Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 17, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Policy for Referendums / Plebiscites

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 25, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Gillingham,

WHEREAS placing referendum and plebiscite questions on the ballot provide the public an opportunity to have a direct say on policy matters important to the community;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg does not have established policy to guide the use of referendum/plebiscite question(s);

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg City Council and the residents of Winnipeg could benefit from a policy surrounding the use of these democratic tools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service conduct a cross jurisdictional analysis and report back to Council within 180 days with recommendations on a policy to guide the use of referendums/plebiscites, and the report also include the following:

1. Criteria for when a referendum/plebiscite should be triggered;
2. What types of matters should or can appear as a referendum/plebiscite;
3. Rules related to advertising, promotion, messaging, and spending limits for respective positions;
4. Determination of the effective/correct wording of the referendum/plebiscite question to ensure a fair and accurate answer;
5. Whether the results are binding;
6. Whether 50 percent plus one is a sufficient score to deem the result the decisive will of the people.