Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 14, 2018

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Transition Operational Responsibility for Ambulance Services to Shared Health / WRHA

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee granted an extension of time of 30 days for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back with detailed options to transition operational responsibility for ambulance services to Shared Health / WRHA.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That an extension of time of 30 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the matter.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 6, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) has the responsibility to provide health services in the City of Winnipeg including ambulance services;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is currently providing ambulance services on behalf of the WRHA under the terms of an agreement that expired on March 31, 2016;

AND WHEREAS under the expired agreement, fifty percent of the total cost of the ambulance services are to be funded from ambulance user fees, twenty five percent of the cost funded by the WRHA and twenty five percent by the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the funding formula for ambulance services has proven to be complex and administratively burdensome;

AND WHEREAS despite the best efforts of the City of Winnipeg, the WRHA has been unwilling to commit to a renewal of the ambulance funding agreement;

AND WHEREAS on November 22, 2017 the WRHA advised the City of Winnipeg of its unilateral decision to freeze its ambulance funding at 2016 levels for 2017 and 2018 with possible consideration being given to additional funding;

AND WHEREAS without the additional funding or a change in service levels, 2016 funding levels will create an estimated funding shortfall for the City of $2.5 million in 2017 and $4.6 million in 2018 which will continue to increase in 2019 and beyond;

AND WHEREAS according to the City of Winnipeg Charter council must ensure that the estimated expenditures for a fiscal year do not exceed the estimated revenues for the year when adopting an operating budget;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Preliminary Operating Budget has been drafted with estimates that are based on continuity of historical funding relationships and assumed:

- consistent funding levels for the City of Winnipeg's portion of costs; and
- consistent funding levels for the WRHA's portion of costs;

AND WHEREAS on the basis of estimates and assumptions presented in the City of Winnipeg's 2018 Preliminary Operating Budget the 2018 Preliminary Budget is in balance;

AND WHEREAS should the estimates and assumptions presented in the 2018 Preliminary Budget be inaccurate, it is incumbent on the WRHA to indicate whether additional funding will ultimately be provided or service changes they would like to make to meet the City of Winnipeg estimates;

AND WHEREAS in their letter dated November 22, 2017, the WRHA confirms the responsibility for managing the agreement with the City of Winnipeg will be transitioned from the WRHA to Shared Health effective April 1, 2018;

AND WHEREAS Shared Health was created to provide centralized clinical and business services for regional health authorities across Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the restructuring of the health care system currently underway may present an ideal opportunity for Shared Health / WRHA to regain operational control of ambulance services in Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Service return to Executive Policy Committee with a report within 90 days outlining detailed options to transition operational responsibility for ambulance services to Shared Health / WRHA.