Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 17, 2023

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – October 5, 2023

Item No. 7 Extreme Weather Response

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the following to Council:

1. That this report be received as information.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – October 5, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Duncan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 5, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 12, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services granted an extension of time of up to 60 days for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on:

1. Direct the CAO or his designate to create a City-led, extreme weather PSA alert system similar to alerts issued in other cities, with alerts concurrent with any -25°C forecast to begin in the Winter of 2023-24, and direct the CAO to submit to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services a draft policy governing heat and cold weather alerts by September 30, 2023.

2. Direct the CAO to formally pre-designate a single City-owned or controlled building as the primary site for use as a temporary overnight shelter in the event of shelter system overflow, shelter shutdown or other similar emergencies, including extreme weather. The CAO or his designate will report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services by September 30, 2023 on existing or recommended procedures to use the designated space, and what (if any) additional partnerships or resources are needed to stage this site for contingencies.

David Grant, submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – October 5, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 22, 2023, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and adopted the following:

1. That Council approve the following policies and directives to strengthen the City's extreme weather response:

    A. Formally adopt as policy that the City's threshold for extreme cold weather activity is a temperature forecast of -25°C or colder (with or without wind chill), based on notifications from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

    B. Direct the CAO or his designate to create a City-led, extreme weather PSA alert system similar to alerts issued in other cities, with alerts concurrent with any -25°C forecast to begin in the Winter of 2023-24, and direct the CAO to submit to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services a draft policy governing heat and cold weather alerts by September 30, 2023.

    C. Direct the CAO to allocate $1.0m in additional 24/7 Safe Space funds included in the 2023 Budget Update to expand 24/7 Safe Space partnerships in a ring around Downtown, and pilot new extreme weather initiatives as outlined in the Attachment.

    D. Direct the CAO to formally pre-designate a single City-owned or controlled building as the primary site for use as a temporary overnight shelter in the event of shelter system overflow, shelter shutdown or other similar emergencies, including extreme weather. The CAO or his designate will report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services by September 30, 2023 on existing or recommended procedures to use the designated space, and what (if any) additional partnerships or resources are needed to stage this site for contingencies.

    E. Invite End Homelessness Winnipeg to make regular submissions to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services on the progress of its Extreme Weather Response plan and to flag any trends in HIFIS data that may be of use to help the City further adjust extreme hot and cold weather responses in 2024-25.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – October 5, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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

On May 30, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services:

Moved by Councillor Orlikow,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,

WHEREAS Mayor Gillingham committed to update Winnipeg's extreme cold weather policies and to expand the 24/7 Safe Space system in his election platform to offer more emergency shelter options to unhoused people in all weather conditions;

AND WHEREAS End Homelessness Winnipeg and other community partners are already executing the Coalition's Extreme Weather Response Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that Council approve the following policies and directives to strengthen the City's extreme weather response:

1. Formally adopt as policy that the City's threshold for extreme cold weather activity is a temperature forecast of -25°C or colder (with or without wind chill), based on notifications from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

2. Direct the CAO or his designate to create a City-led, extreme weather PSA alert system similar to alerts issued in other cities, with alerts concurrent with any -25°C forecast to begin in the Winter of 2023-24, and direct the CAO to submit to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services a draft policy governing heat and cold weather alerts by September 30, 2023.

3. Direct the CAO to allocate $1.0m in additional 24/7 Safe Space funds included in the 2023 Budget Update to expand 24/7 Safe Space partnerships in a ring around Downtown, and pilot new extreme weather initiatives as outlined in the Attachment.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – October 5, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

4. Direct the CAO to formally pre-designate a single City-owned or controlled building as the primary site for use as a temporary overnight shelter in the event of shelter system overflow, shelter shutdown or other similar emergencies, including extreme weather. The CAO or his designate will report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services by September 30, 2023 on existing or recommended procedures to use the designated space, and what (if any) additional partnerships or resources are needed to stage this site for contingencies.

5. Invite End Homelessness Winnipeg to make regular submissions to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services on the progress of its Extreme Weather Response plan and to flag any trends in HIFIS data that may be of use to help the City further adjust extreme hot and cold weather responses in 2024-25.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Extreme Weather Response

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extreme weather Public Service Announcements will be issued when Environment Canada forecasts a temperature of -25C or colder, or +30C or warmer for two or more consecutive days, for Winnipeg, to warn residents and advise them to take measures to protect their health. These alerts will be sent by the Customer Service & Communications Department in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, and will occur through media releases to news outlets, content on the City's web and social media sites, and messaging shared with key stakeholders. Public notifications will include information on City facilities that can be used as warming/cooling spaces.

