



Corporate Report

NO: R244

COUNCIL DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2006

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 10, 2006**
FROM: **Acting General Manager, Planning and Development** FILE: **5080-01**
General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
SUBJECT: **Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey: Youth Participation in
Social and Community Planning**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Pass a resolution indicating that the City of Surrey is committed to supporting and participating in the "Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey: Youth Participation in Social and Community Planning" project; and
3. Authorize the City Clerk to forward the resolution and a copy of this report to the Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM").

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the proposed "Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey: Youth Participation in Social and Community Planning" project and to confirm the City's commitment to supporting and participating in this initiative.

The Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey project has been approved, in principle, for a \$35,000 grant from the UBCM's Community Health Promotion Fund. One of the requirements of the final proposal is the submission of a resolution from Council indicating a commitment to supporting and participating in the project.

BACKGROUND

In September 2006, the City of Surrey submitted a Letter of Intent to the UBCM Community Health Promotion program under Requests for Preliminary Project Proposals. Surrey's proposal was for a grant of \$35,000 to support a youth engagement project in Surrey. The development of the preliminary proposal was a collaborative effort among staff from the Planning and Development and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments and the Surrey Public Library. The application was supported by letters from: Greater Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy, Pacific Community Resources Society, Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, Fraser Health Authority, and BC Ministry of Community Services.

On November 1, 2006, the UBCM advised that the proposed project has been approved in principle. The City of Surrey will receive a \$35,000 grant if all requirements are met in the final proposal, due on November 28, 2006. One of the requirements is a resolution from Council indicating a commitment to supporting and participating in the project. The grant will be issued in two instalments: 70% or \$24,500 to be paid upon approval of the grant, and 30% or \$10,500 after completion of the project and submission of a final report.

DISCUSSION

The Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey project will contribute to the implementation of the Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents. Specifically, it will address the elements of "creating a child and youth friendly city" and "initiatives to encourage citizen engagement with social issues and social planning activity". It responds to the Plan's recommended action to "continue to support and enhance youth engagement processes in which youth have a meaningful and on-going role in providing input to City services and programs and policy development of interest to youth".

Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey will pilot a "made-in-Surrey" model for engaging youth in social and community planning in the City Centre/Whalley area. The project will offer local youth leaders the opportunity to:

- plan and implement a youth-driven community planning project;
- serve as consultants on City-led initiatives, including the Surrey Urban Enrichment Initiative, the City Centre Land Use Plan update, and the development of child and youth-friendly land use and design guidelines; and
- participate in healthy social and recreational activities.

The project will utilize a broad definition of leadership as "having a positive influence on others". It will have a strong emphasis on inclusivity of youth who represent diverse populations. Youth from aboriginal and refugee/immigrant organizations, and agencies serving at-risk youth, will be supported in being involved alongside youth from more "mainstream" youth populations such as members of school committees, parks and recreation youth committees, and library volunteers. In addition, the proposed approach will provide opportunities for adults to mentor and support the youth leaders. This pilot project will create an innovative model of youth engagement that will enhance the

capacity of the City to engage youth in social and community planning and promote the creation of a youth leadership network in Surrey.

The City will contract a Youth Coordinator for this youth engagement project. The Youth Coordinator will support a Youth Leadership Committee, comprised of youth from various youth groups and agencies in Surrey. Over the course of the 11 month project, the Youth Committee will undertake a "hands-on" social planning project of their choice. In addition, they will be offered opportunities to participate in City-led initiatives such as the Surrey Urban Enrichment Initiative. At the conclusion of the project, a report will be prepared that documents the project activities, along with the successes and challenges of the model.

The total project budget is \$50,000. Project revenue will include the \$35,000 UBCM Health Promotion Fund grant and \$15,000 from the social planning budget. The project will be conducted from January to November 2007, as per the UBCM's funding guidelines. A more detailed preliminary project description is attached as Appendix I to this report.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council pass a resolution indicating that the City of Surrey is committed to supporting and participating in the Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey: Youth Participation in Social and Community Planning project. This initiative will contribute to the implementation of the Plan For the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents by providing meaningful opportunities for youth to share their ideas and perspectives on social and community issues in Surrey.

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AM/kms/saw

Attachments:

Appendix I Preliminary Project Description - "Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey: Youth Participation in Social and Community Planning"

Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey: Youth Participation in Social and Community Planning - Project Description

The project approach and activities outlined below will be finalized in consultation with community partners prior to the submission of the final proposal on November 28, 2006. As well, it will be adapted throughout the project in response to the ideas and input of the youth involved. The project will be jointly managed by staff from the Long Range Planning and Policy Development Division and Community and Leisure Services Division.

