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| <b>TO:</b>      | <b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS<br/>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE<br/>MEETING ON JANUARY 24, 2019</b>            |
| <b>FROM:</b>    | <b>ANNA LISA BARBON<br/>MANAGING DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES AND<br/>CITY TREASURER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b> |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b> | <b>2019 ANNUAL BUDGET UPDATE – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT</b>                                                              |

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| <b>RECOMMENDATION</b> |
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That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, the following report regarding public engagement for the 2019 Multi-Year Budget Update **BE RECEIVED** for information.

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| <b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b> |
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Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee, June 25, 2018, agenda item 2.1, 2019 Budget Schedule <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=46822>

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| <b>2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN</b> |
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The 2019 Annual Budget Update public engagement strategy advances the following areas of focus and objectives of Council’s 2015-2019 Strategic Plan:

- Leading in Public Service
  - 1. Open, accountable and responsive government
    - A) Make community engagement a priority. Make the public a partner who has access to our information and helps make decisions with Council.
    - B) Improve the City of London website so people can find what they want, when they want it and how they want it.
  - 4. Collaborative, engaged leadership
    - B) Maximize openness and transparency in Council decision making.

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| <b>BACKGROUND</b> |
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In the lead up to London’s first Multi-Year Budget (2016-2019), extensive public engagement occurred to identify the financial priorities of Londoners and to promote participation in civic government. Public feedback received was communicated to Council, unedited by Staff, to assist with budget deliberations.

In the annual update years of the multi-year budget (2017-2019), the public engagement strategy involves educating Londoners on the multi-year budget process, reminding them of the average annual tax levy increase approved for the 2016-2019 Multi-Year Budget period, and demonstrating how the annual amendments could impact the tax levy.

The public engagement and education strategy undertaken during the annual budget updates of the multi-year budget period will also help provide a foundation of knowledge and information for the upcoming 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget.

The 2019 Annual Budget Update engagement process included a formal process for input on new budget requests and budget amendments at the Public Participation Meeting held on January 17, 2019. Londoners were also able to utilize informal channels like phone, email, social media, and conversations with staff at the Budget Open House and community group meetings

to ask questions and/or provide voluntary input on the budget process or amendments.

The public engagement strategy for the 2019 Annual Budget Update included the following channels:

- 1. Website (london.ca/budget);
- 2. Budget Open House (hosted on January 9, 2019);
- 3. Budget Discussions with Community Groups (Urban League meeting held on January 10, 2019 and Chamber of Commerce presentation held on January 11, 2019);
- 4. Public Participation Meeting (PPM) (held on January 17, 2019); and
- 5. Social media (Twitter/Facebook), e-mail (budget@london.ca), and phone calls (519-661-4638)

**Budget Feedback**

1. Website

Civic Administration utilized the City of London website to educate the public on the 2019 Annual Budget Update. A dedicated webpage was created to provide general information on the 2019 Update, budget amendment cases, and Water and Wastewater & Treatment budgets. (<http://www.london.ca/city-hall/budget-business/budget/Pages/2017-Multi-Year-Budget-Update.aspx>)

The webpage summarizes the recommendations found in the 2019 Annual Budget Update so that visitors are able to quickly understand the amendments that have been presented to Council for approval. If members of the public wish to explore the details of the budget update, links to the draft Tax Supported Budget, draft budget amendment cases and draft Water and Wastewater & Treatment budgets are also available on the webpage.

Additionally, users were able to explore other webpages for information, such as the 2016-2019 Council-approved Multi-Year Budget, Budget Basics, the Property Tax Calculator and Finance Flicks. The 2019 Annual Budget Update page was featured on the City of London website's main page throughout the budget process.

Contact information for the Finance team (email and phone) is listed on the webpage so that any questions or comments can be answered by staff.

