

June 10, 2016

Ms. Heather Lysynski
Committee Secretary
Legal and Corporate Services
P.O. Box 5035
300 Dufferin Ave,
London, ON N6A 4L9
EM: hlysynsk@london.ca
PH: 519-661-2500 x4856

RE: Notice of Public Participation Meeting and Public Open House for The London Plan

Dear Ms. Lysynski:

The Vision of the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) is People Reaching Their Potential. Our Mission is to promote and protect the health of our community. The London Plan (TLP), May 2016, aligns with our Vision and Mission by presenting a vision, values, key directions and a monitoring program that responds to numerous challenges anticipated in the next 20 years.

TLP policies that will shape the growth, preservation, and evolution of our city are comprehensive and will have a net positive impact on the health of Londoners for generations to come. The City Building Policies, Place Type Policies and Environmental Policies sections of TLP provide particular support for the work of public health which falls under the Ontario Public Health Standards, particularly in the areas of Chronic Diseases and Injuries programming and Environmental Health programming. MLHU is responsible to provide these programs and services to the London and Middlesex community according to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, pursuant to Section 7 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.7.

MLHU programs that align particularly well with TLP include:

Healthy Communities / Built Environment which promotes the development of complete, integrated, connected and diverse neighbourhoods through mixed land use, appropriate densities and housing types that provide affordable options across the lifespan; high quality public spaces and facilities that are accessible and provide a sense of place; social gathering opportunities that foster inclusion and reinforce the strengths and assets of cultural diversity, all of which play an important role in fostering physical, mental and social well-being.

Environmental Health which aims to influence the natural and built environments in order to prevent the spread of disease and create healthy environments for people to live, work and play; the utilization of parks and open spaces including green and natural areas; increased tree canopy to mitigate negative effects of climate change and provide sun protection; surface and ground water features, water quality, natural hazards and air quality; environmental management and impact studies; transportation demand management that reduces motor vehicle use and other issues known or found to present a risk to public health.

Physical Activity which promotes increased physical activity levels for all ages, lifestyles and abilities in a variety of settings in order to meet or exceed the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines; formal and informal recreational opportunities; support for street networks that encourage the use of active transportation - walking, cycling and public transit, for purposes of attending school, employment, shopping and other reasons.

Road Safety and Injury Prevention which aims to decrease the rates of injuries and deaths related to road safety issues; coordinates with the City and other partners the implementation of the London Road Safety Strategy in order to create safer roads; prioritize pedestrian and cycling environments; support multi-modal street design that provides a variety of safe, attractive, viable and accessible mobility choices.

Healthy Local Food System which promotes a local and regional comprehensive food system that is healthy, safe, sustainable, accessible and affordable; urban, local and regional food production, processing, storage, distribution and waste recovery; educational programs; eradication of food deserts; access to local food via pedestrian and transit routes; community gardens and other social enterprises that support food access to those in need.

Health Equity which addresses socially produced inequities that impact health by reducing barriers across the lifespan through coordinated, integrated approaches; the social determinants of health by providing equal access to safe and affordable housing, secure employment, earning a fair wage, quality education and various community supports.

The London Plan process has been extensive and has provided numerous opportunities for input. We commend the City for providing a comprehensive official plan that will, through the numerous policies contained therein, have a net positive impact on health.

MLHU looks forward to the adoption of this plan and continued work with City of London staff and elected officials in supporting the health and well-being of Londoners over the next 20 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and CEO