Minute No. 743
Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

Item No. 18 **Application to Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program (Province of Manitoba) for Vacant, Derelict, and Problem Properties**

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Vacant, Derelict and Problem Properties Program application be approved for submission to the Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program.

2. That the Public Service be directed to submit the application, included in Attachment A, to the Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program.

3. 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 – September 14, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 14, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Application to Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program (Province of Manitoba) for Vacant, Derelict, and Problem Properties

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
M. Geer	M. Jack	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is seeking Council approval to apply for funding under the Province of Manitoba's Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program to undertake a process review and evaluate the business case to establish an ongoing program to address problem and derelict properties and enhance level of service for all citizens that are impacted.

The proposed project helps fulfill the goal of Good Health and Well-Being included in the Council approved Our Winnipeg 2045.

The objective of Good Health and Well-Being includes:

1. Enable access to basic needs for good physical and mental health
2. Support positive outcomes through the built and natural environments
3. Proactively identify and address threats to community safety and well-being

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council approve the *Vacant, Derelict and Problem Properties Program* application for submission to the Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program.

2. That the Public Service be directed to submit the application, included in Attachment A, to the Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The Province of Manitoba has opened a second intake of the Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program to provide municipalities with financial support to complete value-for-money review of programs and services.

In order for an application to be eligible for funding, a resolution of Council is required, indicating support for the proposed project.

The Public Service has identified a project that would qualify for this funding and has prepared an application (Attachment A). The intention would be to submit the application subsequent to obtaining support from Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no financial impact to the Operating budget. Impacts to future budgets will be determined based on the outcomes of the audit report.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On March 11, 2021 the Province of Manitoba announced a $5 million program to assist municipalities across the province with process improvements that will enhance municipal service delivery. The program will be offered over the next four years and funding will not be reduced based on implemented savings by municipalities from this program.

On July 15, 2022 the Province of Manitoba launched the second intake for the Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program.

The service delivery reviews (also referred to as 'audits' in the program materials) are intended to improve service delivery without raising taxes or reducing front line services. The program structure has municipalities work directly with a third-party consultant from a list of prequalified firms. The consultants will analyze the usual 3-E's of value-for-money projects: effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of dollars as it relates to this specific process stream.

The City of Winnipeg will own the report of the analysis and actionable recommendations, which must be posted publicly and submitted to the Minister of Municipal Relations. The consultant will bill costs for their work directly to the Province of Manitoba.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, the audit must:

- Evaluate services or programs such as transportation, protection, water and sewer, recreation and culture, planning, general government administration or other categories found in municipalities' financial plans.
- Be supported by a municipal Council resolution provided with the application.
- Result in a report that includes specific and actionable recommendations for cost savings and improved efficiencies.

Audits that include the following are not eligible:

- Opportunities for revenue generation or reductions in front line services.
- Objectives that extend beyond municipal accountability/jurisdiction.

Conditions of accepting a grant are:

- The report must be posted publicly and be submitted to the Minister of Municipal Relations.

Recommendations in the report must be reasonable and actionable for the municipality. Implementing those recommendation will result in efficiencies. Although the report will be posted publicly, the recommendations in the report are not mandatory for a municipality to implement.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee of staff from Manitoba Municipal Relations and Manitoba Finance based on:

- Return on investment/service delivery improvements
- Project alignment with program guidelines
- Promotion of joint or regional municipal audit projects
- Demonstrated financial need
- Balanced regional representation

In addition, the committee can use discretion to include other evaluation factors.

The consultant will be matched by the committee members to each project, although applicants are asked to suggest their preferred consultant.

There is no financial impact to the Operating Budget. Impacts to future budgets will be determined based on the outcomes of the audit report.

Project Overview

The Chief Administrative Office will engage the support of a consultant to undertake a process review, benchmarking of best practices, and building a business case for a program to address vacant, derelict and problem properties on an ongoing basis.

In recent months an ad hoc committee comprised of staff from the Winnipeg Police Service, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, Community Services Department and Planning Property and Development Department have been collectively addressing the issue.

The goal of this committee is to take a holistic approach to improving public and staff safety, providing supports to vulnerable peoples and reducing crime in collaboration with the Province of Manitoba and external agencies. The ad hoc committee is addressing urgent needs but an ongoing program is warranted. The expectation is that an ongoing program would result in a more efficient and effective use of resources and yield financial and community benefits.

The work of this committee not only addresses Our Winnipeg 2045 but supports the actions in the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy and the mandate of End Homelessness Winnipeg.

This multi-faceted issue is not unique to the City of Winnipeg and the recommended review could look to other jurisdictions that have implemented successful programs and recommend how the City, Province and community agencies can collaborate on a solution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: August 29, 2022

Project Name:

Application to Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program (Province of Manitoba) for Vacant, Derelict, and Problem Properties

COMMENTS:

There is no financial impact to the Operating Budget based on the recommendations presented in this report. Impacts to future budgets will be determined based on the outcomes of the audit report.

Jason Duke - August 29, 2022
Jason Duke, CPA, CGA
A/ Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:
Winnipeg Police Service
Planning, Property and Development Department
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
Community Services Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Good Health and Well-Being
4.6 Community Safety Facilitate a culture of safety and crime prevention across the City and community, by building trusting relationships to enable collaborative action.

4.8 Building Safety Enforce compliance with building codes and property maintenance standards, to ensure housing quality, safe building occupancy, and extended building lifecycles.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

n/a

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 2: The City Actively Plans for and Partners in Affordable Housing

- **Action 3: Inventory Vacant Multi-Unit Residential Buildings**
  - Establish an inventory of vacant multi-unit residential buildings and identify barriers and challenges for reoccupancy. Explore partnership opportunities with

building owners and other governments that aim to see suitable properties rehabilitated as affordable rental housing.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Chief Administrative Office
Prepared by: M. Geer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Date: August 29, 2022

Attachments:

Attachment A: Grant Application MSIDP – City of Winnipeg