Minute No. 726
Report – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2021

Item No. 12 311 Call Centre Wait Times

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back within 90 days on the following:

    A. A cross-jurisdictional scan reviewing best practices and standards for contact centre operations in the public sector, including but not limited to acceptable wait time and issue resolution times.

    B. Options on how the City can improve wait time and resolution time for matters directed to 311.

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

Report – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Councillor Nason called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma 16

Nay: 0

and the item was declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee considered the Council Motion of September 29, 2021, and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 29, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS 311 is the main point of contact for citizens to get information about city services and programs or to make a request for service;

AND WHEREAS although 311 Customer Service Representatives are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, response times can vary significantly depending on numerous factors;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service has advised that wait times to answer 311 calls have increased due to COVID-19;

Report – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS according to the 2021 budget documents, full-time equivalent staff levels at 311 have decreased by more than 25 percent over the past two years;

AND WHEREAS budgetary changes have not only resulted in increased response times but also increase resolution times;

AND WHEREAS residents often resort to contacting their Ward Councillor when faced with lengthy wait times at 311 for basic inquiries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back within 90 days on the following:

    A. A cross-jurisdictional scan reviewing best practices and standards for contact centre operations in the public sector, including but not limited to acceptable wait time and issue resolution times.

    B. Options on how the City can improve wait time and resolution time for matters directed to 311.

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