Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - February 13, 2008

REPORTS

Minute No. 148 Trends Report
File GG

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received as information the Trends Report dated December, 2007.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Leipsic,
That the Trends Report dated December, 2007, be received as information.

Carried

RE: Trends Report

FOR SUBMISSION TO: Executive Policy Committee

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY: Alex Robinson, A/Chief Administrative Officer

REPORT DATE: February 1, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the attached Trends Report be received as information.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- The Trends Report for 2007 provides a synopsis of key demographic, economic and city government information.
- The Trends Report provides information in a number of key areas including (1) population, demographics and housing; (2) economy and affordability; (3) polling – issues and concerns for citizens; (4) city government spending and (5) city revenues.
- This information is provided as reference information to assist Council in discussions relative to City policy and/or City services.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications

(**X**) None

( ) For the organization overall and/or for other departments

( ) For the community and/or organizations external to the City

( ) Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):

Policy Implications

(**X**) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Regulatory Implications

(**X**) None
( ) Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact
( ) Proposes regulatory impact

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):

Report

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

On December 6, 2006 Council adopted the Economic Opportunity Framework – City of Opportunity. On September 5, 2007, Executive Policy Committee received as information an Implementation Plan for the Economic Opportunity Framework, which included preparation of a Trends Report to advise Council on issues relative to current/anticipated external and internal issues impacting the City of Winnipeg.

DISCUSSION:

The Trends Report provides selected information on a number of key areas including (1) population, demographics and housing; (2) economy and affordability; (3) polling – issues and concerns for citizens; (4) city government spending and (5) city revenues. The report's focus is on those key change factors that are currently, as well as in future, impacting Winnipeg. In much of this report, third party information has been used (i.e. Conference Board of Canada, CMHC, Statistics Canada, Royal LePage, City of Edmonton Property Tax Survey, Royal Bank of Canada, etc.). It should be noted that the Trends Report was not intended to be a comprehensive socio-economic report. At the same time, the Public Service does have significant additional information.

The Trends Report includes many comparisons with other cities. Although it is recognized that comparing city information (costs and revenues, etc.) is difficult due to varying services/service levels as well as accounting issues, this information reflects near apple to apple comparisons.

The following summarizes a dozen key insights from the report.

1. Of the 15 municipalities of the capital region (excluding Winnipeg), there are 11 municipalities in which 50% or more of the municipality's population works in Winnipeg. All of the municipalities bordering Winnipeg fall into this category. As the region grows and as issues relative to land supply/border development and infrastructure needs emerge, there may be a need for a more regional approach.

2. The population in Winnipeg is growing increasingly and this growth will have an impact on new and existing infrastructure and on City services. The most immediate needs will be in the south part of the City (transportation planning will be key and road, transit, water/sewer and recreation services will see significant pressure).

3. The demographic mix in Winnipeg is changing – there will be many more citizens over 55 in the years ahead and increasing levels of immigration. The aging population will create new service pressures particularly with respect to ambulance, recreation and transportation. In the longer term, immigration will cause an increase in citizens in the younger age categories which will put pressure on all city services.

4. The housing construction will increase with growing demand for multi-family as the population ages. There will be an opportunity for Council to shape development that is sustainable for future generations through sound planning and policy. There will be continued pressure to ensure planning and permitting processes facilitate development.

5. Winnipeg's relatively low wages will threaten the economy; immigration will be key to keeping it healthy. The role of the City on these two key economic drivers is less obvious.

6. When surveyed, Winnipeggers have indicated they: live in a city with a high quality of life; have high satisfaction with City services; and see increasing value in their municipal taxes. Citizens' top three areas for City government action are: crime/policing, roads/infrastructure and city beautification.

7. The City is spending less per capita today than it did in 1998 (government is smaller). City spending on services is in line with a few other Canadian cities but lower than most on a similar basket of services.

8. Spending on public safety areas has increased since 1998, while most other service areas have increased to a much smaller degree; much of this shift has been supported by reduced debt and interest charges

9. Since 1998, City staffing levels have shifted towards the public service areas with a corresponding reduction in internal support service areas (Finance, HR/IT, Building Services/Civic Accommodations, Fleet, etc.).

10. Despite significant increases in capital spending in recent years, the City's spending on capital is lower than other Canadian cities (60% lower on average).

11. The City's history of property tax freezes/cuts is unprecedented among Canadian cities. The policy has put Winnipeg in a more competitive property tax position now than it was years ago

12. The City's history of property tax freezes/cuts policy has also had the effect of reducing the City's reliance on property taxes. The City's reliance on user fees and charges has increased over the years. The loss in property tax revenue has been made up for by increase in user fees and charges.

Financial Impact Statement

Date: February 1, 2008

Project Name:
Trends Report

First Year of Program **2008**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -				
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-				
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal					
Debt - External					
Grants (Enter Description Here)					
Reserves, Equity, Surplus					
Other - Enter Description Here					
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery					
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

There are no financial implications to this report.

(Original signed by R. Abeysekera)
Radhika Abeysekera
Manager of Finance & Administration
Internal Services Dept.

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:

External Consultation With:
None.

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Department: CAO Secretariat
Division: Strategic Management
Prepared by: Georges Chartier
File No.


Trends Report - Dec 2007.pdf