeframes
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Financial Provisions
- Reporting Requirements
- Audits and Reviews
- Data Collecting Requirements
- French Language Service Requirements
- Accountability Provisions

### Investment Plan

All Service Managers under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative must submit Investment Plans to the Ministry by February 15, 2013. The Plan outlines how the funding allocations will be used each year. The initial Investment Plan covers the period between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. Until March 31, 2016 Service Managers are required to develop an Investment Plan for each year. After March 31, 2016 Service Managers will be required to develop and submit three year plans. The completed Investment Plans must also include the amount of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding used for program administration.

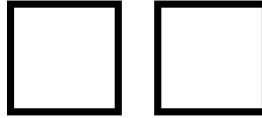
Service Managers will be required to report at specific times during the year on their use of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding and provide an update on the changes made to service categories. The year-end report must include a statement from the Municipal Treasurer or delegated Service Manager authority attesting to the accuracy of the reported information. The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative 2013-14 Investment Plan addresses two areas:

- i. Proposed Plan – Service Manager’s description on how the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding is intended to be used to address various housing and homelessness-related needs.
- ii. Projected Use of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding – Service Manager’s funding estimates by quarter and service category.

### City of London Purchase of Service Agreements

The implementation of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative requires that the City of London enter into Purchase of Service Agreements with organizations selected to carry out the activities identified in the Investment Plan. The Purchase of Service Agreement has been developed through the City Solicitor and reviewed by Risk Management.

The City of London's Implementation Plan will consist of temporary or short-term programs, services and activities that are intended to prevent disruption of individuals and families experiencing, or at risk of homelessness in their efforts to achieve housing stability. The Implementation Plan will identify the themes and directions focused on achieving the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative outcomes and in accordance with the London Community Plan on Homelessness.



Certain funded agencies that have received funding under the Provinces' previously funded programs, including emergency shelter operators and other agencies, will be issued short-term Purchase of Service Agreements to maintain certain programs and supports. Efforts are underway to work on transitioning towards achieving the outcomes identified in both the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and London Community Plan on Homelessness. These outcomes include considering and developing diversion initiatives from entering into emergency shelters and rapid housing programs once in shelter. The services identified in the overall implementation will also include consideration of the unique needs of our Aboriginal population, youth, families, street involved sex workers, abused women, chronic and persistent homeless individuals, and recognize the concurrent issues of addiction, mental health, and trauma.

Housing First Temporary Support Fund

The City has held four community forums focusing on developing strategies and programs to reduce and prevent homelessness. At each forum and in the many community dialogues that are taking place, the elimination of the social assistance Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit on December 31, 2012 and the need for an immediate alternative benefit to minimize the disruption to individuals and families on Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) with the new housing start remains a priority. To minimize the impact of the discontinuation of the social assistance benefit a temporary fund is being recommended for implementation on January 1, 2013. This also allows us to proceed with the development of the final implementation plan. This temporary fund is one of the transitional programs that support our efforts to implement longer term housing first and housing stability initiatives.

The Housing First Temporary Support Fund (HFTSF) is a temporary bridge fund to be put in place for the three month period January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013, and may be subject to a short extension if required, to provide a response to the elimination of the benefit known as Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB). The Housing First Temporary Support Fund is intended to assist recipients of OW/ODSP in establishing a new principal residence, or to prevent eviction or the discontinuance of utilities or heating in an existing residence. The Housing First Temporary Support Fund will be administered by the Salvation Army Centre of Hope Housing Support Services and is considered to be an extension of the existing programs offered including the Heat and Warmth program (THAW), Ontario's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and the Rent Bank Program.

The amount of the HFTSF payable is up to a maximum of \$1,000 for recipients with one or more dependent children in a 24-month period; or up to a maximum of \$500 where there are no dependent children in a 24-month period.

Each recipient's request for the HFTSF is reviewed on its own merit. HFTSF will be provided only where needs have been identified and where no other funds are available.

Allowable costs of establishing a new residence in the community include:

- fuel and hydro deposits sent directly to the utility provider;
- last month's rent deposit set up through a direct payment to the landlord; and,
- moving and transportation to the home of the recipient paid directly to the company.

In the case of maintaining an existing residence, HFTSF may be provided if:

- the recipient will be remaining in their current residence and the recipient meets one of the following criteria:
  - i. has received an eviction notice, and continuing rent payments are set up through direct payment to the landlord;
  - ii. has had a utility or the heating to the current residence cut off and there is a cost sharing plan in place through the Salvation Army Housing Support Services under programs such as the Heat and Warmth Program (THAW) and/or Ontario's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP); and direct payment to the utility provider is in place for continued regular payments to the utility provider; or,
  - iii. has received a notice that a utility or the heating to the current residence will be cut off and there is a cost sharing plan in place through the Salvation Army Housing Support Services under programs such as THAW and/or LEAP; and direct payment to the utility provider is in place for continued regular payments to the utility provider.

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Conclusion

City staff will continue to host community forums to inform and engage Londoners in a collaborative manner that supports directions to implement change based on the London Community Plan on Homelessness and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative. These efforts directly contribute to Council’s vision and efforts of a caring community and encourage and support the reduction and elimination of homelessness for Londoners.

<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>
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The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding allocation for the City of London (and the County of Middlesex) is:

- January 2013 – March 2013                      \$1,893,588
- April 2013 – March 2014 (annual)        \$7,996,302

The value of the Purchase of Service Agreements under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative will not exceed the value of the funding received from the Province. An allocation up to \$750,000 has been designated to support the Housing First Temporary Support Fund for the period January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013 under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.

Acknowledgments

Anna Lisa Barbon, Manager, Financial and Business Services  
 Gail Devito, Manager, Accounting and Reporting

<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>
<b>JAN RICHARDSON, MANAGER, HOMELESSNESS NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>	<b>LYNNE LIVINGSTONE, MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>

c. Louise Stevens, Director Municipal Housing, City of London