Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 14, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Options for the Creation of Low Barrier Transitional Housing

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 21, 2022, Council concurred in the motion and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the appropriate Committee of Council within 90 days with options to:

    A. Create housing by partnering with community organizations to run low-barrier transitional housing specifically to transition people from encampments, bus shelters or sleeping rough; including directing the Winnipeg Public Service to develop options and alternatives to include:

        i. a minimum commitment of 150 new low barrier transitional housing;
        ii. assistance of a facility, such as a city owned building;
        iii. creation of safe consumption site(s) and additional mobile services connected to housing and treatment options;
        iv. creation of additional community-based crises stabilization spaces and services;

    B. Budget options to enhance outreach grants to cover costs of 24-hour services within the City of Winnipeg, with casework supports;

    C. Funding options and alternatives for implementation of the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult the Province of Manitoba on the intent of Recommendation 1 above, as well as:

    A. Increasing income supports and rental benefits to address the Housing Crises in Winnipeg.

    B. The creation of a working group to increase joint-work on poverty and related community grants, funding mechanisms on poverty reduction and 24/7 safe spaces.

3. That pending the report back within 90 days, that all matters having a budgetary impact, as contained in Recommendations 1-2 above, be referred to the 2023 budget process.

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 17, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee laid the matter over to its meeting on February 14, 2023.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 21, 2022, Council adopted the following motion:

WHEREAS to address street-level homelessness and substance use, the City of Winnipeg must invest in safe, supportive, culturally appropriate housing, and mobile outreach services;

AND WHEREAS research indicates more than two-thirds of those experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg are Indigenous: survivors of legacies of colonization and cultural genocide including Residential Schools and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people;

AND WHEREAS more than half of people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg have been in the care of Child and Family Services, meaning they are also survivors of family separation, abuse and neglect:

AND WHEREAS more than half of people experiencing homelessness have traumatic brain injuries, while nearly half are living with physical and/or mental health disabilities;

AND WHEREAS a consensus position of voices of lived experience, Indigenous community leadership, non-governmental housing and shelter organizations have come together to outline for Council what could enhance security, peace, dignity in transitioning people from encampments, bus shelters or sleeping rough.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the appropriate Committee of Council within 90 days with options to:

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

A. Create housing by partnering with community organizations to run low-barrier transitional housing specifically to transition people from encampments, bus shelters or sleeping rough; including directing the Winnipeg Public Service to develop options and alternatives to include:

i. a Minimum commitment of 150 new low barrier transitional housing;
ii. assistance of a facility, such as a city owned building;
iii. creation of safe consumption site(s) and additional mobile services connected to housing and treatment options;
iv. creation of additional community-based crises stabilization spaces and services;

B. Budget options to enhance outreach grants to cover costs of 24-hour services within the City of Winnipeg, with casework supports;

C. Funding options and alternatives for implementation of the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult the Province of Manitoba on the intent of Recommendation 1 above, as well as:

A. Increasing income supports and rental benefits to address the Housing Crises in Winnipeg.

B. The creation of a working group to increase joint-work on poverty and related community grants, funding mechanisms on poverty reduction and 24/7 safe spaces.

3. That pending the report back within 90 days, that all matters having a budgetary impact, as contained in Recommendations 1-2 above, be referred to the 2023 budget process.

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