

Report to Planning and Environment Committee

To: Chair and Members
Planning & Environment Committee
From: Scott Stafford
Managing Director, Parks and Recreation
Subject: Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative – Municipal
Funding Agreement

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation, with the concurrence of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner and the Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, the attached proposed By-law (Appendix A) **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting on June 26, 2018 to:

- a) Approve a Municipal Funding Agreement (Schedule 1) between The Corporation of the City of London and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to receive funding under the Ontario Main Street Revitalization Initiative;
- b) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement approved in a) above;
- c) Delegate authority to the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation to allocate funding from this program to eligible projects aligned with Council-approved programs and plans in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the Municipal Funding Agreement, subject to future reporting to Municipal Council on the allocation of the funds;
- d) Delegate authority to the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation to authorize and approve such further and other documents (including amendments and reports) that may be required in furtherance of the agreement, and that do not require additional funding or are provided for in the City's approved budget, and that do not increase the indebtedness of The Corporation of the City of London.

Previous Reports Pertinent to this Matter

None

Background

On January 23, 2018, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs ("OMAFRA") announced the Main Street Revitalization Initiative, to be administered by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ("AMO") and Rural Ontario Municipal Association. This \$26 million program is intended to support Ontario's main streets and their business communities, and all single and lower tier municipal governments (except Toronto) are receiving funding under this program. The municipal funding allocations are based on a formula utilizing population from the 2016 Census, adjusted for smaller communities under 25,000 residents. London's one-time allocation under this program is \$369,137.95.

Discussion

Eligible projects under this funding program are intended to support revitalization activities within "main street areas," as defined through an existing Community Improvement Plan or any other municipal land use planning policy. Funding can be used in one or both of the following categories:

1. Community Improvement Plan – construction, renewal, renovation or redevelopment or material enhancement activities that implement priority financial incentives in existing Community Improvement Plans such as:

- a) Commercial building façade improvements
- b) Preservation and adaptive reuse of heritage and industrial buildings
- c) Provision of affordable housing
- d) Space conversion for residential and commercial uses
- e) Structural improvements to buildings (e.g. Building Code upgrades)
- f) Improvement of community energy efficiency
- g) Accessibility enhancements

2. Other Municipal Land Use Planning Policy – construction, renewal or material enhancement activities to fund strategic Municipal Physical Infrastructure and promotional projects such as:

- a) Signage – wayfinding/directional, and gateway
- b) Streetscaping and landscape improvements – lighting, banners, murals, street furniture, interpretive elements, public art, urban forestation, accessibility, telecommunications/broadband equipment, parking, active transportation infrastructure (e.g. bike racks/storage, cycling lanes and paths) and pedestrian walkways/trails
- c) Marketing plan implementation – business attraction and promotion activities, special events

Eligible costs must be incurred after April 1, 2018 and prior to March 31, 2020 in order to be eligible for funding under this program. Costs outside of a municipality's "main street" areas are ineligible under this program; similarly costs related to routine repair and maintenance of municipal infrastructure also cannot be funded.

Civic Administration is currently in the early stages of considering options for the utilization of the funds. Delegated authority is being sought for the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation to allocate funding from this program to eligible projects aligned with Council-approved programs and plans in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the Municipal Funding Agreement, subject to future reporting to Municipal Council on the allocation of the funds.

In order to access the funding allocation, the City is required to enter into a Municipal Funding Agreement with AMO (Schedule 1). Delegated authority is also being sought for the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation to execute other documents related to this agreement (e.g. associated reporting requirements, amendments that do not require additional funding, etc.).

The Municipal Funding Agreement has been reviewed by Legal Services and Risk Management. The agreement includes an indemnification clause that requires the City to indemnify and hold AMO and the Province harmless from all liability associated with the funding and associated projects except for claims/losses which relate to the negligence of an officer, servant, employee, or agent of Ontario in the performance of his or her duties. In the opinion of Risk Management, the indemnity clause should not prevent the Corporation from moving forward with final approval of this agreement, as the potential benefit of the funds outweighs the associated risk from the indemnity clause.

Financial Impact

Funding under the Main Street Revitalization Initiative can be used to pay for up to 100% of the eligible costs of eligible projects; there is no municipal cost sharing required.

Should the costs of the projects undertaken exceed the funding available under the Main Street Revitalization Initiative, it is anticipated that the balance of funds will be sourced from existing approved budgets.

Conclusion

The City of London is the recipient of \$369,137.95 of funding under OMAFRA's Main Street Revitalization Initiative being administered by AMO. In order to access this funding, the Corporation must enter into a Municipal Funding Agreement with AMO. Delegated authority is also being sought for the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation to allocate funding from this program to eligible projects aligned with Council-approved programs and plans in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the Municipal Funding Agreement (subject to future reporting to Municipal Council on the allocation of the funds), and to execute other documents related to this agreement.

Prepared by:	Kyle Murray Senior Financial Business Administrator
Recommended by:	Scott Stafford Managing Director, Parks and Recreation
Concurred by:	Anna Lisa Barbon Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer
Concurred by:	John M. Fleming, MCIP, RPP Managing Director, Planning and City Planner

Appendix A

Bill No.
2018

By-law No.

A by-law to approve a Municipal Funding Agreement between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and The Corporation of the City of London for Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative; and to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the Agreement; and to delegate authority to the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation to allocate funding from this program to eligible projects aligned with Council-approved programs and plans, subject to future reporting to Municipal Council on the allocation of the funds; and to delegate authority to the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation to authorize such further and other documents that may be required in furtherance of the agreement.

WHEREAS subsection 5(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

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

1. The Municipal Funding Agreement attached as Schedule 1 to this by-law between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and The Corporation of the City of London, to receive funding under the Ontario Main Street Revitalization Initiative, is hereby authorized and approved.
2. The Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Municipal Funding Agreement authorized and approved under section 1, above.
3. The Managing Director, Parks and Recreation is hereby delegated authority to allocate funding from this program to eligible projects aligned with Council-approved programs and plans in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the Municipal Funding Agreement, subject to future reporting to Municipal Council on the allocation of the funds.
4. The Managing Director, Parks and Recreation is hereby delegated authority to authorize and approve such further and other documents (including amendments and reports) that may be required in furtherance of the agreement, and that do not require additional funding or are provided for in the City's approved budget, and that do not increase the indebtedness of The Corporation of the City of London.
5. This by-law shall come into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on June 26, 2018.

Matt Brown
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk

First Reading - June 26, 2018
Second Reading - June 26, 2018
Third Reading - June 26, 2018