Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 9, 2019

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Methamphetamine and Illicit Drugs – Action Plan

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to the Budget Working Group that the following be considered during the preparation of the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget to address the incidence of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs in the community:

1. That options be brought forward in the 2020 multi-year budget to financially support additional 24/7 safe spaces.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the Budget Working Group be requested to consider the following during the preparation of the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget to address the incidence of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs in the community:

1. That options be brought forward in the 2020 multi-year budget to financially support additional 24/7 safe spaces.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 2, 2019, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the presence of methamphetamine (meth) and other Illicit drugs in our community continues to take a significant toll on the lives of many of our residents;

AND WHEREAS the City has responded to the meth crisis by providing record levels of funding to the Winnipeg Police as well as the Fire Paramedic Department in 2019;

AND WHEREAS the City has also responded to the meth crisis by launching an Illicit Drug Strategy focusing on enforcement, intervention and education;

AND WHEREAS the City has taken all of the steps to make land available for a 50-bed addiction recovery treatment facility at the site of Vimy Arena;

AND WHEREAS in December 2018 the 3 levels of government announced an Illicit Drug Task Force to address and respond to the rapid increase in the distribution and use of meth and other illicit drugs;

AND WHEREAS a key part of the mandate of this task force was to deliver practical short and long term recommendations to combat the use and distribution of illicit drugs in our community;

AND WHEREAS the recently completed report of the Illicit Drug Task Force contains 23 recommendations that serve as a roadmap to guide actions that can be taken by all levels of government;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that each level of government take immediate actions to combat the incidence of meth and other illicit drug use in our community;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg undertake the following actions to address the incidence of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs in our community:

1. Conduct a review of current zoning by-laws and report back in 60 days to the appropriate standing committee on how the current zoning by-laws regulate drug treatment and recovery centres as well as supervised drug consumption sites;

2. Review options to immediately increase by-law enforcement to address vacant and derelict buildings that are being used to distribute and/or consume meth and other illicit drugs and report back to the appropriate standing committee in 60 days. And, consider in the 2020 multi-year budget additional funding for by-law enforcement officers for these purposes;

3. Collaborate with the Winnipeg Police and other relevant community stakeholders to implement a public awareness campaign to educate residents and landlords on how to identify and report dwellings that are being used to distribute illicit drugs;

4. Prioritize resources from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Fund for local crime prevention groups that are focused on deterring and reporting illicit drug activity;

5. Conduct a review of the City's legislative authority to require scrap metal dealers to require photo Identification of sellers and report back to the appropriate standing committee on this item in 60 days;

6. Identify and prioritize recreation projects in high need areas of the City for Council's consideration and federal/provincial cost shared funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and;

7. Bring forward options in the 2020 multi-year budget to financially support additional 24/7 safe spaces.