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**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:39 PM

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CSC Meeting - Jan 15 - Agenda Item 2.9 - Assessment Growth

City Clerks Team - Please accept this Added Agenda as feedback to be distributed to the full CSC Committee with respect Item 2.9 on Assessment Value Growth which has been submitted annually as both consent & to be received only ( no action ever necessary ) . I approved this submission .

Chair H McAlister / CSC Council Committee members;

The City of London's Assessment Growth policy is and has been both obsolete , at odds with the procedure and policy followed by many other Ontario communities , is not " concurrent " or synchronized with our main annual budget focus and public meeting cycle and is continuously distributed with the zero council input .

- Many – probably most Ontario communities assign the revenue associated @ new Assessment Growth taxation directly to **discount** any recommended annual tax increases . They do this **concurrently** as part of the main draft budget & the public meeting process knowing that draft budget submissions are " all in " . This makes sense as both the public and Council can weigh in on any reallocation requirements .
- City of London – Assigns / Adds their new Assessment Growth Revenue as an ADDITION TO YOUR ANNUAL Tax Payer funded operating budget AFTER OUR full Council & Public participation meeting process based on an allocation process led by the our Finance team ( current policy ) .
- This ( our London ) policy does two (2) things when compared to other communities >> It **doubles** the impact on taxpayer funded budget ( discount OPS Budget vs add to OPS Budget ) and it rewards only the management teams that can't seem to find that most important leadership initiative to be able to use / lever their human resources & team to absorb reasonable growth in program metrics with their team. This is a private sector – best practices norm !
- Our current policy specifically restricts allocation of new " program " budget costs from ASS Growth . Go figure , this is exactly where we most need the allocation .

**What exactly am I asking the CSC Committee for support on TODAY ??** A motion from one ( 1 ) brave Council member to ( see below )

- That Consent on this portion of agenda be **declined** and the Deputy City Manager – Finance Supports be directed to bring forward those "allocation business cases " that are most certainly already complete NOW as an amendment to the draft 2024 – 28 base budget . This would align the timing and concurrency with the Budget Public MTG January 29<sup>th</sup> and provide full input opportunity for the Budget Committee.
- That that motion also include a request to the Governance Committee going forward to air out our Assessment Growth Policy in early 2024 with a public input opportunity .

**RECO GOING FORWARD** >> Its simple – pick a lane !

1. Either do what other communities do ( discount new revenue from OPS budget ) OR
2. Allocate Assessment Value Growth revenue SPECIFICALLY ONLY TO OPS BUDGET COST PRESSURES that actual increase the City of London's taxation base ( new business opportunities not old ) . This is exactly what ANY private sector business would do . Example >> Adding 10 or 12 FTE to our Planning Dept for the next 3 years to reduce building permit time and add to tax base.  
Example >> shift the deferred taxation of pissed off Londoners to cover off the Waived Development Charges in incentive zones like downtown to ASS Growth revenue . Growth pays for growth ??

THXS - Chris Butler – Waterloo St - Ward 6