Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - September 17, 2003

REPORTS

Minute No. 333 Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the tripartite Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative
File EX

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the administrative recommendation and recommends to Council:

1. That the attached Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding, respecting the commitment by Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg to a common objective to coordinate the implementation of their strategies related to housing revitalization and homelessness in Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, be approved.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing recommendation.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Vandal,
That the administrative recommendation be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Re: Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes the tripartite Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI)

For submission to: **Executive Policy Committee**

Original report signed by: **Director of Planning, Property and Development**

Report date: August 22, 2003

Recommendation(s):

1. That Council be requested to approve the (attached) extension of the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) respecting the commitment by Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg to a common objective to coordinate the implementation of their strategies related to housing revitalization and homelessness in Winnipeg through the WHHI.

2. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing recommendations.

REPORT SUMMARY

Key Issues:

- The Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba have negotiated a Bilateral Agreement for an Affordable Housing Initiative in Manitoba. It is estimated that Winnipeg will receive approximately $35 to $40 million in Federal and Provincial funds under the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI). The AHI, a five-year signed commitment, started delivering programs in 2002 through the WHHI. The AHI will run until 2007. Council has allocated a total of $17.5 million to the implementation and delivery of housing programs under the Affordable Housing Initiative, inclusive of program funding, in-kind contributions and policy coordination.

- City Council approved the Winnipeg Housing Policy to address the decline in housing conditions in inner city neighbourhoods. This policy has given rise to the City's Housing Initiative ($7 million) that is administered by the WHHI. The City of Winnipeg has delivered tri-level housing improvement programs through the WHHI, which have enhanced neighbourhood stability, increased property assessments, provided affordable accommodation and generally improved the overall health of Winnipeg.

- Given that both the City's Housing Initiative ($ 7 million) and the MOU on Affordable Housing Initiative contemplate delivery through the WHHI. It is therefore necessary to renew the proposed three-year extension to the WHHI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General implications:

	None
X	**For the organization overall and/or for other departments**
X	**For the community and/or organizations external to the City of Winnipeg**
	Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):

- Renewal of the MOU will support the continued interdepartmental and intergovernmental approach to neighbourhood partnership and revitalization.

Policy implications:

	No
X	**Yes**

Comment(s):

- Approval of the MOU would involve a three-year extension to the current Federal/Provincial/Municipal MOU that establishes the WHHI.

Environmental implications:

	No
X	**Yes**

Comment(s):

- Extension of the MOU will contribute to environmental improvements in the inner city neighbourhoods.

Human resources implications:

X	**No**
	Yes

Comment(s):

- A full complement of City staff is already in place.

Financial implications:

X	**Within approved current and/or capital budget**
	Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s):

- There are no additional financial implications beyond contributions and commitments Council has already agreed to in principle. However, funding totalling $1.5 million and $8.747 million respectively needs to be obtained to complete the City Housing Policy implementation and the City's commitment to the Affordable Housing Initiative.

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

- To renew the Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the tripartite Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative. The renewal of the MOU will assure the City of Winnipeg's continued participation in a common housing revitalization and homelessness strategy for Winnipeg.

HISTORY:

Established in May 2000, the WHHI is a three-year, tri-partite partnership established by the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to address declining housing stock, homelessness and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. The WHHI Single Window office serves as a one-stop shop for community organizations to access information on government-funded housing and homelessness programs. The Single Window concept also helps foster improved co-operation and information sharing between the various levels of government and the community groups.

WHHI staff, who are assigned by their respective levels of government, are delivering existing programs including:

- Programs funded ($7 million) and delivered under the City of Winnipeg's Housing Policy;
- Programs funded and delivered by the City of Winnipeg under the Affordable Housing Initiative ($17.5 million).
- Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), which is funded 75% by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and 25% by Manitoba Family Services and Housing and delivered by City of Winnipeg staff;
- Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative delivered by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC);
- Urban Aboriginal Strategy delivered by HRDC;
- Youth at Risk delivered by HRDC;
- Neighbourhood Housing Assistance funded and delivered by Manitoba Family Services and Housing;
- Neighbourhoods Alive funded and delivered by Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs.

DISCUSSION:

Over the past three years, the WHHI has had a significant impact on housing and homelessness in the inner-city. The WHHI has committed over $16 million for housing redevelopment in Winnipeg's inner city as of the end of July 2003. This funding is contributing to the repair,

rehabilitation or development of some 1,360 housing units and 110 rooms or beds. In addition, there has been a substantial investment in services and supports to prevent homelessness through the Federal Government's Homelessness Initiative.

