



Subject: Contribution Agreement – Canada Community Revitalization Fund

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-273

Meeting Date: October 25, 2021

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-273 be received;

That Council approve the Contribution Agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario for the Canada Community Revitalization Fund and the City's waterfront centre project, attached as Appendix A to Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-273; and

That a by-law to enter into the Contribution Agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, be brought forward.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide context for the Contribution Agreement between the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) and the City of Port Colborne regarding the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF).

Background:

On June 23, 2021, the federal government announced the \$500 million Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) to support two major streams of activity: (1) adapt community spaces and assets so that they may be used safely in accordance with local public-health guidelines; and (2) build or improve community spaces to encourage Canadians to re-engage in and explore their communities and regions.

Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-200, dated July 12, 2021, was approved by Council and staff were directed to submit an application to the CCRF. The City was notified in early August that its CCRF application had been approved for the maximum amount of \$750,000.

To obtain the CCRF funding, the City must sign a Contribution Agreement with FedDev Ontario, the agency that administers the funding program. This agreement formalizes the funding arrangement between the two parties and sets out the terms and conditions under which FedDev Ontario will provide funding for the project.

FedDev Ontario will reimburse the City for eligible project expenses incurred after April 19, 2021, and until February 13, 2023, to a maximum of \$750,000. Since April, the City has incurred approximately \$88,000 in eligible project expenses, and staff will be submitting a claim to FedDev Ontario for reimbursement.

Discussion:

Given the various components and phases of the project, along with timelines for approvals, most of the CCRF funding will be used for demolition and related site work, assessments and studies, substance abatement and remediation, architectural drawings and detailed design, and engineering consulting. A smaller portion of the funding will be used for capital costs and the initial phases of site servicing and construction.

The City's waterfront centre project team, comprised of staff from Corporate Services, Economic Development and Tourism, Planning, and Public Works, meets regularly to discuss the project scope, site servicing, and a project management timeline outlining next steps and major milestones. The team is also having regular discussions with the City's consulting engineers at CIMA+. Moreover, preparing the site to welcome cruise ship passengers in May 2022 has been a key focus. Given the magnitude and scope of the project, City staff and CIMA+ are working towards having the waterfront centre completed by the spring/summer of 2024.

Internal Consultations:

City staff from various departments, including Corporate Services, Economic Development and Tourism, Planning, and Public Works, are working together on this project and holding meetings with the City's consulting engineers at CIMA+.

Financial Implications:

The City will receive \$750,000 from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund for the waterfront centre project. To secure this funding, the City must commit to a minimum contribution of \$250,000.

Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-200, dated July 12, 2021, resulted in Council passing a motion in support of the project and committing to provide the City's financial share. This share was to be determined pending the outcome of the CCRF application, other federal-provincial funding potentially secured, and more precise project costs.

During the 2022 Capital Budget process, Council expressed continued support for the project and directed staff to return with a project update, detailed cost estimates, and a financing strategy. The financing strategy being developed includes other sources of public and private funding, revenue generation opportunities from commercial leases within the waterfront centre and rentals for private social functions along with other opportunities.

During budget discussions, staff indicated that the estimated cost of the waterfront centre would be approximately \$5 million. This total is based on a high-level opinion of probable costs provided by R.J. Burnside & Associates and subsequently updated by City staff. Up until the submission of the CCRF application, staff had worked with a senior landscape architect at R.J. Burnside & Associates on site planning and design. Staff will be able to provide a more accurate cost estimate in the coming months once architectural drawings and detailed design, as well as a site servicing plan, are finalized.

Other project elements included in the \$5 million estimate comprise site servicing, signage, landscaping and beautification, walkways and improved accessibility, lighting, paving, a project contingency, as well as required gates and fencing to comply with Transport Canada and marine transportation security regulations.

Public Engagement:

When more project information and cost estimates are available, staff will bring this forward in a public report and presentation to Council.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
- City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
- Value: Financial Management to Achieve Financial Sustainability

- Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
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Conclusion:

The City's application to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) for the proposed waterfront centre was approved for the maximum amount of \$750,000. To obtain this funding, the City must sign a Contribution Agreement with FedDev Ontario, the agency that administers the funding program on behalf of the federal government. This agreement formalizes the funding arrangement between FedDev Ontario and the City and sets out the terms and conditions of this arrangement.

The City's waterfront centre project team and consulting engineers at CIMA+ have been meeting to discuss the project and finalize a project management schedule. As per Council direction, staff intends to return to Council in the coming months with a project update, detailed costing, and a financing strategy that will minimally impact the City's tax levy budget and focus instead on other public and private sources of funding.

Appendices:

- a. Contribution Agreement – Canada Community Revitalization Fund
- b. Draft Agreement By-Law

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Long
Manager of Strategic Initiatives
905-835-2900 x.502
gary.long@portcolborne.ca

Greg Higginbotham
Tourism Coordinator
905-835-2900 x.505
greg.higginbotham@portcolborne.ca

Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.