During the time period of December 3, 2018 to January 16, 2019, the london.ca/budget webpage had 451 unique visitors, 700 visits and 1,094 page views:

| Webpage                                                     | Visits | Page Views |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| • 2016-2019 Council Approved Multi-Year Budget & Highlights | 228    | 315        |
| • Property Tax Calculator                                   | 964    | 1,050      |
| • 2019 Annual Budget Update                                 | 367    | 485        |
| • Budget Basics                                             | 98     | 115        |
| • Finance Flicks                                            | 28     | 30         |
| • Past Budgets                                              | 37     | 49         |
| • Annual Budget Update – Key Dates                          | 68     | 82         |

## 2. Budget Open House (hosted on January 9, 2019)

This year Civic Administration hosted a Budget Open House at the BMO Centre on January 9, 2019. The open house invited Londoners to come and learn about the Multi-Year Budget process and the 2019 Annual Budget Update. The open house was structured as an informal “drop-in” where Londoners could learn more about the Multi-Year Budget and changes proposed for the 2019 Update. Members of the community could view fourteen poster boards that “told the story” of the multi-year budget process, benefits of multi-year budgeting, the approved average annual tax levy, the annual and daily tax levy impact by service area, and the amendments found in the 2019 Annual Budget Update.

The Budget Open House presented a unique setting where community members were able to converse and engage directly with Finance staff, members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) and some Council members.

The Budget Open House was advertised through the following methods:

- Social Media and Facebook ads
- London.ca/budget
- Homepage image on london.ca
- E-newsletter
- Advertised in Londoner, London Free Press and Latino! Magazine
- Digital billboards at three locations in the city
- On-screen at breaks in Council meetings and at all Community Centres
- Posters distributed throughout City facilities and libraries
- Media release following budget tabling

Attendance at the Budget Open House was limited; eleven members of the community attended and provided feedback, however, this is an increase from the total of seven members which attended the two open houses held in November 2017 for the 2018 Annual Budget Update. Issues and questions raised by attendees are provided in **Appendix A**.

## 3. Budget Discussions (held on January 10 &11, 2019)

On January 10, 2019, Civic Administration held a budget discussion meeting with The Urban League of London at Wich is Wich in downtown London. Senior Finance staff provided a presentation on the 2019 Annual Budget Update and answered questions from attendees. A total of 18 people participated in the event. Feedback received from The Urban League of London is provided in **Appendix B**.

Senior Finance staff held another budget discussion meeting on January 11, 2019 where a presentation was made by the Director of Financial Planning and Business Support and City Treasurer to the Chamber of Commerce on the 2019 Annual Budget Update. This presentation was made to the Chamber’s Government Affairs Committee with approximately 15 members in attendance. Feedback and questions received from the Chamber are provided in **Appendix C**.

## 4. Public Participation Meeting (PPM)

The Public Participation Meeting (PPM) provided Londoners an opportunity to address the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee (SPPC) in Council Chambers. Written submissions for the PPM can be viewed on the City website under the meeting agenda for SPPC on January 24, 2019. The PPM was advertised through the same methods as the Budget Open House listed above.

## 5. Social Media, Email, and Phone Calls

Staff utilized the City’s Twitter and Facebook accounts to educate Londoners on the 2019 Annual Budget Update. Information was provided regarding where to access budget resources and budget education tools (e.g., “Finance Flicks” and the “Property Tax Calculator”). Additionally, social media was used to advertise the 2019 Annual Budget Update webpage, the Budget Open House and the Public Participation Meeting.

Social media messages were posted to the City social media channels several times a week over the duration of the 2019 Annual Budget Update process. The City of London Twitter account has 51,566 followers and the Facebook page has 29,988 likes. The City’s budget email received four emails throughout the 2019 Annual Budget Update from December 3, 2018 to January 16, 2019.

Feedback received from the City’s budget email and social media is provided in **Appendix D**.

**Analysis**

For the 2019 Annual Budget Update, staff examined new ways to reduce barriers to public engagement for Londoners. The following are some examples of how public engagement efforts were improved for the 2019 Annual Budget Update:

- The Budget Open House was hosted on one day at a more central location;
- Digital Billboards have been used for advertising this year in three different locations;
- Additional detail was added to the annual budget update this year to provide a recap of the 2016-2019 Multi-Year Budget and to explain the effects of the annual updates and amendments that have been brought forward as part of the process;
- More poster boards were presented at the public engagement events and they were well-received by the attendees as they were informative and meaningful; and,
- Social Media “Fun Facts” have been posted throughout the 2019 Annual Budget Update process with graphics highlighting the portion of the average tax bill allocated to certain programs and services provided by the City.