The Public Service is currently drafting a contingency plan for a potential overnight shelter or safe space building failure to ensure that unsheltered residents will continue to have a safe and warm place to sleep for up to 72 hours. The process will be initiated by shelter systems contacting the City of Winnipeg's Emergency Social Services (ESS) Team. Location of the temporary alternate shelter will be dependent on the number of spaces required and time of year, and could include: the Salvation Army Weetamah location at 324 Logan Avenue; the Freight House Recreation Centre at 200 Isabel Street; the Mayfair Recreation Centre at 40 Mayfair Place; and Sergeant Tommy Prince Place at 90 Sinclair Street. A finalized plan is expected prior to November 1, 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On June 22, 2023, Council adopted the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services, which included the following:

1. That Council approve the following policies and directives to strengthen the City's extreme weather response:
    B. Direct the CAO or his designate to create a City-led, extreme weather PSA alert system similar to alerts issued in other cities, with alerts concurrent with any -25°C forecast to begin in the Winter of 2023-24, and direct the CAO to submit to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services a draft policy governing heat and cold weather alerts by September 30, 2023.
    C. Direct the CAO to allocate $1.0m in additional 24/7 Safe Space funds included in the 2023 Budget Update to expand 24/7 Safe Space partnerships in a ring around Downtown, and pilot new extreme weather initiatives as outlined in the Attachment.
    D. Direct the CAO to formally pre-designate a single City-owned or controlled building as the primary site for use as a temporary overnight shelter in the event of shelter system overflow, shelter shutdown or other similar emergencies, including extreme weather. The CAO or his designate will report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services by September 30, 2023 on existing or recommended procedures to use the designated space, and what (if any) additional partnerships or resources are needed to stage this site for contingencies.

A 60 day extension was approved by the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services at its September 12, 2023 meeting.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications with receiving this report as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On June 22, 2023, Council adopted the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services, which included the following:

1. That Council approve the following policies and directives to strengthen the City's extreme weather response:
    B. Direct the CAO or his designate to create a City-led, extreme weather PSA alert system similar to alerts issued in other cities, with alerts concurrent with any -25°C forecast to begin in the Winter of 2023-24, and direct the CAO to submit to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services a draft policy governing heat and cold weather alerts by September 30, 2023.
    C. Direct the CAO to allocate $1.0m in additional 24/7 Safe Space funds included in the 2023 Budget Update to expand 24/7 Safe Space partnerships in a ring around Downtown, and pilot new extreme weather initiatives as outlined in the Attachment.
    D. Direct the CAO to formally pre-designate a single City-owned or controlled building as the primary site for use as a temporary overnight shelter in the event

of shelter system overflow, shelter shutdown or other similar emergencies, including extreme weather. The CAO or his designate will report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services by September 30, 2023 on existing or recommended procedures to use the designated space, and what (if any) additional partnerships or resources are needed to stage this site for contingencies.

A 60 day extension was approved by the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services at its September 12, 2023 meeting.

B. Extreme Weather PSA alert system

The City of Winnipeg will issue an extreme cold weather alert when Environment Canada forecasts a temperature of -25C or colder for the City of Winnipeg.

The extreme cold weather alerts will warn residents, including those who are vulnerable to cold weather, that extreme cold conditions are expected or already exist in the City and urge residents to take measures to protect their health. These alerts will be sent in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management.

Public notification of extreme cold weather alerts will occur through:

- Media releases to news outlets.
- Information shared on the homepage of the City's website, along with an alert banner on all City webpages.
- Information shared on the City's social media sites.
- Information shared with key response partners through the Office of Emergency Management.

Public notifications will include information on:

- City facilities that can be used as warming spaces;
- Protecting yourself from the weather;
- Extreme cold weather safety tips.

The City of Winnipeg will also issue extreme heat alerts when Environment Canada forecasts temperatures in excess of +30 C or warmer for two or more consecutive days for the City of Winnipeg.

The extreme heat alerts will warn residents, including those vulnerable to heat, that extreme heat conditions are forecast or already exist in the City, and urge residents to take measures to protect their health. These alerts will be sent in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management.

Public notification of extreme heat alerts will occur through:

- Media releases to news outlets.
- Information shared on the homepage of the City's website, along with an alert banner on all City webpages.
- Information shared on the City's social media sites.

- Information shared with key response partners through the Office of Emergency Management.

Public notifications will include information on:

- City facilities that can be used as cooling spaces;
- Locations of water filling stations;
- Protecting yourself from the weather;
- Extreme heat safety tips.

C. Additional 24/7 Safe Space funds and new extreme weather initiatives

Updates on Council directions of increased and/or new funding for the 24/7 Safe Space funding expansion and pilot partnerships are as follows:

- *$100,000 grant increase to Ka Ni Kanichihk's Velma's House to deliver additional 24/7 Safe Space support to at-risk Indigenous women*
- *$175,000 grant increase to WE 24/7 Spence Neighbourhood Association to deliver additional 24/7 Safe Space capacity in the West End*

Amended grants agreements for Velma's House and Spence Neighbourhood Association are completed and funds have been released.

