Agenda - Executive Policy Committee – February 15, 2006

CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 1 **City-wide Accessibility Program – Accessible Play Area Funding**
File CR-3

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 8, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee referred the May 17, 2005 recommendation of the Access Advisory Committee pertaining to funding a city wide accessibility program to the 2006 Capital Budget deliberations, and referred the documentation submitted by the Access Advisory Committee to the Administration.

On December 8, 2004, the Executive Policy Committee referred the matter of a Citywide Accessibility Program for consideration during future capital budget discussions.

Agenda - Executive Policy Committee – February 15, 2006

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 8, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee referred the May 17, 2005 recommendation of the Access Advisory Committee pertaining to funding a city wide accessibility program to the 2006 Capital Budget deliberations, and referred the documentation submitted by the Access Advisory Committee to the Administration.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 17, 2005, the Access Advisory Committee passed the following motion, namely:

> WHEREAS the mandate of the Access Advisory Committee is to advise civic government on how to make the City of Winnipeg accessible for persons with disabilities to the benefit of all citizens, supporting the City's Universal Design Policy;
>
> AND WHEREAS on September 25, 2002, Council adopted a City wide Accessibility Program that included a Capital Estimates budget for the Public Works Department of $250,000.00 annually for the years 2003 to 2005 to complete access issues identified in the Centre Plan Accessibility Audit;
>
> AND WHEREAS the Executive Policy Committee on December 8, 2004 referred the recommendations of the Access Advisory Committee pertaining to the continuation of a City wide Accessibility Program to the 2006 Capital Budget deliberations;
>
> AND WHEREAS the demand for this program has increased and requests for Accessibility Program funding in 2005, the final year of the current program, exceeded $1.2 million dollars from an existing fund source of $250,000.00;
>
> AND WHEREAS the Accessibility Program has been distributed equitably throughout departments and wards of the City of Winnipeg;
>
> AND WHEREAS the Accessibility Program currently has no existing funding program available for the increased requests for accessibility upgrades to new play areas located on City of Winnipeg properties;
>
> THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Access Advisory Committee request the Executive Policy Committee to give favourable consideration to ensuring that funding for the Accessibility program of $500,000.00 be included annually in the 2006 to 2010 Capital Budget based on the increased funding demand for the Accessibility Program and the newly identified need for accessible play area funding.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 8, 2004, the Executive Policy Committee referred the matter of a Citywide Accessibility Program for consideration during future capital budget discussions.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 23, 2004, the Access Advisory Committee passed the following resolution:

> WHEREAS on September 25, 2002, Winnipeg City Council adopted Item 4 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated September 18, 2002, and established a city wide Accessibility Program that:
>
> I. Prioritizes the uncompleted projects identified in the 1998 Accessibility Audit;
>
> II. Expands the Audit process city wide to encompass all properties owned or leased by the City;
>
> III. Addresses new issues reported through the current means (existing call centres, administration and the Access Advisory Committee) more quickly and efficiently;
>
> IV. Include a Capital Estimates budget for the Public Works Department of $250,000.00 annually for the next three years, 2003, 2004 and 2005, to complete currently identified access issues from the Centre Plan Accessibility Audit;
>
> V. That the Universal Design Team assist in prioritizing the Accessibility Program projects.
>
> AND WHEREAS the demand for this program has increased and there are a large number of departmental requests for assistance to provide access to City owned or leased facilities;
>
> AND WHEREAS only a small percentage of the projects identified as accessibility priorities City wide have been completed to date;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS a City of Winnipeg Accessibility Guideline should be developed which would in turn reduce the need for consultants and expedite the process of Access Audits;

AND WHEREAS accessibility audits are required to update current City inventories (last done in 1998);

AND WHEREAS the 'Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision' identifies that “The City shall encourage accessibility to and within the downtown . . . ”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Access Advisory Committee request the Executive Policy Committee to give favourable consideration to ensuring the continuation of the Accessibility Program beyond 2005 whereby a permanent Capital Budget line item of $250,000.00 is included from 2006 forward;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Access Advisory Committee request the Executive Policy Committee to refer this matter to future capital budget deliberations and give favourable consideration to approving the continuation of a City-wide Accessibility Program that:

1. Expands the Audit process city wide to encompass all properties owned or leased by the City, providing up to date accessibility data;

2. Continues to address new issues reported through the current means (existing call centres, administration and the Access Advisory Committee) more quickly and efficiently;

3. Includes an ongoing Capital Estimates budget for the Public Works Department of $250,000.00 annually; and continues to involve the expertise of the cross departmental selection committee (as established in 2003) in prioritizing the Accessibility Program projects,

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee.