

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 12, 2017
FROM:	ANNA LISA BARBON MANAGING DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES AND CITY TREASURER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
SUBJECT:	2018 BUDGET SCHEDULE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, the following dates for the 2018 Annual Budget Update **BE APPROVED:**

Tabling of the 2018 - 2019 Budget Updates (Tax Supported, Water and Wastewater & Treatment)	October 30, 2017 (immediately preceding the Council meeting)
Public Participation Meeting (Tax Supported, Water and Wastewater & Treatment)	November 22, 2017, 4 p.m. Start
Budget Review (Tax Supported, Water and Wastewater & Treatment)	November 27, 2017, 1 p.m. Start
Budget Review (Tax Supported, Water and Wastewater & Treatment)	November 30, 2017, 4 p.m. Start, IF NEEDED
Final Budget Approval (Tax Supported, Water and Wastewater & Treatment)	December 12, 2017, 4 p.m. Start
Assessment Growth Allocation Report	February 2018

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

2016-2019 Multi-Year Budget (May 11, 2015 meeting of Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee, Agenda Item
<http://sire.london.ca/cache/2/bj25bdyeh2gutq55usp3xq55/1860540525201708320230.PDF>

BACKGROUND

2018 Annual Budget Update

In 2016, the Municipal Council implemented a Multi-Year Budget process in order to improve long-range and strategic planning and enhance focus on major policy issues. While much of the detailed review was undertaken by the Municipal Council in Year 1 of the Multi-Year Budget process, section 291(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* still requires the municipality to review and readopt the Budget for subsequent years to which the Budget applies, and ensure that the Budget complies with applicable legislative requirements. It is not anticipated that the subsequent years' review and re-adoption of the Budgets will be as time-intensive as Year 1. The 2018 Annual Budget Update will be similar to the process that was followed for the 2017 Annual Budget Update. The above-noted schedule for the 2018 Budgets is provided for the Municipal Council's consideration.

The 2018 Annual Budget Update will be tabled on October 30th and will focus on budget amendments that have been submitted by service areas that cannot be accommodated within the approved multi-year budget. Updates will be limited to the following categories:

- a) New or Changed Regulation (e.g. new Provincial regulation such as Cap and Trade)
- b) New Council Direction (e.g. low-income subsidy for transit)
- c) Cost Drivers Causing Service Areas To Be Significantly Over Target (e.g. unanticipated changes to economic forecasts that impact municipal costs)

Public Engagement/Education

Extensive public engagement and consultation was undertaken prior to the approval of the 2016-2019 multi-year budget. This feedback was essential to ensure that residents, community organizations, and businesses had a venue to voice their concerns and participate in civic government. While public engagement will continue to be a priority for each budget update, the level of engagement will be less than what was seen in the first year of the multi-year budget given that the City embarked on the first ever multi-year budget integrated with Council’s setting of its Strategic Plan. The public engagement schedule planned for the 2018 Annual Budget Update is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Public Engagement Schedule	
Online Resources – Civic Administration is actively working on providing a number of web resources to assist with public engagement for the 2018 Annual Budget Update.	Launch on October 30, 2017
Budget Session – A public session where the public can meet with Civic Administration to discuss the budget update. The format, location and scope are to be determined.	November 9, 2017 (Evening)
Time With Finance Staff – Provides an opportunity for community groups to request a budget presentation and question and answer period with Finance staff.	As Requested
Public Participation Meeting – Members of the public are invited to provide input into the 2018 Annual Budget Update at a scheduled meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee.	November 22, 2017
Social Media, Email and Phone Calls – Finance staff will be responding to questions or concerns from the public via social media, email or phone calls.	Throughout the Budget Process

It is anticipated that the public engagement strategy will have a greater focus on budget education to prepare for a conversation about financial priorities as part of the preparation for the next multi-year budget. Administration will focus on educating Londoner’s with respect to municipal budget basics and London’s multi-year budget process. The educational scope of the public engagement strategy will have opportunities for Londoner’s to provide input that will be communicated to Council, however, this process is not a platform for input on new budget asks outside of the three types of amendments outlined above.

The scope of the public engagement strategy could be impacted by the type of amendments that come forward throughout the 2018 Annual Budget Update process. For example, if a new Council direction amendment comes forward that could impact the average annual tax levy increase, the strategic focus may change to include more input from the public on the specific amendment so that Council has an opportunity to hear the input before the budget review for the 2018 Annual Budget Update.

The public engagement/educational strategy undertaken during the annual budget updates of the multi-year period will help provide a foundation of knowledge and information for the upcoming multi-year budget in 2020.

PREPARED BY:	CONCURRED BY:
Annette Ripepi Manager, Financial Planning & Policy	Larry Palarchio Director, Financial Planning & Policy
RECOMMENDED BY:	
Anna Lisa Barbon Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer	