Minute No. 475
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - April 10, 2006

Item No. 2 Community Poverty Reduction Strategy
File EH-1

On April 19, 2006, the Executive Policy Committee laid over the matter for 30 days.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 19, 2006, the Executive Policy Committee laid over the matter for 30 days.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 10, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the administrative recommendation, as amended, namely:

- Add the following Recommendations:

    - "That the Social Planning Council be requested to identify key stakeholders and commence discussions regarding the identification of an inter-sectoral process and implementation plan for the purpose of determining a collaborative comprehensive community poverty reduction strategy for Winnipeg, and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services no later than September 11, 2006."

    - "That Council appoint political representation to engage in the inter-sectoral process which will determine a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy,"

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

On December 6, 2005, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services granted a further extension of time to April 10, 2006 for the Administration to report back on the amended recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee, namely:

1. That the City of Winnipeg establish a Poverty Action Committee under the leadership of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.

2. That the Poverty Action Committee consist of:
    A. representatives from the Social Planning Council;
    B. other organizations involved in poverty and social issues;
    C. at least two Councillors, at least one of whom is a member of Executive Policy Committee and at least one of whom is not;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

D. at least one representative of the provincial government;
E. at least one Winnipeg Police Service officer;
F. and other members as shall be agreed upon by City Council and the Social Planning Council;

3. That the Poverty Action Committee be requested to develop a framework plan to recommend how the City can best work with government and community partners to alleviate poverty and its effects.

4. That the Poverty Action Committee's framework plan be delivered to an open session of the Executive Policy Committee no later than July 2006.

5. That the Poverty Action Committee continue after that time to provide advice to City Council on issues related to the City's role in fighting poverty.

6. That the Poverty Action Committee operate on a volunteer basis without an additional budget allocation.

On October 13, 2005, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee, with the following amendment, namely:

- Add the following new third whereas, namely:

  "AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg desires to consult with the community regarding the City's role in alleviating the complex social issues related to poverty in partnership with other levels of government;"

- Delete the resolve and replace with the following, namely:

  "NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

  1. The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurs in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee that the City of Winnipeg establish a Poverty Action Committee under the leadership of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

2. The Poverty Action Committee consist of:
   A. representatives from the Social Planning Council;
   B. other organizations involved in poverty and social issues;
   C. at least two Councillors, at least one of whom is a member of Executive Policy Committee and at least one of whom is not;
   D. at least one representative of the provincial government;
   E. at least one Winnipeg Police Service officer;
   F. and other members as shall be agreed upon by City Council and the Social Planning Council;

3. The Poverty Action Committee be requested to develop a framework plan to recommend how the City can best work with government and community partners to alleviate poverty and its effects.

4. The Poverty Action Committee's framework plan be delivered to an open session of the Executive Policy Committee no later than July 2006.

5. The Poverty Action Committee continue after that time to provide advice to City Council on issues related to the City's role in fighting poverty.

6. That the Poverty Action Committee operate on a volunteer basis without an additional budget allocation,"

and forwarded the matter to the administration for report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services at its meeting on December 6, 2005.

On September 12, 2005, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services laid over consideration of the matter to its meeting on October 13, 2005.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 12, 2005, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee referred the following resolution to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services for favourable consideration, namely:

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has no Poverty Action Committee despite ongoing requests from the Social Planning Council for the establishment of one;

AND WHEREAS poverty is a City-wide issue and a Committee should be formed with representatives from other levels of government to examine such things as accessibility for recreation and other services offered by the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee endorses the establishment of a Poverty Action Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

RE: Administrative Response to the Establishment of a Poverty Action Committee and the Social Needs of Panhandlers

FOR SUBMISSION TO: **Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services**

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY: **Ursula Stelman, Director Community Services Department**

REPORT DATE: **March 31, 2006**

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the City of Winnipeg request the Province of Manitoba to further reduce the effects of poverty by supporting and strengthening inter-sectoral frameworks and efforts between governments and community organizations.

