

**Community Services Report to  
Priorities and Finance Committee  
2019 December 03**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
PFC2019-1464**

## **Council Innovation Fund Application for Greater Forest Lawn Governance and Communications Model**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Councillor Carra is sponsoring an application, that will be managed through Calgary Neighbourhoods, to the Council Innovation Fund with the cooperation and support of Community Services. The application is seeking \$227,000 to support a one-time pilot project in Greater Forest Lawn. Funds would be used to create a Governance and Communications Model for Greater Forest Lawn, with the support of an external expert who specializes in local governance and community development. This pilot will help to deliver the Council-directed Community Representation Framework implementation work (CPS2018-1393).

Community Services will manage the project and submit an update report to the Chief Financial Office within 12 months of the project completion detailing how the Council Innovation Fund grant was spent and the outcomes of the pilot. The Chief Financial Office will submit a summary report to Council through Priorities and Finance Committee, as per the Council Innovation Fund Terms of Reference requirements.

#### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommend Council approve this application for the Council Innovation Fund for the Greater Forest Lawn Governance and Communications Model pilot project in the amount of \$227,000.

#### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, 2019 DECEMBER 03:**

That Council adopt the Administration Recommendations contained in Report PFC2019-1464.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

As part of the 2010 November deliberations on the 2011 budget, Council originally established the Council Innovation Fund and directed Administration to develop Terms of Reference for the fund and create criteria that would guide Council on requests. On 2019 April 29, Council approved updates to the Council Innovation Fund Terms of Reference and introduced a new fund dedicated to community-driven projects called the Council Community Fund. The revised Terms of Reference for the Council Innovation Fund can be found on Attachment 3.

Any Council member can submit an application to the Priorities and Finance Committee for review and consideration and ultimately for Council's consideration and approval. The proposal for funding must demonstrate credibility, fiscal responsibility and good management which will be important considerations in the evaluation of applications.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Community Representation Framework:**

As part of the Community Representation Framework Final Report (CPS2018-1393), Council and Administration committed to ensuring local learning opportunities "should have adequate resources to support a robust learning process" (CPS2018-1393, pg. 4). This application

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identifies one such opportunity, a pilot project examining the development of a Governance and Communications Model for the communities of Greater Forest Lawn.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

Utilizing the Community Representation Framework's priorities and result areas, this pilot project specifically aims to address Priority 1 (increasing participation and diversity), Priority 2 (build trust and respect between stakeholders), Priority 3 (raise the capacity of citizens and organized community groups) and Priority 5 (Support the evolving role and needs of community associations). This pilot project will utilize best practices that work to strengthen and inspire communities while developing a multi-community model in Greater Forest Lawn. The pilot will focus on: piloting a new multi-community governance model; integrating more effective ways of communication; and considering how residents in Greater Forest Lawn communities can better participate in planning and decision making that influence City development projects in their neighbourhoods. If successful, this pilot project may be able to be integrated into in other community plans and initiatives. More detail can be found in Attachment 1.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

See Attachment 1 for details.

### **Strategic Alignment**

See Attachment 1 for details.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

See Attachment 1 for details.

### **Financial Capacity**

In 2018 November, Council approved the transfer of \$5 million to the Council Innovation Fund. As of 2019 September 30, the balance of the Council Innovation Fund is \$4,034,121. This application is requesting one time funding of \$227,000 from the Council Innovation Fund. If Council approves this application, the remaining balance of the Council Innovation Fund would be \$3,807,121. See Attachment 2 for additional details.

### ***Current and Future Operating Budget:***

No impact on current and future operating budget.

### ***Current and Future Capital Budget:***

No impact on current and future capital budget.

### **Risk Assessment**

Risk of proceeding with the application: in times of budget constraint, the approval of this application may cause negative reputation risk to The Corporation. With The Corporation facing challenging budget considerations, including but not limited to the potential reduction of full-time employees, public dollars spent on new innovative projects may not be seen as essential. As

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the Council Innovation Fund was developed to support innovation projects and it is the potential funding source identified, this risk is minimized.

Risk of not proceeding with the application: Council approved the Community Representation Framework Final Report (CPS2018-1393) on 2018 December 17 which stated local learning opportunities were to be identified and executed by Administration. Administration was directed to report back to Council with a progress report on the implementation of the Community Representation Framework no later than the end of 2020 Q1. If we do not proceed with this application we would miss an opportunity to learn and test an alternative model, while utilizing the Community Representation Framework priorities and principles.

#### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

This application meets the existing Council Innovation Fund Terms of Reference. This pilot project is a one-time funding request that has the potential to have a city-wide impact and helps to advance Council priorities. In addition, this pilot project meets the ongoing work directed by the Community Representation Framework Final Report (CPS2018-1393), approved by Council.

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Attachment 1 – Application to The City of Calgary Council Innovation Fund
2. Attachment 2 – Table 1: Project Overview and Budget (over 18 months)
3. Attachment 3 – Council Innovation Fund Terms of Reference
4. Attachment 4 – Letter of Support: Dover Community Association
5. Attachment 5 – Letter of Support: 12 Community Safety Initiative
6. Attachment 6 – Letter of Support: The Alex Community Health Centre
7. Attachment 7 – Letter of Support: Action Dignity