Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - March 20, 2008

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 11 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee – Funding for Housing Initiatives
File EX

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 12, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee referred the recommendation of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, pertaining to an allocation of $2m for housing initiatives, to the 2008 Operating Budget review process.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 12, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee referred the recommendation of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, pertaining to the review of the review of the Winnipeg Housing Policy, to the Plan Winnipeg Review.

Further on March 12, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee referred the recommendation of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, pertaining to an allocation of $2m for housing initiatives, to the 2008 Operating Budget review process.

And Further on March 12, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation from the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, and in its capacity as the Inter-governmental Affairs Committee, agreed to engage the Federal and Provincial governments with the goal of developing initiatives and new programs for affordable seniors housing.

WINNIPEG HOUSING STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 29, 2008, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee passed the following motions:

(1) WHEREAS in May, 2000, the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) was formed as a tri-partite partnership between the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the WHHI was established as a Single Window Initiative to coordinate government-funded housing and homelessness programs;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the WHHI is to stabilize neighbourhoods, increase property assessments and provide more affordable accommodation - thus improving the overall health of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS on January 23, 2008, City Council approved the Overview of the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative which outlined the outputs and investments in the Initiative and committed the City to participating in the WHHI until March 31, 2013;

AND WHEREAS the City's role in the WHHI was based on the Winnipeg Housing Policy, adopted by Council in November, 1999;

AND WHEREAS a review of the Winnipeg Housing Policy has not been carried out since that time;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

WINNIPEG HOUSING STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommends to the Executive Policy Committee that the Winnipeg Public Service report back within 60 days with preliminary recommendations for an updated Winnipeg Housing Policy that:

1. Would create a 10-year Social and Affordable Housing Strategy for Winnipeg that would incorporate input from public consultations and research in order to develop a vision for our City that would include measurable objectives and outcomes including, but not limited to, the following information:

    A. Measurable criteria on City of Winnipeg neighbourhoods (i.e. vacant lots, vacant and derelict buildings, supply of quality housing stock, assessed values);
    B. New and existing initiatives to address neighbourhood conditions;
    C. Opportunities to coordinate city-led programs with Federal and Provincial housing programs.

(2) The Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommends to the Executive Policy Committee that $2 million be allocated in the 2008 Operating Budget for housing initiatives as part of the Winnipeg Housing Homelessness Initiative.

(3) WHEREAS the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee has identified affordable housing as an important issue in the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has been proactive with regards to funding affordable housing, including the development of a multiple-family housing grant program;

AND WHEREAS Federal and Provincial funding for affordable senior's housing has been on the decline over the last 30 years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee strongly urges the Executive Policy Committee to engage the Federal and Provincial governments with the goal of developing initiatives and new programs for affordable seniors housing.