**Summary**

Public engagement continues to play an important role in the budget process in London. In the lead up to a new Multi-Year Budget, a more extensive, in-depth engagement strategy is deployed by Civic Administration. In the year of an annual update, the public engagement strategy aims to educate the public and encourage more involvement in the budget process. For the 2019 Annual Budget Update, the public engagement vehicles focused on educating Londoners on the Multi-Year Budget process and the 2019 Budget Amendments.

**Acknowledgements**

This report was prepared with the assistance of the 2019 Annual Budget Update public engagement team from Financial Planning & Policy (Anita Hodgins) and Communications (Dana Wachter).

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| <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>KYLE MURRAY, CPA, CA<br/>DIRECTOR<br/>FINANCIAL PLANNING &amp; BUSINESS<br/>SUPPORT</b>                                                 | <b>ANNA LISA BARBON, CPA, CGA<br/>MANAGING DIRECTOR, CORPORATE<br/>SERVICES AND CITY TREASURER, CHIEF<br/>FINANCIAL OFFICER</b> |

## APPENDIX A

### BUDGET OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

- What are the big themes of the 2019 Budget Update?
- Help me understand what the Multi-Year Budget (MYB) process and the 2019 Annual Budget Update mean to me as a tax payer?
- Does the budget include infrastructure costs as well, such as roads?
- Does the budget include all my costs related to my property (e. Electricity, Water, Gas)? What specific components of my home ownership costs does the budget speak to?
- What are the next steps of approval of the budget? What is the Public Participation Meeting (PPM)? What is the format and where is it?
- How do I have a say or get involved in influencing the budget?
- What other opportunities are there to provide formal public input?
- Feedback on the MYB process and link to the Strategic Plan was positive.
- What are the advantages of MYB, and is Council going to continue developing MYB's? The Benefits of Multi-Year Budgeting board on display was very helpful.
- One participant asked for an overview of the MYB process. They questioned what the process will be for the next MYB and subsequent annual updates. The importance of priority setting via the Strategic Plan development in February 2019 was stressed.
- Discussion was had regarding the MYB process and specifically how annual changes are accommodated. The long-term view of the MYB process was viewed as positive noting specifically that the alignment between the Strategic Plan and the MYB provides certainty around the projects that will be implemented over the four year period allowing for less "ad hoc" changes from year to year.
- Additional details were requested with respect to the City's joint venture in Budweiser Gardens noting that there are concerns as to whether the City's share is materializing as projected or becoming an additional ask of the tax payer to support it.
- Discussion was had regarding the link between a tax levy increase required to accommodate the City's net expenditure budget, assessed home values via MPAC versus market sale prices, and the City's Tax Policy decisions that occur annually.
- What is the Capital Financing category comprised of?
- Discussed the City's approach to capital budgeting that relies on 10 and 20 year plans to build the City's 10-year capital plan. Viewed as positive that this process has rigor and that the project detail records for all capital projects are available on the City's website.
- With respect to the capital budget amendment cases, it was noted that it is positive to see that these are primarily timing changes from the original MYB and minor things that have occurred versus large "ad hoc" or unplanned changes in direction.
- It was clarified that the funding for capital amendment cases 8 and 9 are funded from own source reserve funds held by the London Convention Centre and Convent Garden Market.
- If capital projects are being deferred, why aren't the property taxes collected for those projects being returned to taxpayers?
- Where can I find information on actual performance on the capital plan for this budget cycle?
- Do the growth capital projects have an impact on the taxpayer supported budget when they are deferred?
- What are the non-tax sources of funding for growth capital projects?
- What happened to capital projects that were anticipated to be funded with cap and trade grants?
- What is the property tax supported budget for development incentives? What payback do they have on my property taxes?
- What is the assessment growth policy?