REPORT SUMMARY:

Key Issues:

- This recommendation addresses the following two dispositions:
  1) Council's June 29, 2005 disposition with regards to addressing the many social components facing panhandlers and

  2) Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services October 13, 2005 disposition regarding the development of a framework plan to recommend how the City can best work with government and community partners to alleviate poverty and its effects. Given the complex nature of poverty and the interrelatedness of the two requests, they are both addressed by this report.

- Poverty is a complex multi-faceted issue which extends beyond the control of any one organization or level of government. Recent literature informs that collaborative comprehensive community approaches are the most effective way in which to address poverty and its effects. The benefits of such a multi-sectoral approach include enhanced community problem-solving capacity, increased service integration and human and

financial resources coordination, resulting in maximum impact and the development of a more comprehensive continuum of supports.

- Consultation with the Social Planning has been carried out. The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg confirms that in their view a coordinated multi-sectoral approach including representation from the community, non-profit sector, funding bodies, business, labour and all levels of government is the best way to develop a comprehensive community poverty reduction strategy in Winnipeg. The Social Planning Council stresses the need for involvement of people who are currently working in the field to ameliorate the effects of poverty, as well as those living in poverty.

- Within Winnipeg, many community organizations and all levels of Government are involved in numerous initiatives aimed at ameliorating the effects of poverty.

    - The City of Winnipeg is involved a range of initiatives aimed at build community capacity and thereby reducing poverty within Winnipeg. Examples include:

        The Winnipeg Partnership Agreement – is a tri-level agreement between the Governments of Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg involving a $75 million dollar commitment over five years to address Winnipeg's economic and social issues and revitalize neighbourhoods and downtown core, most recently focusing on the needs of Winnipeg's Aboriginal community.

        The Winnipeg Housing and Homeless Initiative - is a multi-million dollar tripartite partnership established by the three levels of Government to address declining housing stock in designated inner city neighbourhoods and respond to homelessness.

        First Steps: Municipal Aboriginal Pathways - forms the City's urban Aboriginal policy identifying key strategic initiatives to meet the policy direction set out in Plan Winnipeg 2020.

        The Integrated Planning Model –The City's Integrated Planning Model brings City services to neighbourhoods. Community Resource Coordinators work collaboratively with residents, community agencies and other levels of government to champion revitalization solutions that reflect the social, economic and cultural realities of the community. The West Alexander/ Centennial Community Planning Process is an excellent example of an integrated approach where the City of Winnipeg is working in partnership with the Winnipeg Foundation and many local community stakeholders to develop a neighbourhood plan that addresses both physical land use issues and responds to broader neighbourhood needs. The Spence/Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthew/West Broadway Neighbourhood

Integrated Service Team is another example of a seamless coordinated response to local neighbourhood issues.

Project Break-away – was initiated by Police Services in 2004 in response to the complex social issues facing panhandlers and vulnerable street people. This city led initiative utilizes an inter-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to develop coordinated comprehensive intervention plans for at-risk individuals.

- Many community organizations are dedicated to reducing poverty on many different levels. Large community organizations such as the Social Planning Council, The United Way and the Winnipeg Foundation are all currently engaged in leading inter-sectoral approaches to poverty reduction in Winnipeg.

- While there are numerous successful initiatives within Winnipeg aimed at ameliorating the effects of poverty, there is an opportunity for senior government to play a critical leadership and support role in ensuring coordination and integration of these inter-sectoral efforts, and the development of future initiatives.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General implications:

None

X **For the organization overall &/or for other departments**

X **For the community and/or organizations external to the City**

Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):

Multiple sectors including community residents, all levels of government, non-profit organizations, funding bodies, business and labour must work together to alleviate the effects of poverty.

Diverse stakeholders, who are delivering a multitude of complimentary projects and/or programs, working with each other results in broad range approaches that tackle poverty on many fronts over the long term for the benefit of the entire community.