- *$275,000 in grant support to N'Dinawemak to add North End 24/7 Safe Space capacity, either at the existing 190 Disraeli Freeway site or a nearby site to be determined, conditional on N'Dinawemak's agreement to provide additional Safe Space service capacity, and on a review of operations and outcomes before any renewal of the grant after one year.*

The Public Service met with the Board of N'Dinawemak who identified that N'Dinawemak could not expand capacity at their existing 190 Disraeli site without critical infrastructure repairs. Community Services in partnership with Legal Services are drafting an agreement that will allow N'Dinawemak to access a portion of the $275,000 in grant support to complete these critical infrastructure repairs, with the remaining funds going to expanded capacity.

- *Offer $250,000 in grants to St. Boniface Street Links to provide 24/7 Safe Space capacity on the East Side of the Red River, and delegate authority to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to negotiate a conditional, no-cost lease of City property in or near the St. Boniface area to support this capacity, to a maximum combined annual value of $275,000. These steps would be conditional on agreements with Street Links to provide additional Safe Space service capacity, and conditional on Street Links' agreement to a review of operations and outcomes before renewal of the grant after one year.*

The Public Service met with St. Boniface Street Links to determine the best City property. The Property Planning and Development Department has identified a site which will be available December 1, 2023, and is drafting a Short-Term Use Agreement for the same. Upon completion of the Short-Term Use Agreement, funding will flow.

- *Allocate up to $200,000* on a one-time basis for use at the discretion of the CAO to pilot partnerships to help attract unhoused people from transit shelters to 24/7 Safe Space sites, and improve system-wide collection and use of Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) data.*

The Public Service is reaching out to the shelter-serving sector to use this funding to supplement and complement existing Extreme Weather Planning programs headed by that sector. A formal arrangement and agreement will be outlined in conjunction with these groups, for effect at the end of 2023.

D. City-designated Temporary Overnight Shelter

The City of Winnipeg is finalizing a contingency plan for the potential of an overnight shelter or safe space building failure. This plan will ensure that unsheltered residents will continue to have a safe and warm place to sleep for up to 72 hours.

In the event of a shelter or safe space building failure, the process below will be followed. It is important to note, the below is an overview of a *draft* plan currently under review. As well, this plan only applies to 24/7 safe space and overnight shelter building failures. This will not apply in the event of shelter system overflow.

1. If the situation is an immediate emergency involving a threat to life safety, such as a fire, shelter or safe space staff and representatives will call 911 immediately.

2. If the situation is not an immediate emergency involving a threat to life safety, but a shelter or safe space is inoperable, or is expected to become inoperable, the following steps will be taken:

    a. The impacted shelter or safe space would work to resolve the issue locally. This would include all efforts to prevent the closure of the building.

    b. If the impacted shelter or safe space cannot resolve the issue locally, the shelter will work with other shelters and partner agencies to accommodate displaced clients and staff in other shelters or safe spaces.

3. If the above two options are not possible and it is determined that an alternative site is required to accommodate displaced clients, shelter or safe space staff are advised to contact the City of Winnipeg's Emergency Social Services (ESS) Team. The ESS team will work to assess the situation and gather required information. Based on this, the team may decide to open a temporary alternate shelter.

4. Selection of a temporary alternate shelter location will be dependent on the number of spaces required and on the time of year. In all cases, the Salvation Army Weetamah location at 324 Logan Avenue will be identified as the preferred site. In cases where less

than 100 individuals are displaced, and the Salvation Army Weetamah site is not available, the Freight House Recreation Centre at 200 Isabel Street and/or the Mayfair Recreation Centre at 40 Mayfair Place may be activated. In cases where more than 100 individuals are displaced, and the Salvation Army Weetamah site is not available, Sergeant Tommy Prince Place at 90 Sinclair Street may be activated.

It is important to note that the above options are only actionable if the involved building failure displaces both shelter clients and staff. Without staffing support from the evacuated shelter, this plan cannot be enacted. It is expected that a finalized plan will be completed prior to November 1, 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: September 28, 2023

Project Name:
Extreme Weather Response

COMMENTS:
There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Sheridel Faderon for R. Bernard
Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Community Services Department
Customer Services & Communications
Office of Emergency Management

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Our Winnipeg 2045

Goal: Leadership and Good Governance
Objective 3: Achieve community-responsive service delivery through an aligned, integrated, collaborative and results-oriented organizational culture.

Goal: Economic Prosperity
Objective 3: Address poverty as an unacceptable and costly outcome of systemic barriers, through collaboration with the community and government bodies.

Goal: Good Health and Well-being
Objective 1: Enable access to basic needs for good physical and mental health.
Objective 3: Proactively identify and address threats to community safety and well-being.

Goal: Social Equity
Objective 1: Uphold human rights so that no one is left behind.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Corporate Leadership
1.1 - Cultivate A Corporate Culture That Values Climate Action

Community Climate Resiliency
7.1 - Implement Opportunities to Improve Winnipeg's Resilience and Adaptability to the Effects of a Changing Climate

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 1: Equity and a Culture of Caring are Demonstrated through Strategy Implementation and Systems Change
Goal 4: Community Well-Being Supports for those in Greatest Need are Increased
Goal 8: Equity in Community Safety is Increased through Collaboration

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Division:
Prepared by: M. Jack
Date: September 29, 2023