- How does assessment growth funding impact my property taxes?
- Has a final decision been made on BRT yet? Where is BRT budgeted? Are there any operating costs associated with BRT for 2019? Will there be any applications made regarding BRT prior to the next MYB?
- Will the next MYB include BRT costs?
- One participant questioned whether the BRT cost included work to be done on the water and wastewater infrastructure under the roads. It was clarified that where required costs to update this infrastructure was included in the scope of the project.
- What is the City doing regarding changes to Provincial funding?
- Does the budget account for climate change? How does the budget consider future generations as it relates to climate change/the environment?
- Where do I find service review savings? What is the City doing to create efficiencies and find savings in expenditures?
- What are debt servicing costs and how are they managed?
- How are investment interest earnings performing compared to the debt interest charges? How is each doing against budget?
- How do we provide our input on where new investment should be directed?
- Although The Budget Open House was hosted at the BMO Centre, which is a central location, some comments were made about the difficulty in getting there via public transit.
- Comments were made suggesting to drop the 2019 tax levy increase from 2.7% to 2.5% or less, via Council direction and City of London support (drop programs if required).
- Does Water and Wastewater & Treatment have its own Board of Directors?
- Feedback received suggesting to drop Water and Wastewater & Treatment rate increases from 3% to 2.5% or less.
- Where is the annual Hydro dividend in the City's budget? What is it used for?
- Suggestions made to make City sewer and related infrastructure a standalone entity such as the London Transit Commission or London Hydro with full oversight.
- What is included in Social and Community Support services?
- How is Ontario Works delivered?
- What is meant by the Economic Prosperity category?
- The graphic that shows the cost per day and cost per year for each of the services is extremely helpful and meaningful.
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, total sources of operating revenues were \$3.5 billion, including \$794 million (23%) in grants and subsidies. (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 30) What is the breakdown of grants and subsidies by source?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, is there still a \$5 million "corporate contingency" for labour built into operating budget each year? (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 32)
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, there is a graph showing the plan to reduce and eliminate the use of debt for lifecycle capital project (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 42). Is this on track?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, there is a strategic investment for the Thames Valley Corridor Plan, specifically to fill the gaps in the north branch from Richmond to Adelaide Street (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 48 and 51). The amounts are \$1.2 million (debt) in 2016 and \$2.4 M for 2020-2025? What is the status of this project?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, as of the end of 2015, debt was \$334.1 million, authorized but not issued debt \$234.5 million, for a total potential debt of \$568.6 million (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 250), what is the status now?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, the "forecasted debt repayments are calculated over a 10-year term using interest rates ranging from 3.3% to 4.8% from 2016 to 2019" (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 250). In 2018 when the City issued debt, "The issue of serial debentures is structured with coupon rates ranging from 1.85% to 3.1% from one to ten years and a net all-in-rate of 2.976% (includes fiscal agency fees) over the 10-year term." (2018 Debt Issuance Update – Corporate Services Committee (March 5, 2018)). Ontario recently floated 10 year

at 2.4%, AND at same time, forecasting a drop in interest on working capital due to lower interest rates. How did this mix of information get built into 2019 Annual Update?

- Also, what is the change in exchange rate since the original 2016-2019 budget and the impact on costs information services and software?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, there is a planned contribution to the Economic Development Reserve Fund of \$5.9 million each year from 2016-2019 (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 240 and p. 247). The projected balance goes from \$12.5 million at the end of 2016 to \$33 million at the end of 2025. The bulk of the drawdowns are used for industrial servicing and Fanshawe College. Is the City still forecasting the same draws and ending balance?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, there is a strategic investment for the Back to the River project (Approved 2016-2019 Budget – page 24). Only \$700,000 was approved in 2016 as a draw from the Economic Development Reserve Fund (funded from the London Hydro special dividend). Was there nothing after that? What is the status of this project?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, there is a planned contribution to the DC incentive reserve funds in 2019 as follows: (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 244). Are these the current planned contributions?
  - o Industrial DC Incentive RF - \$2,067,000
  - o Institutional DC Incentive RF - \$3,725,000
  - o Residential DC Incentive RF - \$2,620,000
- Capital project TS1136 Philip Aziz and Western Road – Improvements Huron College to Platt's Lane (\$9.8 million) - what is the status of this project?
- Capital project PP1091 Replacement and Relocation of Fire Training Tower - is this project still planned for 2020 to 2025?
- Capital project PD204316 New Major Open Space Network – what is the status of the trail to Kains from Springbank?
- In the 2016-2019 MYB, there is a \$70 million reserve for PUC Environmental Reserve (Proposed Budget 2016-2019, p. 555). There is a \$1 million draw each year. Is this reserve still needed? Should it be restricted?
- Woodlot Acquisition Reserve Fund - thought this was changed to allow draws for invasive species management? Has that happened since budget passed and use of fund changed?
- What is the status of capital project PD225316 – New Environmentally Sensitive Areas, (Meadowlilly East (Sifton)) - \$25,000 approved in 2019?

