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City of London
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RE: Multi-Year Budget

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Londoners are wondering how we can take our limited resources and make the most effective investments in London's future. How do we deal with multi-crises? What are the multi-solvers that provide the 'biggest bang for the buck'?

All Londoners are experiencing rising costs of living. **Transportation** and **Buildings** are critical foundational pieces to allow London to manage continued rapid growth. They also happen to be the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in London and improving buildings will help us meet our climate targets *at the same time*. If London is to become a big city, we need more affordable transportation options, and reduced commuting times.

The homelessness crisis is diverting resources from many departments, including police. If we can help more people find suitable housing solutions, it can reduce policing costs. Repairing existing housing stock is a quick solution, as is adding more resources for city staff to connect people in search of housing with solutions. Ensuring that affordable housing stock is energy efficient helps keep operating costs lower for the life of the building, especially city owned properties.

TRANSPORTATION

Without preempting the Master Mobility Plan, we need to provide public transit that is not only consistent with the CEAP targets, the London Plan and the Strategic Plan but also provides a transportation option Londoners will choose to use. As a result we see the following business cases as important:

P-51 Transit Service Hours Growth

More people would take transit if it was more reliable and frequent. Employers and employees benefit from equitable access to both conventional and specialised services. (Wellbeing and Safety 1.7; Mobility and Transportation 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6; Well-run City 2.1)

P-52 Zero Emission Bus Transition;

We need to continue to move forward after the Zero Emission Bus Trial project. Diesel buses contribute to poor air quality, and increased health care expenses. Funds need to be allocated each year to gradually change over the fleet. We have seen that if you delay expenditures, it is hard to catch up in the future. (Climate Action and Sustainable Growth 2.1, 3.1, 3.2;)

BUILDINGS

The return on investment is a key factor in prioritising building upgrades. As operating costs continue to escalate, including the cost of energy, reducing costs for both homeowners and businesses is key. Therefore, we find the following business cases to be critical to an affordable future:

P-56 - Section 3 - Climate Emergency Action Plan - Corporate

During discussions about Green Development Standards, Council was challenged to lead by example and retrofit city owned facilities first. Improving energy efficiency will save the City in operating costs, reducing the need for future property tax increases. (Climate Action and Sustainable Growth 2.1, 3.2,)

P-56 - Section1(a) - Climate Emergency Action Plan - Home Energy Retrofit Finance

Homeowners find these incentive programs to be catalysts for change. However, we would like to see added a fair selection criteria, so that neighbourhoods with high rates of energy poverty are prioritised. (Climate Action and Sustainable Growth 2.1)

P-21 - LMCH Regeneration of Community Housing & P-14 Municipal Housing Development Resourcing

We would like to see the regeneration of LMCH owned affordable housing and additional staff resources within Municipal Housing development to implement the Roadmap to 3,000 Affordable Housing units that will leverage the private sector. Providing more and newer non-single family home options will be critical if London is to grow inward and upward. (Housing and Homelessness 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.2; Wellbeing and Safety 2.1,)

Although these may seem like large amounts, we view them as important **investments that will benefit London for years**. London is at a critical inflection point and must invest in the infrastructure and services that will support affordability and continue to allow economic prosperity while striving to be one of the greenest cities in Canada.

On Behalf of Climate Action London

Bob Morrison
Mary Ann Hodge