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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 24, 2016
FROM:	LARRY PALARCHIO DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL PLANNING AND POLICY
SUBJECT:	2016-2019 BUDGET – PUBLIC INPUT

RECOMMENDATIONS

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Financial Planning and Policy, this third and final report on public input for the 2016-2019 multi-year budget **BE RECEIVED** for information.

BACKGROUND

This report is in addition to two other “2016-2019 – Public Input” reports submitted to SPPC on January 29, 2016 and February 18, 2016 respectively.

A Council resolution dated January 13, 2016 asked for the following action to be taken:

“the Advisory Committees BE ENCOURAGED to provide input with respect to the draft Budgets and BE PROACTIVELY ENGAGED to obtain their input”

On January 18, 2016, all Advisory Committees were sent a letter and corresponding worksheet requesting input and feedback for their respective committee(s) on the draft Budget.

It should be noted that not all Advisory Committees chose to submit written responses and have chosen to provide feedback at previous and/or future Multi-Year Budget Public Participation Meetings (PPM’s) or do not have any comments to share.

The below chart provides you with a quick snap shot of all Advisory Committees and the corresponding route(s) they chose (if any) to provide input/feedback:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE	COMPLETED WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING	NOTHING RECEIVED TO-DATE
Advisory Committee on the Environment		X	
Cycling Advisory Committee	X	X	
London Housing Advisory Committee	X		
Town and Gown Committee			X
Transportation Advisory Committee		X	
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee	X	X	
Accessibility Advisory Committee			X
Agriculture Advisory Committee	X		
Child Care Advisory Committee			X
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee			X
Trees and Forests Advisory Committee	X		
London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee	X	X	
Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee	X	X	
London Advisory Committee on Heritage			X

All Advisory Committee’s written submissions are attached as **Appendix A**.

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Other Public Input to share:

Between last week’s budget deliberation dates (February 18 and 19, 2016) and the date this report was written, administration received more emails to budget@london.ca that we want to ensure Councillors are made aware of.

E-mails received during February 18, 2016 – February 23, 2016 are **attached** as **Appendix B**

On-line Budget Simulator (www.buildabudget.ca)

For the fourth year in a row, Civic Administration has used www.buildabudget.ca as a platform for budget engagement and education. This website provides Londoners with a unique opportunity to learn about the proposed 2016-2019 Multi-Year Budget.

It allows Londoners to enter their assessed property value and get a breakdown of how their property tax dollars are distributed to all the programs and services provided by the City of London.

Londoners can use sliding scales and/or yes/no widgets to showcase what they would like to adjust or support over the next four years.

From January 11, 2016 to February 23, 2016, www.buildabudget.ca has had **600 visitors, with 203 visitors submitting responses.**

Prepared By:	Recommended By:
Jon-Paul McGonigle Business Planning Process Manager	Larry Palarchio Director – Financial Planning and Policy

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APPENDIX A
ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS

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APPENDIX B

FEEDBACK CAPTURED VIA EMAIL

Emails sent to budget@london.ca during the time period of February 18, 2016 – February 22, 2016. This only includes feedback and/or statements, as all questions answered by finance staff have been removed.

I am a Ward 6 resident living in beautiful Orchard Park. I am a proud Londoner of 17 years now, and I've chosen the Forest City to live, work, and raise my family in.

I urge you to take a stand and push to keep the funding for the urban forest management strategy in the budget. Every year we don't plant more trees, means fewer years of growth for our green infrastructure.

Our region has lost MILLIONS of trees due to emerald ash borer as well as climate events and development. We cannot sit back and allow our natural forests and our urban tree canopy to disappear due to our inaction and our hesitancy to fund tree protection and planting. Trees are so important to the health and well being of our cities.

Please - our future and our childrens' futures depend on your action.

The mayors failure to live up to his election promises will hurt most property owners.

The CPI increased 1.3% last year.

My indexed company pension rose 1% for year 2016.

The Mayor wants a tax increase of approximately 3% in each of the next four years.

We cannot afford a 3% increase.

Eliminate those nice to have large projects, and quit giving grants to developers to cover the development charges.

Councillors plan to encourage upward growth and yet zoning changes are allowing sprawl in the southwest corner of our city. WHY?

Hi, you could save \$4 million dollars by leaving Blackfriars Bridge as it is. It works great as it is now. The neighbourhood is much nicer and quieter.

Please advocate as strongly as you can to keep any possible municipal tax increase no higher than 1.6 percent. We already cannot afford the \$6,000 plus taxes we pay now on fixed incomes!

Thank you very much and best wishes