Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 9, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 22 Managed Encampment Pilot Site

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee considered the Council Motion of November 27, 2025, and recommended to Council:

1. That the Public Service be directed to report back in up to 120 days on the following:

    A. Feasibility of establishing a Managed Encampment Pilot Site for spring summer operations, including:

        i. Identification of potential locations.
        ii. Recommended operational structure.
        iii. Estimated population capacity.
        iv. Site management requirements.
        v. Safety considerations for both residents and the surrounding community.

    B. Estimated financial costs of providing the following:

        i. Two large metal garbage bins (with regular pickup).
        ii. Three portable washrooms.
        iii. Modest site maintenance and cleaning services needed to support the pilot.

    C. Engagement with the Province of Manitoba to explore provincial participation in the pilot, including but not limited to:

        i. Funding and delivering wrap-around supports.
        ii. On-site outreach staff focused on connecting individuals to income supports, addictions treatment, mental health services, and housing.
        iii. A coordinated triage system to transition individuals from the encampment into appropriate shelter or housing options.

    D Recommendations, options, timelines, and funding considerations, related to a managed encampment pilot site.

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:

Moved by Councillor Santos,

1. That the Public Service be directed to report back in up to 120 days on the following:

    A. Feasibility of establishing a Managed Encampment Pilot Site for spring summer operations, including:

        i. Identification of potential locations.
        ii. Recommended operational structure.
        iii. Estimated population capacity.
        iv. Site management requirements.
        v. Safety considerations for both residents and the surrounding community.

    B. Estimated financial costs of providing the following:

        i. Two large metal garbage bins (with regular pickup).
        ii. Three portable washrooms.
        iii. Modest site maintenance and cleaning services needed to support the pilot.

    C. Engagement with the Province of Manitoba to explore provincial participation in the pilot, including but not limited to:

        i. Funding and delivering wrap-around supports.
        ii. On-site outreach staff focused on connecting individuals to income supports, addictions treatment, mental health services, and housing.
        iii. A coordinated triage system to transition individuals from the encampment into appropriate shelter or housing options.

    D Recommendations, options, timelines, and funding considerations, related to a managed encampment pilot site.

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

and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Councillors Duncan and Lukes asked to be recorded as having voted against the above motion, in accordance with Rule 47(7) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On November 27, 2025, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Durand-Wood,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg now has an updated plan for the management and use of City parks, including measures to prevent overnight encampments within park spaces;

AND WHEREAS during the winter months many individuals experiencing homelessness have moved indoors or into temporary shelters etc., but the City must prepare for increased outdoor encampments in the spring and summer;

AND WHEREAS unmanaged encampments create significant safety concerns for both residents and vulnerable individuals, including increased risk of fires, violence, garbage accumulation, and unsafe conditions for those living outdoors;

AND WHEREAS the City does not have the capacity alone to manage the amount of homelessness we have in the city and overnight encampment will move the problem into more suburban areas so they are harder to find;

AND WHEREAS without a coordinated response, there is a risk of increased break-ins and unauthorized occupancy of vacant and derelict buildings as people seek shelter out-of-sight and overnight encampment will move the problem into more suburban areas so they are harder to find;

AND WHEREAS a managed encampment pilot site, equipped with basic supports, has the potential to reduce neighbourhood impacts, improve safety, and provide a dignified and health-focused response for individuals who are unhoused;

AND WHEREAS providing limited on-site infrastructure such as large garbage bins and portable washrooms can significantly reduce litter, bio-waste, and environmental impacts in surrounding areas;

AND WHEREAS a managed encampment could serve as a triage point for individuals to access income supports, housing services, addictions treatment, and mental health supports, in partnership with the Province of Manitoba;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Public Service be directed to study and report back on the feasibility of establishing a Managed Encampment Pilot Site for spring summer operations, including:

    A. Identification of potential locations.
    B. Recommended operational structure.
    C. Estimated population capacity.
    D. Site management requirements.
    E. Safety considerations for both residents and the surrounding community.

2. That the Public Service include in its report the estimated financial costs of providing the following:

    A. Two large metal garbage bins (with regular pickup).
    B. Three portable washrooms.
    C. Modest site maintenance and cleaning services needed to support the pilot.

3. That the Public Service be directed to engage the Province of Manitoba to explore provincial participation in the pilot, including but not limited to:

    A. Funding and delivering wrap-around supports.
    B. On-site outreach staff focused on connecting individuals to income supports, addictions treatment, mental health services, and housing.
    C. A coordinated triage system to transition individuals from the encampment into appropriate shelter or housing options.

4. That in the addition to the above, the Public Service report back within 60 days with recommendations, options, timelines, and funding considerations, so that a managed encampment pilot site can be implemented if required ahead of the spring/summer encampment season.