Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 21, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Annual Report – Communities Fund Expenditures

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and received the report as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 8, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and granted an extension of time of 60 days to report back on the following:

1. Annual Communities Fund Expenditures Report (subsequent to year-end financial report) specifying:

    A. Expenditures made by each councillor from the Fund including amounts carried forward to the Commitment Reserve;

    B. The recipient project or organization, the purpose of the award or grant, and whether or not the funding is sourced from the City's capital or operating fund; and

    C. The criteria from the eligible criteria options applied for that expenditure by the awarding City Councillor (e.g. "PREP" or "CIGP" or "Per Capita").

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 20, 2024, Council adopted the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budget, which included the following recommendation:

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

1.Q. To act on the Mayor's commitment to expand flexible funding for investments in more neighbourhood projects and organizations, Council directs the Chief Administrative Officer to create a new Communities Fund. Available funds will be divided equally by ward each fiscal year.

v. Communities Fund expenditures shall be reported annually (subsequent to year-end financial report) by the Public Service to the appropriate committee of Council, working with the City Clerks' Department, with the report specifying:

a. Expenditures made by each councillor from the Fund including amounts carried forward to the Commitment Reserve;

b. The recipient project or organization, the purpose of the award or grant, and whether or not the funding is sourced from the City's capital or operating fund; and

c. The criteria from the eligible criteria options applied for that expenditure by the awarding City Councillor (e.g. "PREP" or "CIGP" or "Per Capita").

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: New Communities Fund – Program to Fund Councillor-Directed Projects for Investments in the Community – 2024 Annual Report

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Dacosta	T. Graham	T. Graham	M. Pittet, Acting CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes how the New Communities Fund is budgeted per Ward and how they are expensed during each fiscal year. Year 2024 is the first reporting of its kind.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On March 19, 2024, Council directed the Chief Administrative Officer to create a New Communities Funds to act on the Mayor's commitment to expand flexible funding for investments in more neighborhood projects and organizations.

Council further directed that Communities Fund expenditures be reported annually (subsequent to year-end financial report) by the Public Service to the appropriate committee of Council, working with the City Clerk's Department, with the report specifying:

a) Expenditures made by each Councillor from the Fund and amounts carried forward to the Commitment Reserve;
b) The recipient project or organization, the purpose of the award or grant, and whether or not the funding is sourced from the City's capital or operating fund; and
c) The criteria from the eligible criteria options applied for that expenditure by the City Councillors (e.g. "PREP" or "CIGP' or "Per Capita").

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications with receiving this report as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Communities Fund – 2024 - $2 million in Operating Budget Per Year
(plus Capital Funds of $6.9 million - 2026-2029)

In 2024, Council directed the Chief Administrative Officer to create a New Communities Fund. Delivering on the Mayor's commitment to expand flexible funding for investments in more neighborhood projects and organizations, at Ward level, Councillors can now access a new $2M (citywide total) annual Communities Fund to support neighborhood recreation or community improvement projects, provided they do so in compliance with existing Parks and Recreation Enhancement Program (PREP), Community Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) or Per Capita grant requirements. This funding is over and above other PREP and Ward funding. Available funds are divided equally by Ward each fiscal year.

Total Citywide Funding:	*$2 million*
No. of Wards:	*15*
Communities Fund per Ward:	*$133,333*

I. Councillors proposing Communities Fund expenditures must designate each expenditure as falling under one of the following existing criteria envelopes, and any expenditures or awards must be made in compliance with those existing criteria. The eligible criteria envelopes are:

   a. Community Incentive Grant Program;
   b. Parks and Recreation Enhancement Program; and
   c. Per Capita Grants.

II. As an option, Ward-specific capital projects that would normally fall under the City Capital Budget may also be designated for Community Fund expenditures upon agreement between the appropriate Community Committee and the designating Councillor, especially where these expenditures would secure funding from additional partners.

III. Expenditures would be reported as coming from the Communities Fund, with a notation on which criteria were used, rather than being reported under the criteria programs.

IV. Recurring operating grants or grant commitments extending beyond a single year are prohibited. Unexpended Communities Funds may be held over in the commitment reserve for up to one year to facilitate pooling for larger community investments.

V. Communities Fund expenditures shall be reported annually (subsequent to year-end financial report) by the Public Service to the appropriate committee of Council, working with the City Clerks' Department, with the report specifying.

Refer to Appendix A (attached) for Communities Fund Expenditure detail report by Ward for 2024

Communities Fund – 2025 – $2.9 million in Operating Budget
(plus Capital Funds)

In 2025, $133,333 has been allocated per ward and an additional $1 million was added and divided between 15 wards.

Citywide Funding	$2 million
No. of Wards:	15
Communities Fund per Ward:	$133,333
Additional Funding	$1 million
No. of Wards	15
Additional Communities fund per Ward	$66,666

2025 Total New Funding Per Ward: $133,333+$66,666 = $200,000

Refer to Appendix B (attached) for Communities Fund Expenditure detail report by Ward for Year 2025, as of July 25, 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** August 28, 2025

Project Name:

New Communities Fund - Program to Fund Councillor -Directed Projects for Investments in the Community – 2024 Annual Report

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with: N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

OurWinnipeg Goal:
Leadership and Good Governance:
1.5 Evidence-Informed Decisions Invest in data and technology in order to support objective, evidence-informed decision-making; support open government and open data principles for collection and sharing; help coordinate records and information management; and improve process efficiency, results-based service delivery and accountability.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP) Alignment and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Corporate Finance Department
Division: Corporate Controller's Office
Prepared by: J. Dacosta/D. Soti
Date: September 17, 2025

Attachments:

Appendix A – 2024 Communities Fund Expenditure Report by Ward

Appendix B – 2025 Communities Fund Expenditure Report by Ward