Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – December 16, 2025

BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 11 Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – Preliminary 2026 Budget Update Recommendations

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 1, 2025, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, and Environment recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the Preliminary 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets under its purview be approved with the following amendments:

1. That the following principles be referred to the Budget Savings Group and the Executive Policy Committee for review and incorporation into upcoming budget deliberations:

    A. Full Disclosure of Rate Impacts and Governance Report and Budget Disclosure Public Risk Reporting:

        i. A "Top 10 Fiscal Risks" plain-language report shall accompany the budget each year. All budgets must include clear, plain-language disclosure of rate impacts—especially for utilities linked to major capital projects such as the NEWPCC. This should include any budgetary asks in the yet undisclosed governance report.

    B. Service Impact Statements (Motion operating $300,000 for Engineering recruitment and return in budget 2027 with FTE estimate to account for the vacancies within engineering, and $730,000 for 10 FTE's for call centre):

        i. Rationale: Each budget change should be accompanied by a plain-language explanation of how it will affect residents. This budget should include disclosure on how additional FTE's will fix the customer service issues from the current status 45 to 3 hour wait times at the call centre and the 2 month backlog for emails and 2/3 of residents who still do not have answers when they call attempting to pay their bills and that the 3 FTEs is lower than the churn of vacancies (4-5 FTES) within the call centre and' This budget should include a budget for the recruitment of engineers ($300,000) and return in 2027 with implied FTE's on this hard to hire resource for municipalities.

    C. Transparent Reserve and Utility-Dividend Reporting:

        i. Residents must be provided with clear accounting of where reserve and utility-dividend dollars go, and whether expenditures align with the intended purpose of the utility or reserve.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

ii. No changes to reserves and no new reserves should be introduced until transparency and plain-language dividend reporting are substantially improved. This should be in plain language and disclosed for Water and Waste.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 1, 2025, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, and Environment recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the Preliminary 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets under its purview be approved with the following amendments:

That the following principles be referred to the Budget Savings Group and the Executive Policy Committee for review and incorporation into upcoming budget deliberations:

1. Full Disclosure of Rate Impacts and Governance Report and Budget Disclosure Public Risk Reporting:

    A. A "Top 10 Fiscal Risks" plain-language report shall accompany the budget each year. All budgets must include clear, plain-language disclosure of rate impacts—especially for utilities linked to major capital projects such as the NEWPCC. This should include any budgetary asks in the yet undisclosed governance report.

2. Service Impact Statements (Motion operating $300,000 for Engineering recruitment and return in budget 2027 with FTE estimate to account for the vacancies within engineering, and $730,000 for 10 FTE's for call centre):

    A. Rationale: Each budget change should be accompanied by a plain-language explanation of how it will affect residents. This budget should include disclosure on how additional FTE's will fix the customer service issues from the current status 45 to 3 hour wait times at the call centre and the 2 month backlog for emails and 2/3 of residents who still do not have answers when they call attempting to pay their bills and that the 3 FTEs is lower than the churn of vacancies (4-5 FTES) within the call centre and' This budget should include a budget for the recruitment of engineers ($300,000) and return in 2027 with implied FTE's on this hard to hire resource for municipalities.

3. Transparent Reserve and Utility-Dividend Reporting:

    A. Residents must be provided with clear accounting of where reserve and utility-dividend dollars go, and whether expenditures align with the intended purpose of the utility or reserve.

    B. No changes to reserves and no new reserves should be introduced until transparency and plain-language dividend reporting are substantially improved. This should be in plain language and disclosed for Water and Waste.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

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

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 14, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee tabled the Preliminary 2026 Budget Update (Operating, Reserves, and Capital) to the following budget review process:

Monday, December 1, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste, and Environment
Thursday, December 4, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development
Friday, December 5, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Standing Policy Committee on Community Services
Friday, December 5, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Winnipeg Police Board
Monday, December 8, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Standing Policy Committee on Public Works
Tuesday, December 9, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Executive Policy Committee – Budget Presentations
Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development
Friday, December 12, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Executive Policy Committee – Budget Delegations
Tuesday, December 16, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Executive Policy Committee – Final Budget Recommendations to Council
Wednesday, December 17, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.	Council