## APPENDIX B

### URBAN LEAGUE BUDGET DISCUSSION FEEDBACK

- How are the various budgets looked at together given the capital budget is 10 years, Water/Wastewater & Treatment is 20 years out while we have a four-year operating budget?
- Is the budget final now? Is it set in stone or are there opportunities for changes?
- How does the budget incorporate future wage increases?
- A question was asked pertaining to budget amendment case #2 wanting to know if it was too late to communicate with their Councillor that they would like to keep the planned increase in the City's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. A comment was made that most of the employees impacted by this budget decrease are seasonal, student employees (e.g. lifeguards, park and rec, etc.) for who this extra money could be helpful throughout the year.
- If there isn't a reduction in minimum wage, is there an impact across the corporation from a compensation evaluation for all employees?
- Can we put the minimum wages savings back into the budget? Is this something that Council will be looking into?
- Is the Federal and Provincial funding guaranteed and finalized for BRT? What contingency plan exists if one of those sources of funding doesn't come through or certain costs aren't deemed eligible?
- Can we receive more information regarding the confidential amendment?
- How do I influence the budget more?
- Some comments were made that Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) units should be made a priority in London. Many citizens are in dire need of RGI units however, there are not enough of them available. Other comments were made suggesting to use old vacant buildings owned by the City for RGI units. It was also mentioned Affordable Housing has been a hot topic in the past few months, however, there has not been enough focus on the need for RGI units. Questions were raised about defining Affordable Housing.
- General comments were made about how the format of the documents aren't necessarily user friendly – heavy on spreadsheets and figures. It was communicated that spreadsheets alone do not tell the story of impacted citizens. Additional context to the numbers and what increases or decreases in funding mean in real world terms would be helpful within the budget. (e.g. if we decrease funding in this area, X number of children's programs will be impacted). "It's really easy to cut dollars from a budget but more difficult when those dollars are directly explained with a level of service to the community."
- It was suggested that the City look to include more "data visualization" tools on the website; the type that shows graphically, without numbers, the impact of changing financial support for different areas.
- It was suggested that engagement be more proactive and available throughout the year versus specific times once we already have the budget prepared. Proactive engagement could help with presentation of the figures, telling the story, etc. It was also suggested that these public engagement meetings take place all day, rather than a couple of hours in the evening, as some people feel they are rushing after work to attend these meetings and don't feel they have enough time to ask all their questions.
- It was suggested that more avenues for engagement would help improve turnout/responses, e.g. budget website would be the minimum expectation. It was communicated that we also have other online budget tools and things like finance flicks available to help understand difficult topics in municipal finance.
- It was raised that there needs to be an easier way to find the budget information an individual cares about, e.g. Parks, in the information that is provided in the budget document; something with a "key word search" that would direct the user to the correct section of the budget.
- It was communicated that it would help to have more avenues for input for individuals who are not comfortable speaking in public or may be intimidated speaking to professional

accountants or engineers on staff. Not everyone is comfortable giving their feedback the same way, despite possibly sharing a desire to do so.