In August 2002, the WHHI Management Committee engaged a consultant to conduct qualitative research to gauge the effectiveness of the single window approach. Community and industry partners, along with single window staff took part in three focus groups. Key findings from this evaluation included the following:

- Community partners indicated program delivery has become smoother and faster.
- Some partners were complimentary of the staff's willingness to be flexible in order to accommodate proposals.
- Partners indicated WHHI has served as a catalyst for creating new and more effective partnerships to provide neighbourhood revitalization and affordable housing and to serve the needs of the homeless.
- All participants indicated there have been improved consultation and communication between all three levels of government and the community and see the first three years of the WHHI as only the beginning.

The Federal government has renewed funding under the Homelessness Initiative for a five-year term. The Province of Manitoba has entered into the $50.8 million Manitoba Affordable Housing Agreement with the Federal government. The City of Winnipeg has committed $17.5 million to the Affordable Housing Initiative. All of these programs will be delivered in Winnipeg through the WHHI.

Financial Impact Statement

Date: August 22, 2003

Project Name:

First Year of Program 2003

Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes the Tripartite Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Identify)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus, Other	-	-	-	-	-
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 additional financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report beyond the contributions and commitments that Council has already agreed to in principle. However, there remains a total of approximately $1.5 million in funding that needs to be obtained out of the $7 million total involved in the implementation of the City of Winnipeg's Housing Policy. Funding totalling $8.747 million also has to be put in place to complete the City's commitment to the "Affordable Housing Initiative", over and above land and other contributions agreed to. It should also be noted that administrative costs included in the PP&D Business Plan in support of programs noted in this report (including RRAP and WHHI Single Window) are forecast to average $532,000 annually in the 2004 to 2006 time frame.

"Original signed by"
Gord Courage, Manager
Support Services Division

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

Senior Manager of Operations	Planning, Property and Development
Housing Development Manager	Planning, Property and Development
Housing Policy Coordinator	Planning, Property and Development
Manager of Support Services Planning	Planning, Property and Development

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Department: Planning, Property and Development

Division: Housing Development

Prepared by: Ray Klassen, Housing Development Manager

PPD File #:

Document name: o:\reports directive\housing development\report mou renewal_aug 22.doc

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING respecting a renewed commitment by Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg to a common objective to coordinate the implementation of their strategies related to housing revitalization and homelessness in Winnipeg, dated_____, 2003

BETWEEN:

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- and -

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

- and -

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING respecting a renewed commitment by Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg to a common objective to coordinate the implementation of their strategies related to housing revitalization and homelessness in Winnipeg, dated _____, 2003

BETWEEN:

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

("Canada"),

- and -

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

("Manitoba"),

- and -

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

("Winnipeg")

WHEREAS:

A. Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg believe there continues to be a need to provide affordable quality housing in a safe environment for residents of Winnipeg;

B. Canada has renewed its strategy to address housing and homelessness in Canada ("the Federal Strategy"); Manitoba is continuing its Neighbourhoods Alive! strategy intended to address neighbourhood renewal ("the Provincial Strategy") and Winnipeg is implementing its Housing Policy directed at improving housing conditions in Winnipeg ("the Winnipeg Housing Policy");

C. The Canada/Manitoba Affordable Housing Agreement, which will be augmented by incremental City of Winnipeg funding, will significantly increase the level of funding available for housing activity in Winnipeg over the next four years;

D. The Federal Strategy, the Provincial Strategy, the Winnipeg Housing Policy and the Affordable Housing Agreement, although separate, share a common objective to address housing needs and homelessness in Winnipeg at the neighbourhood level;

E. The parties recognize that poor housing conditions and homelessness in Winnipeg are related to broader socio-economic issues;

F. Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg have established a mechanism for delivering programs that includes community participation and involvement in the development of strategies to address housing conditions and homelessness;

G. Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg have created a Single Window Initiative that can meet community objectives for addressing the issues of housing conditions and homelessness and the need to rehabilitate a volume of housing large enough to stimulate revitalization of older neighbourhoods:

H. Evaluation indicated that the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative has served as a catalyst for creating new and more effective partnerships to provide neighbourhood revitalization and affordable housing and to serve the needs of the homeless.

THEREFORE, Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg express their common understanding as follows:

Section 1 – Commitment to a Coordinated Approach

1.01 Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg recognize the value in pursuing their respective strategies in a coordinated manner through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative.

1.02 Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg further recognize the value of this approach to the delivery of programs, including its ability to facilitate the development of partnerships with community groups and other funders.

Section 2 – The Winnipeg Housing & Homelessness Initiative

2.01 The Winnipeg Housing & Homelessness Initiative ("the Initiative") will continue to be guided by the following basic principles:

- Enhancing accessibility to information, programs and services by community groups wishing to undertake neighbourhood revitalization strategies to address housing needs and homelessness;
- Improving the comprehensiveness of support for the implementation of community plans by enhancing access to complementary programming that addresses housing needs and homelessness;
- Minimizing overlap and duplication in programs and service.

