

Corporate Report

NO: R044

COUNCIL DATE: March 30, 2009

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: March 27, 2009

FROM: General Manager, Finance & Technology FILE: 2240-01

SUBJECT: Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance and Technology Department recommends that Council authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement with the Province of British Columbia, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "A" to this report.

BACKGROUND

The Province of British Columbia is proposing to restructure traffic fine revenue sharing funds for 2009 and 2010 by using Community Investment Funds Agreements (attached as Appendix "A"). The criteria for how this revenue is to be used by local governments have not changed. The funds are to be used for policing and/or public safety-related expenditures. The fundamental difference between the traditional traffic fine revenue sharing grants and the revenue available under the new Agreement is that the City will receive the funding at an earlier date than when it would otherwise be received.

DISCUSSION

The Strategic Community Investment Fund has been created through the restructuring of the small community and regional district grants and the traffic fine revenue-sharing grants that have been provided by the Province to local governments for the past several years. The objective of the new Agreements is to advance funds to municipalities sooner to allow them to address critical infrastructure and community safety needs that will in turn stimulate the provincial economy. The funding that the City will receive under the Agreement is already committed under the Council-approved Financial Plan to cover public safety expenditures and is approximately the same as the amount the City expected to receive under the traffic fine revenue sharing grant formula.

CONCLUSION

The Province requires the City to sign a Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement in order to participate in an accelerated Provincial payment program. It is recommended that Council authorize the appropriate City officials to sign the Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement with the Province of British Columbia so as to allow the City to receive the accelerated payments from the Province.

Vivienne Wilke, CGA General Manager, Finance & Technology

Appendix "A": Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement

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Appendix A

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS AGREEMENT

This Agreement made as of	, 2009,
BETWEEN:	
City of Surrey (Local Government)	
AND:	
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVI BRITISH COLUMBIA represented by the Deputy Ministe Ministry of Community Development (the Province).	

WHEREAS:

- A. The Province and the Local Government acknowledge that they are facing a global economic crisis and that faster, strategic spending by British Columbia communities can help stimulate local economies, encourage growth, create local jobs and help offset the effects of the economic downturn.
- B. The Province agrees to strengthen its commitment to local governments by restructuring small community, regional district and traffic fine revenue sharing grants by providing Strategic Community Investment Funds (Funds) over the next two years.
- C. The Funds are intended to achieve the objectives of supporting local government efforts to stimulate local economies and providing local governments with increased financial certainty in uncertain economic times while continuing to support investments in community safety for which traffic fine revenue sharing grants are intended.
- D. The Province and the Local Government acknowledge the importance of reporting to residents on how the Funds are used.
- E. The Funds will be provided using a flexible, objective based approach to enable the money to flow quickly to communities, while ensuring a strong accountability and reporting framework

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises herein, the Local Government and the Province agree as follows:

1. PAYMENTS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE PROVINCE

Provided the Local Government agrees to comply with this Agreement, the Province will pay the Funds in the following amounts, for the purposes identified, on or before the date indicated.

Assured Funds	Use	Date	Amount
SC Grants	local government services	March 2009	
		July 2009	
		July 2010	
TFRS Grants	defray the cost of local police enforcement	March 2009	\$6,392,552
		July 2009	\$3,082,862
		July 2010	\$2,380,454

2. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PAYMENTS BY THE PROVINCE

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the payment of money, or incurrence of an obligation or commitment, by the Province pursuant to this Agreement is subject to:

- (a) there being sufficient monies available in an appropriation, as defined in the *Financial Administration Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 138) (the "FAA"), to enable British Columbia in any fiscal year or part thereof when any such payment may be required, to make that payment; and
- (b) Treasury Board, as defined in the FAA, not having controlled or limited, pursuant to the FAA, expenditure under any appropriation referred to in section 2(a).

3. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING TO RESIDENTS

- (a) Local Governments receiving Funds will develop a plan that sets out the intended uses and performance targets for those Funds.
- (b) By June 30, 2010 and by June 30, 2011 the Local Government will report publicly on the plan under section 3(a) and progress made toward achieving performance targets for those Funds.

4. TERM

This Agreement shall commence on the date that it is fully executed by both of the Parties and shall expire on July 31, 2011.

SIGNATURES

This Agreement has been executed on behalf of the Local Government by the duly authorized Corporate Officer pursuant to a resolution of the Council or Board, and on behalf of the Province, by the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Development.

Corporate Officer

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Deputy Minister Ministry of Community Development