Policy implications:

X **No**

Yes

Comment(s):

Environmental implications:

X No
Yes Comment(s):

Human Resources implications:

X No
Yes Comment(s):

Financial implications:

X Within approved current and/or capital budget
Current and/or capital budget adjustment required
Comment(s):

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

On June 29, 2005 Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, as amended by the Executive Policy Committee, and adopted the following:

> That the Administration, in consultation with Social Planning Council, be requested to develop a framework plan to deal with the "many social components, related to health, mental health, housing, employment, and substance abuse issues" faced by panhandlers and report back to the appropriate Committee of Council, with the intent that if the Framework Plan is adopted by Council that the City would then approach the Province of Manitoba to enter into discussions on this issue.

On October 13th 2005 The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk –West Kildonan Community Committee, as amended, and forwarded the matter to the administration for report back to the Committee at it December 6, 2005 meeting, namely:

1. That the City of Winnipeg establish a Poverty Action Committee under the leadership of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg,

2. That the Poverty Action Committee consist of:
   A. representatives from the Social Planning Council;
   B. other organizations involved in poverty and social issues;
   C. at least two Councillors, at least one of whom is a member of Executive Policy Committee and at least one of whom is not;
   D. at least one representative of the provincial government;
   E. at least one Winnipeg Police Service officer;
   F. and other members as shall be agreed upon by City Council and the Social Planning Council;

3. That the Poverty Action Committee be requested to develop a framework plan to recommend how the City can best work with government and community partners to alleviate poverty and its effects.

4. That the Poverty Action Committee's framework plan be delivered to an open session of the Executive Policy committee no later than July 2006.

5. That the Poverty Action Committee continue after that time to provide advice to City Council on issues related to the City's role in fighting poverty.

6. That the Poverty Action Committee operate on a volunteer basis without an additional budget allocation.

On December 6, 2005 the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services granted a further extension of time to April 10, 2006 for the Administration to report back.

HISTORY:

Poverty continues to pose challenges for all levels of Government and the civil society. On June 29th, 2005 Council approved the most recent amendments to the Obstructive Solicitation By-law No. 7700/2000 and at the same time requested that the Administration, in consultation with the Social Planning Council, develop a framework plan to address the many social components related to health, mental health, housing, employment, and substance abuse issues faced by panhandlers.

On October 13th, 2005 Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommended that the City of Winnipeg establish a Poverty
Action Committee under the leadership of the Social Planning Council in order to develop a framework plan to recommend how the City can best work with government and community partners to alleviate poverty and its effects.

Given the interrelatedness of the two dispositions, they are both intended to be addressed by this report.

DISCUSSION:

Poverty is a complex multi-faceted issue which extends beyond the control of any one organization or level of government. It impacts all sectors of our community. Given the interrelatedness of social issues, broad range approaches that cross sectors and tackle poverty on many fronts over the long term, are viewed as the most effective.

Recent literature informs that collaborative comprehensive multi-sector approaches are the most effective way to address poverty and its effects. *(Torjman, Sherri and Eric Leviten-Reid, Caledon Institute of Social Policy, Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement, Connor, Joseph Kadel-Taras, Stephanie Community Visions, Community Solutions)* Different sectors working and learning together results in the development of much stronger and comprehensive solutions aimed at ameliorating poverty and its effects.

In preparing this report, consultation with the Social Planning Council has occurred. The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg concurs that a coordinated multi-sectoral approach involving the community, non-profit sector, funding bodies, business, labour and all levels of government working together is the best way to tackle the issues of poverty. They also stress the need to involve people who are currently working to ameliorate conditions of poverty, as well as those living in poverty. A framework that engages multiple sectors in a spirit of collaborative purpose, learning together and identifying solutions works best. The views of the Social Planning Council are based on the knowledge of a broad membership comprised of approximately 400 individuals representing community residents and various organizations, and a diverse Board which includes official representation from the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Winnipeg Labour Council.

Within Winnipeg, many community organizations and all levels of Government are involved in numerous initiatives aimed at ameliorating the effects of poverty.