2.02 The Initiative will continue to:

- Coordinate the strategies related to housing and homelessness of all three levels of government;
- Serve as a "Single Window" for applications by community groups to carry out community building and revitalization activities in targeted neighbourhoods and within the context of community-developed plans;
- Create a forum for regular community consultation to act as a "sounding board" for both community plans and individual projects.

Section 3 - Overall Direction and Management of the Initiative

3.01 An Executive Committee comprising the Senior Federal Minister in Manitoba, the Minister of Family Services and Housing for Manitoba, and the Mayor of Winnipeg provides for the overall direction of this Initiative.

3.02 A Management Committee consisting of two senior officials appointed by each level of government is responsible for the overall management, coordination, and administration of this Initiative.

3.03 Its duties include:

- Ensuring that the intent of this Initiative is met;
- Developing the standards and procedures required for the overall management and administration of this Initiative;
- Developing mechanisms required to ensure regular reporting and timely exchange of project information among the parties;
- Generally ensuring that matters bearing upon the success of this Initiative are expedited within each party's respective jurisdiction.

Section 4 - Single Window Office

4.01 Each party has assigned staff members to the Single Window Office to deliver programs and to ensure coordination of the Federal Strategy, the Provincial Strategy, the Winnipeg Housing Policy and the Affordable Housing Agreement.

4.02 Staff at the Single Window Office have:

- Established tripartite operations procedures that enhance coordination and minimize overlap and duplication;

- Implemented programs and projects within each party's respective mandate and authority and in accordance with each party's normal management and administrative procedures;
- Developed, where necessary and in conjunction with community groups, projects that significantly increase the number of homes renovated to further the goal of improving housing conditions and addressing homelessness.

Section 5 - Costs

5.01 The parties agree to share costs associated with the management, administration and coordination of the Initiative, as approved by the Management Committee.

Section 6 - Evaluation of the Initiative

6.01 The parties recognize that ongoing evaluation of the evolution of the WHHI is important to ensure the continued effectiveness of the model.

6.02 Management Committee will develop appropriate long term goals and outcome measures for the Initiative's collaborative process, and will submit to the Executive Committee annually a report of progress towards the goals.

6.03 Management Committee will submit to Executive Committee, before March 31, 2005, an evaluation report with a recommendation regarding the extension of this MOU to March 31, 2008.

6.04 The parties will have, based on the evaluation, an option to continue the Single Window Office approach to coordinating program delivery.

Section 7 - Public Information

7.01 Canada, Manitoba, and Winnipeg agree that all public information activities shall be guided by the principles that all interested persons be informed and that the contributions of each of the parties should be fairly acknowledged.

7.02 The parties agree that, within the context of the Single Window Office's operations, each may choose to support projects independently or jointly, but that related public information activities will be jointly undertaken in every case.

7.03 The WHHI has adopted a communications strategy to govern joint communications activities, which includes:

- Joint signage that provides for the identification of the three parties;
- A protocol for the appropriate communications that allow for the participation of each of the three parties.

7.04 The parties recognize that other agreements may include related communication protocols that will need to be accommodated.

Section 8 - Effective Dates

8.01 This Memorandum shall be effective from the date of its execution and shall expire on March 31, 2008, subject to an evaluation and recommendation for continuation by March 31, 2005.

8.02 The parties recognize that programming may change over time and agree that notwithstanding 8.01, any partner may reconsider participation should requirements change.

Section 9 - Other Agreements

9.01 The parties agree that this Memorandum does not preclude the opportunity for the parties to consider any other tri-level agreements.

Section 10 - Status of this Memorandum

10.01 This Memorandum is not intended to create a binding agreement but is intended to reflect the mutual understanding between Canada, Manitoba, and Winnipeg

that the Single Window promotes better coordination and collaboration among the partners for the implementation of current programming.

This Memorandum has been signed by the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour, the Honourable Rey Pagtakhan, Minister of Veterans Affairs, and the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, on behalf of Canada, by the Honourable Drew Caldwell, Minister of Family Services and Housing, on behalf of Manitoba and by His Worship Mayor Glen Murray, the Mayor of Winnipeg, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg.

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

_____
WITNESS

_____
Honourable Claudette Bradshaw

_____
WITNESS

_____
Honourable Rey Pagtakhan

_____
WITNESS

_____
Honourable Steven Mahoney

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

_____
WITNESS

_____
Honourable Drew Caldwell

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

CITY OF WINNIPEG

_____
WITNESS

_____
His Worship Mayor Glen Murray