- There was general support for some presentation material where cost per household per day for City services was shown. Noted that things like this help communicate in terms citizens understand.
- When looking at Average Annual Rate Payer Impact in the annual budget updates, why is the assessed value of \$221,000 in 2015 for property owners used for years 2016-2019?
- Questions were raised about whether Merrymount Family Support and Crisis Centre will be receiving additional funding to help to assist in providing all their services.
- Can we look at changing the language around homeowners/rate payers, possibly think of a more inclusive term?
- A lot of positive feedback was received on the 2016-2019 average daily and annual budget allocations for Municipal services.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Chamber of Commerce Presentation**

- The Chamber is comfortable with the 2.7% tax levy increase. They generally like to see tax increases below the sum of population growth (~1%) and inflation (~2%) – i.e. less than 3% in total.
- The Chamber is very supportive of the long-term planning focus resulting from the multi-year budget process.
- It would be helpful to show how London compares to others on an all-in basis (including property taxes, education taxes, water & wastewater charges).
- How are new, recent requests (e.g. snow clearing standards, Merrymount Children's Centre, seniors' transit subsidy) expected to affect the 2019 Budget and 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget?
- Is the City exploring the potential sale of surplus City assets?
- Is the City looking at opportunities for process improvement/efficiencies?
- Are there any budget issues expected to have a significant impact specifically on businesses and what would that impact be?
- What will be the impact of the recently released Auditor General's report, particularly on the delivery of social assistance?
- In relation to the Land Ambulance budget amendment, what is being done to address off-load delays at the hospitals?

## APPENDIX D

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL FEEDBACK (received December 3, 2018 to January 16, 2019)