Geographic Scope

Promoting Healthy Youth will primarily involve youth living in the Whalley area of Surrey. This focus was chosen for several reasons. 1) This area is the focus of two municipal initiatives currently underway - City Centre Land Use Plan and Surrey Urban Enrichment Initiative. 2) Youth living in Whalley may be especially vulnerable to poor health outcomes due to the area's high proportion of low income, Aboriginal and immigrant/refugee families. 3) The large geography and limited public transportation options in Surrey would make a City-wide youth initiative difficult to manage. Piloting the project in one area of Surrey will allow it to be tested and evaluated before it is considered for application in other areas of the City

Objectives

The project objectives are:

- To create opportunities for youth to be engaged in current social and community planning initiatives.
- To provide youth with opportunities to develop their skills by conducting a "hands on" youth-driven social planning project.
- To promote healthy peer-based social and recreational opportunities by bringing together youth from various backgrounds and life experiences to work collectively on projects and participate together in healthy and fun recreational activities.
- To enhance the capacity of adults to mentor and support young peoples' involvement in social and community planning projects.
- To create a youth leadership network in Surrey by bringing together youth leaders and adults from the various existing youth groups and councils.
- To develop an innovative, "made-in-Surrey" model of youth engagement in social and community planning.

Activities

- Recruit a Project Team that includes:
 - Youth Coordinator – A young adult with experience in youth leadership and project management will be contracted to coordinate the project.
 - Youth Leadership Committee – A team of approximately 20 youth leaders will be recruited to form the Youth Leadership Committee. Youth who are connected to existing and diverse youth organizations and committees, and have the capacity to participate on a leadership committee, will be selected so that the Committee represents the diversity of youth in the community including both "mainstream" and

- special populations of youth (e.g. Aboriginal, immigrant/refugee and at-risk youth). The Committee will be responsible for planning and implementing the project activities. In keeping with best practices for involving at-risk youth, all the youth leaders will be provided with an honorarium.
- Adult Advisory Committee – Adults from City departments (Planning, Parks and Recreation & Culture, Surrey Public Library), School District, Health Authority and community agencies (agencies with youth on the Youth Leadership Committee) will be invited to serve as advisors and mentors to the Youth Leadership Committee. The role of the adults will be to provide "as-needed" support and mentorship, as well as to link youth to other resources. This model will provide youth with opportunities to connect with supportive and caring adults, as well as provide adults involved in youth participation with an opportunity to network with each other and local youth leaders.
 - Plan and Implement a Social Planning Project
 - The Youth Leadership Committee will develop and implement a project that will engage their peers in social and community planning. Specifically, the project will elicit youths' perspectives on what they see as strengths in their community, what they see as issues, and their proposed solutions for promoting the health of youth in Whalley. Potential projects *may* include: conducting a workshop/conference for youth, designing and administering a youth survey, or conducting community mapping with youth in schools/community events.
 - Participate in Healthy Activities
 - The project will serve as an opportunity to connect youth to the City's recreation, cultural and library facilities and programs. The Youth Leadership Committee will be advised that this is an objective of the project and that the City is interested in their ideas for how best to do this, which may include: holding meetings in the recreation centre, offering free passes, having recreation staff conduct skills training etc.
 - Serve as a Resource for Municipal Planning Initiatives
 - The Youth Committee will serve as a resource, providing a youth perspective/voice on issues, for City-led initiatives including – Surrey Urban Enrichment Initiative, City Centre Land Use Plan, and the development of child and youth-friendly land use and design guidelines.
 - Document and Evaluate this Model of Youth Engagement and its Impact on Promoting Healthy Youth in Surrey
 - An evaluation plan and tools will be developed to assess the project's impact on promoting youths' health and involvement in social and community planning. A report will be prepared to document the project, along with the successes and challenges of this model.

Project Partners

This project will build on the existing strengths and capacities in Surrey. It will bring together adults from various municipal departments and community agencies who share an interest in promoting the health and involvement of youth in the community. There are already numerous youth leadership committees/groups in Surrey. This project will not compete with their efforts, but rather provide an opportunity for youth from diverse groups to come together to work on a common project. It will give them a chance to develop specific skills that they can take back to their own organizations, but also will broaden their perspectives on youth issues in Surrey.

Budget

The total project budget is \$50,000. Project revenue will include the \$35,000 UBCM Health Promotion Fund grant and \$15,000 of unallocated funds from the social planning budget.

Schedule

The project will be conducted from January to November 2007 (as per the UBCM grant's guidelines).