- The City of Winnipeg is involved a range of initiatives aimed at build community capacity and thereby reducing poverty within Winnipeg. Examples include:

  The Winnipeg Partnership Agreement – is a tri-level agreement between the Governments of Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg involving a $75 million dollar commitment over five years to address Winnipeg's economic and social issues and revitalize neighbourhoods and downtown core, most recently focusing on the needs of Winnipeg's Aboriginal community.

  The Winnipeg Housing and Homeless Initiative - is a multi-million dollar tripartite partnership established by the three levels of Government to address declining housing stock in designated inner city neighbourhoods and respond to homelessness.

  First Steps: Municipal Aboriginal Pathways - forms the City's urban Aboriginal policy identifying key strategic initiatives to meet the policy direction set out in Plan Winnipeg 2020.

  The Integrated Planning Model –The City's Integrated Planning Model brings City services to neighbourhoods. Community Resource Coordinators work collaboratively with residents, community agencies and other levels of government to champion revitalization solutions that reflect the social, economic

and cultural realities of the community. The West Alexander/ Centennial Community Planning Process is an excellent example of an integrated approach where the City of Winnipeg is working in partnership with the Winnipeg Foundation and many local community stakeholders to develop a neighbourhood plan that addresses both physical land use issues and responds to broader neighbourhood needs. The Spence/Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthew/West Broadway Neighbourhood Integrated Service Team is another example of a seamless coordinated response to local neighbourhood issues.

Project Break-away – was initiated by Police Services in 2004 in response to the complex social issues facing panhandlers and vulnerable street people. This city led initiative utilizes an inter-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to develop coordinated comprehensive intervention plans for at-risk individuals.

- The work of many community organizations is dedicated to reducing poverty on many different levels. Large community organizations such as the Social Planning Council, The United Way and the Winnipeg Foundation are all currently engaged in leading inter-sectoral approaches to poverty reduction in Winnipeg. Examples of their efforts include:

  The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg has provided action-oriented leadership initiating numerous working committees aimed at addressing social and economic issues facing Winnipeg, and enhancing social equity and inclusion. Some of their highlights and accomplishments include, carrying out a key role implementing the National Homelessness Initiative and coordinating the development of a Community Plan on Homelessness and Housing in Winnipeg; developing and supporting the Proposal Fund Allocation Committee which is a partner in the shared delivery model with the Winnipeg Homelessness and Housing Initiative (WHHI); the Poverty Barometers and Campaign 2000 to eliminate child poverty; the Food Security Project; the Committee for the Elimination of Racism & Discrimination; and the Wellbeing in the Workplace Committee which partnered with the Asper School of Business to conduct research on collaborative management-worker processes to improve the health of organizations.

  The United Way is a partner in the Vibrant Communities Initiative which is a community-driven effort to reduce poverty in Canada by creating partnerships that make use of people, organizations, businesses and governments and is sponsored by three organizations highly respected for their work in communities; The Caledon Institute of Social Policy, The Tamarack and the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation.

  The West Alexander/Centennial Community Planning Process is an excellent example of the leadership efforts of the *Winnipeg Foundation* in supporting the development and implementation of neighbourhood plans as a basis for integrated

approaches to deal with both land-use, social and economic issues of local communities within Winnipeg.

The leadership of senior Government is critical in supporting the valuable work already undertaken by various organizations, the City of Winnipeg and senior levels of government, as well as helping to guide future projects and programs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:
There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Financial Impact Statement **Date: March 31, 2006**

COMMENTS: **There is no financial impact associated with this report.**

"Original signed by"
Clive wightman, BA, CGA
Manager of Finance and Administrative Services

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH, AND CONCURRENCY BY:

- Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
- Winnipeg Police Service

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Community Services Department
Prepared by: Kelly Goldstrand, Manager
Community Resource, Protection and Safety Services

Karen Mitchell, Administrative Coordinator
Social Support & Development

File No.