| Emails sent to <a href="mailto:budget@london.ca">budget@london.ca</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What was the rationale for adding 10 staff to Water &amp; Sewer Team in 2018 and going forward to 2019 &amp; beyond?</li><li>• What portion of this staff add was previously contracted out services such as vacuuming maintenance of storm sewers?</li><li>• 42 % of the Water &amp; Sewer revenue (my bills) is transferred to "Financing Charges" - most of this seems to walk to P21PDF - Transfers to Capital &amp; Reserve Funds. I would like to be able to walk / compare the original budgets in this category (Cap &amp; Reserve Fund Actuals vs Budget) from 2016 to 2018 (Estimated actual fine) to determine budgeting performance accuracy / cum impact and I can't from P19PDF . Can you help here please with a wee table? At this point all I see is continuous deferrals of Cap Expenses, Increases in the Reserve &amp; Cap Funds balances and no relief in the amount collected.</li><li>• Feedback = Very disturbed at the lack of forecast support from Ont / Fed / Senior Governments on things like Greenway Plant updates but I will share that with the Mayor at the Council MTG - he can partner @ anybody right !</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the average assessed value of a Single Family Residence (RTES category in think) in LDN in 2018 "all in" and what is the recommended \$ XXX annual 2019 tax increase based on this valuation? I and most Londoners have no frame of reference with respect to the assessed value shown on your website for 2015 year without the educational levy (MPAC or City Tax Bills show all in) and are only concerned about comparisons to last (2018) year not 2015 which is ancient history.</li><li>• What is the change in &amp; total mil rate recommended for 2019 and what was is it in 2017 &amp; 2018?</li><li>• What has Finance Team recommended to council as the 2019 tax rate increase to Council for just the RTES properties category of the 2.7 % rate recommended across the board for all property categories? I'm well aware this was way less than the total 2.8 % all in total approved for the past 2018 year.</li><li>• I don't see any reference to the Annual Dividend revenue paid by London Hydro for 2019 in any of the summaries as revenue and offset to show how this is recommended to be used (Capital or OPS Budget offset).</li><li>• In previous budgets I was able to identify the Total \$\$ in New Tax Revenue Forecast from NEW PROPERTIES ADDED the existing assessment base in the upcoming Budget Year (2019 this time) and how this revenue was recommended to be distributed across the OPS and/or Capital budget (often service improvements allocations references). Could you provide this please or a reference on where to find?</li><li>• How much as a % of my/our annual tax \$\$ levy is budgeted to be funneled into reserve funds and how is this forecast to change over the next 5 years? Where do I find this as I see the huge list of non - BRT - \$\$\$ service improvements and cost growth here in the budget.</li></ul> <p>I'll leave most of the Reserve Funds Q/A for the Public MTG but as feedback as I'm at a loss to see how any Londoner can garner an useful performance metrics on Planned Vs Actual based for this four (4) year budget cycle based on what has been offered which is all budget based and inventory of reserves only .</p> |
| <p>After reviewing the Highrise Boom LFPRESS news (Nov 24) I need a bit of help with respect to the impact of this as a London Taxpayer; (I'm only interested in the core not SOHO &amp; East London BRT Corridor as I view the incentives as very positive there)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How much longer into the Council approved future are developers in the Down Town Core exempt from paying development fees through the DC Incentive Grant program?</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When is the next public meeting scheduled for feedback / input and approval for this program?</li> <li>• How do you measure (Metrics please) that the DC Incentive Grant Program in the core provides a meaningful future return for TAXPAYERS who are paying for this? (Not Developers)</li> <li>• How do you measure that providing a DC Incentive Grant is mature or even required? Based on the recent surge of Development downtown @ 12 - 15 building permits pending and the strong economics of supply &amp; demand, will they build anyway without the grant?</li> <li>• What is your forecast /actuals for the total \$\$ by year in DC Incentive Grant's issued for the Downtown Core over the 2018, 2019, 2020 years and the impact of that on the reserve fund that taxpayers are expected to top up over this period? % Increase here welcome as well.</li> </ul> |
| <p>I plan to attend the Jan17 SPPC Budget MTG. Could you provide a backup document which was summarized into page 60 of the Draft Supported Budget -- Titled "Reserve &amp; Reserve Funds Detail - Special Projects &amp; New Initiatives" any time before noon this Thursday.</p> <p>I need a clearer picture of what kind of individual programs this class of reserve funds are supporting and maybe some sense of why this might be forecasting a 50 % balance increase over the next 6 years.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Facebook Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p>CITY POST: Save the date! January 9, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the BMO Centre (295 Rectory Street). Join city staff to learn about the multi-year budget process &amp; hear which amendments may impact next year's budget. Register here: <a href="https://bit.ly/2rOcT4J">https://bit.ly/2rOcT4J</a></p> <p>COMMENT: Does it mean another way to hike property taxes? Hoping to get more cops in our neighbourhood to curb break ins after the hike. Lol</p> <p>COMMENT: Thanks for the heads up</p>       |
| <p>CITY POST: City staff tabled the 2019 Annual Budget Update for the 2016-2019 Multi-Year Budget today. The draft budget proposes that property owners in London would see a tax rate increase in 2019 that would be lower than previously approved. Media release: <a href="https://bit.ly/2rH2t6X">https://bit.ly/2rH2t6X</a></p> <p>COMMENT: Just Brown and political friends getting their payouts via BRT scam!</p> <p>COMMENT: If no BRT why ask Ford for 140 million</p> <p>COMMENT: Stop already</p> |
| <p>CITY POST: What do soccer and the city's Multi-Year Budget have in common? Tonight, it's the BMO Centre London! Join our finance team tonight from 6-8 p.m. for the Budget Update Open House to learn how your tax dollars may be spent in 2019. #LdnBudget</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>CITY POST: How are your tax dollars being spent, and what's the plan for 2019? Learn more at the Multi-Year Budget Update Open House. This Wednesday, Jan 9, BMO Centre London, 295 Rectory Street. 6-8 p.m. Let us know if you're coming! <a href="https://bit.ly/2rOcT4J">https://bit.ly/2rOcT4J</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>CITY POST: Your tax dollars support city programs and services like libraries! Hear about the 2019 budget at the Public Participation Meeting: 4 p.m. in Council Chambers this Thursday, January 17. #LdnBudget #LdnOnt</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>CITY POST: Did you know our city's budget was created to cover 2016-2019? #LdnOnt has a Multi-Year Budget, so yearly updates often mean smaller changes to the four-year plan. Learn more from our Finance Flicks! <a href="https://bit.ly/2SSaJwD">https://bit.ly/2SSaJwD</a> #LdnBudget</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>CITY POST: Want to find out how much property tax you can expect to pay this year? Type your property assessment value into the new Tax Calculator found here: <a href="https://bit.ly/2HdSZuu">https://bit.ly/2HdSZuu</a> #LdnBudget #LdnOnt</p> <p>COMMENT: Increases every year, reflecting how house prices in London are overly inflated 😊</p> <p>REPLY: Janice house prices are determined by market pressures. They also increase annually due to inflationary pressures.</p>                       |