Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 21, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Discontinuation of Work from Home Policy

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of July 13, 2023, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the Council Motion of July 13, 2023, be received as information, and forwarded to Council.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 13, 2023, Council referred the following motion to Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Duncan,

WHEREAS during the Pandemic it was necessary to institute a work from home policy to encourage social distancing and to limit the spread of COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS the Pandemic has now been over for some time, yet thousands of City of Winnipeg employees are still working from home;

AND WHEREAS the City owns, leases and operates tens of thousands of office square feet that are presently sitting vacant, costing ratepayers and demonstrating a practice of the inefficient use of tax dollars;

AND WHEREAS much of these empty offices are in Downtown Winnipeg, which contradicts the decision by Council to make Downtown Winnipeg revitalization a priority in the recently passed Strategic Priorities Action Plan;

AND WHEREAS it has been demonstrated in studies conducted that worker productivity falls significantly when employees are not working from traditional office spaces, not to mention the synergy lost for opportunities that exist in common work spaces, such as mentoring, training, and general supervision conducted via employee peers and management;

AND WHEREAS, to date, the Chief Administrative Officer has not issued a ‘Back to the Office’ directive to all City employees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council immediately direct the Chief Administrative Officer to end the work from home practice and to issue a directive to all city employees to return to their respective offices.