Council Direction:
Council at its meeting of March 28, 2007, adopted Information Item (h) of Emergency and Community Services Committee Report 07-004, which directed as follows:

(h) Mary Lou Reiman and Beverley Langley, on behalf of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, respecting the Advocacy Role of Council, with the Provincial and Federal Governments, on Matters Related to Poverty (Item 6.2)

That staff be directed to develop a strategy for ongoing lobbying in areas identified in the presentation, provided in Item 6.2, and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

Information:
Mary Lou Reiman and Beverley Langley, representing the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, appeared as a delegation at the March 21, 2007 Emergency and Community Services Committee. The purpose of their presentation was to encourage Hamilton City Council to develop a lobbying strategy for poverty issues.
which are significantly influenced by decisions made at both the Provincial and Federal levels of government.

With respect to poverty, Hamilton’s City Council has been supportive in advocating on behalf of local constituents with Provincial and Federal Governments when requested to do so either by staff or community representatives. Council advocacy efforts/action over the past few years has resulted from a number of staff reports including:

- Hamilton & District Injured Workers' Group - Social Services Matters (CS10012) (City Wide)
- Ontario Municipal Social Services Association - Pre Budget Submission to the Province of Ontario (CS10021) (City Wide)
- Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (CS09075) (City Wide)
- Implementation Strategy for the Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services (CS090115 (a)) (City Wide)
- Termination of Provincial Best Start Funding March 31, 2010 (CS09042) City Wide
- Child Care Fee Subsidy Program Caseload Management (ECS08050) (City Wide)
- Emergency Shelter Funding Pressure (ECS08026 (a)) (City Wide)
- Ontario Works Temporary Care Allowance (ECS08023 (a)) (City Wide)
- Update on the Homelessness Partnership Initiative (ECS08041) (City Wide)
- Ontario Child Benefit (ECS08031) (City Wide)
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities National Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness, and the City’s Housing Needs and Homelessness Locally ((ECS08032) (City Wide)
- Ontario Temporary Care Allowance (ECS08023 (a)) (City Wide)
- Emergency Shelter Funding Potential Pressure (ECS08026 (a)) (City Wide)

Further, many staff within the Community Services Department are involved in a number of community collaboratives, networks, provincial and federal associations and work groups in an effort to ensure that Council remains well informed of key policy and priority issues that directly impact our community.

Staff recognizes that a more systematic approach that provides broad environmental scanning and contextual background information to emerging policy and program issues would assist in keeping Council informed of issues that would benefit from stronger advocacy efforts with other levels of government related to poverty.

The economic climate over the last two years in particular continues to reinforce the need to remain vigilant with respect to poverty. Further, the recently released FCM report, “Expanding the Social Safety Net in Canada’s Cities and Communities: The Role of Municipal Infrastructure” (March 2010), aligns well with the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty’s Starting Point Strategies document highlighting the need for affordable housing, affordable transit, access to child care and access to recreation as the key foundational supports in addressing local poverty issues. In particular, the report highlights the important role that municipalities play in these areas while also
recognizing that a sustained level of investment from both the federal and provincial governments is also required to support local social infrastructure and enhance quality of life across communities.

While poverty issues form the basis of a significant amount of work within the Community Services Department (particularly from a program delivery perspective), having Council engage in an advocacy strategy that not only highlights poverty issues, but also focuses on broader human services issues, would have a positive impact on the overall quality of life in our community.

To make this advocacy strategy more comprehensive and inclusive, staff are committed to including relevant statistical/demographic data, emerging policy trends, the input of service users, as well as consulting with advocacy groups, community collaboratives/networks, and other community stakeholders. The degree and scope to which the department can bring in all of these relevant perspectives could be limited in terms of information availability, and/or the resources required to gather this information. It is also anticipated that the strategy would provide opportunities for members of the Emergency and Community Services Committee to provide commentary and input to shape the final strategy each year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
POLICY & ISSUES FRAMEWORK – 2011-2014

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WHEN?</th>
<th>PROPOSED ACTIVITIES</th>
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<td><strong>Year 1 - 2011</strong></td>
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| February 2011 | - Report/Presentation including an environmental scan which identifies key emerging current policy and program related issues, demographic issues etc., 2011-2014  
- Identification of upcoming opportunities with relevant provincial associations, community stakeholders etc.  
- Identification of potential linkage with work in other departments  
- Identification of upcoming major initiatives in 2011  
- Seek Council input and adjust the policy and issues framework as required |
| September 2011 | - Update on status of strategy  
- Identification of any major shifts in directions  
- Updates on any lobbying efforts/partnerships |
| **Year 2 + Year 3 – 2012/2013** | |
| January 2012/2013 | - List of upcoming major work in 2012/2013  
- Identification of new risks/opportunities  
- Opportunity for Council feedback into the strategy  
- Update the Strategy |
| June 2012/2013 | - Update on status of strategy  
- Identification of any major shifts in directions  
- Updates on any lobbying efforts/partnerships |

Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.
Values: Honest, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork
### Year 4 - 2014

| January 2014 | - List of upcoming major work in 2014  
|             | - Identification of new risks/opportunities  
|             | - Opportunity for Council feedback into the strategy  
|             | - Update the Strategy  
| June 2014   | - Update on status of strategy  
|             | - Identification of any major shifts in directions  
|             | - Updates on any lobbying efforts/partnerships  
| September 2014 | - Review and Evaluation of the Community Services Department Policy and Issues Framework  
|             | - Recommendation as to the continuation/modification of the strategy for next term of council  

The Community Services Department Policy & Issues Framework has the potential to provide Council with a greater awareness of the significant policy and program issues facing the department overall and an excellent opportunity to be a better advocate at the Provincial and Federal levels of government by focusing on specific key local areas of concern.

The Community Services Department Policy and Issues Framework highlights key milestone dates and activities that would cover the term of Council. Staff is prepared to implement this strategy beginning with the next term of Council 2011-2014.