

# Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

## Report

8th Meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee  
April 27, 2021

**PRESENT:** Mayor E. Holder (Chair), Councillors M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozo, A. Kayabaga, S. Hillier

**ALSO PRESENT:** M. Ribera, B. Westlake-Power

Remote Attendance: L. Livingstone, A. Anderson, A. Barbon, G. Barrett, L. DaSilva (RBC Place London), K. Dickins, M. Fabro, G. Kotsifas, K. Murray, C. Saunders, K. Scherr, M. Schulthess, C. Smith, S. Stafford, J. Stanford

The meeting is called to order at 4:00 PM; it being noted that the following Members were in remote attendance: Councillors M. van Holst, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozo, A. Kayabaga and S. Hillier.

### 1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor S. Turner discloses a pecuniary interest with item 5.1, having to do with an update on City services during COVID-19, by indicating that he is an employee of the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

### 2. Consent

#### 2.1 Update – Development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan

Moved by: P. Squire

Seconded by: E. Pelozo

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer and the Managing Director, Development and Compliance Services and Chief Building Official, the staff report with respect to the development of the City's Climate Emergency Action Plan BE RECEIVED for information.

Yeas: (14): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozo, A. Kayabaga, and S. Hillier

Absent: (1): M. Salih

**Motion Passed (14 to 0)**

### 3. Scheduled Items

None.

### 4. Items for Direction

#### 4.1 RBC Place London – COVID-19 Financial Impacts

Moved by: S. Lehman

Seconded by: M. Cassidy

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, the following actions be taken:

- a) the staff report on RBC Place London COVID-19 Financial Impacts BE RECEIVED for information; and,
- b) RBC Place London BE REQUESTED to review their 10-year capital plan to re-assess priority needs and to mitigate potential capital budget requests through the 2022 Annual Budget Update process.

Yeas: (15): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, A. Kayabaga, and S. Hillier

**Motion Passed (15 to 0)**

4.2 2020 Year-End Operating Budget Monitoring Report and COVID-19 Financial Impacts

Moved by: E. Pelozza  
Seconded by: S. Lewis

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, the following actions be taken with respect to the 2020 Year-End Operating Budget Monitoring Report:

- a) the 2020 Year-End Operating Budget Monitoring Report for the Property Tax Supported Budget, Water, and Wastewater & Treatment Budgets BE RECEIVED for information. An overview of the net corporate positions are outlined below:

- i) Property Tax Supported Budget surplus of \$22.3 million prior to the recommendations listed in this report and contribution to the Operating Budget Contingency Reserve, noting a balanced budget position after factoring in these items;

- ii) Water Rate Supported Budget surplus of \$5.0 million prior to the contribution to the Water Budget Contingency Reserve;

- iii) Wastewater and Treatment Rate Supported Budget surplus of \$3.9 million prior to the contribution to the Wastewater and Treatment Budget Contingency Reserve;

- b) the following contributions to reserves in accordance with Council direction from the Mid-Year Report BE RECEIVED for information, noting the contributions were endorsed as funding sources to offset potential financial impacts of COVID-19 on the City's 2021 Budget:

- i) \$12.3 million to the Operating Budget Contingency Reserve, noting the year-end contribution takes into account the contributions listed in items c) and d);

- ii) \$5.0 million to the Water Budget Contingency Reserve;

- iii) \$3.9 million to the Wastewater and Treatment Budget Contingency Reserve;

- c) the Civic Administration BE AUTHORIZED to make the following contributions from the Property Tax Supported Budget surplus:

- i) an additional \$5.0 million to the Economic Development Reserve Fund to support social and economic recovery measures, it being noted

the total 2020 contribution for these purposes would be equal to \$10.0 million;

ii) Fleet Management net operational savings of approximately \$1.5 million from the Property Tax Supported Budget be contributed to the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund to offset increasing vehicle costs, and to mitigate potential near-term budget increases due to these cost pressures;

d) the following allocations from the Property Tax Supported Budget surplus BE APPROVED with respect to RBC Place London:

i) a one-time grant to support RBC Place operations for the remainder of 2021 in the amount of \$2.5 million;

ii) a one-time contribution to the RBC Place Renewal Reserve Fund to ensure funding for the current RBC Place capital plan in the amount of \$1.0 million;

e) the summary of anticipated COVID-19 impacts on the 2021 Budget BE RECEIVED for information, noting these represent updated forecasts and may vary as the impacts of the pandemic and recovery continues to dynamically evolve; and,

f) the presentation providing an overview of the 2020 Year-End Budget Monitoring and 2021 COVID-19 Impacts (Appendix "C" of the staff report dated April 27, 2021) BE RECEIVED for information;

it being noted that the reported year-end position is subject to completion of the financial statement audit; and,

it being further noted that the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee received a communication dated April 22, 2021 from C. Butler with respect to this matter.

Voting Record:

Moved by: E. Pelosa

Seconded by: S. Lewis

Motion to approve the staff recommendation, excluding part d) i):

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, the following actions be taken with respect to the 2020 Year-End Operating Budget Monitoring Report:

a) the 2020 Year-End Operating Budget Monitoring Report for the Property Tax Supported Budget, Water, and Wastewater & Treatment Budgets BE RECEIVED for information. An overview of the net corporate positions are outlined below:

i) Property Tax Supported Budget surplus of \$22.3 million prior to the recommendations listed in this report and contribution to the Operating Budget Contingency Reserve, noting a balanced budget position after factoring in these items;

ii) Water Rate Supported Budget surplus of \$5.0 million prior to the contribution to the Water Budget Contingency Reserve;

iii) Wastewater and Treatment Rate Supported Budget surplus of \$3.9 million prior to the contribution to the Wastewater and Treatment Budget Contingency Reserve;

b) the following contributions to reserves in accordance with Council direction from the Mid-Year Report BE RECEIVED for information, noting the contributions were endorsed as funding sources to offset potential financial impacts of COVID-19 on the City's 2021 Budget:

i) \$12.3 million to the Operating Budget Contingency Reserve, noting the year-end contribution takes into account the contributions listed in items c) and d);

ii) \$5.0 million to the Water Budget Contingency Reserve;

iii) \$3.9 million to the Wastewater and Treatment Budget Contingency Reserve;

c) the Civic Administration BE AUTHORIZED to make the following contributions from the Property Tax Supported Budget surplus:

i) an additional \$5.0 million to the Economic Development Reserve Fund to support social and economic recovery measures, it being noted the total 2020 contribution for these purposes would be equal to \$10.0 million;

ii) Fleet Management net operational savings of approximately \$1.5 million from the Property Tax Supported Budget be contributed to the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund to offset increasing vehicle costs, and to mitigate potential near-term budget increases due to these cost pressures;

d)

ii) a one-time contribution to the RBC Place Renewal Reserve Fund to ensure funding for the current RBC Place capital plan in the amount of \$1.0 million;

e) the summary of anticipated COVID-19 impacts on the 2021 Budget BE RECEIVED for information, noting these represent updated forecasts and may vary as the impacts of the pandemic and recovery continues to dynamically evolve; and,

f) the presentation providing an overview of the 2020 Year-End Budget Monitoring and 2021 COVID-19 Impacts (Appendix "C" of the staff report dated April 27, 2021) BE RECEIVED for information; it being noted that the reported year-end position is subject to completion of the financial statement audit; and, it being further noted that the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee received a communication dated April 22, 2021 from C. Butler with respect to this matter.

Yeas: (14): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, and S. Hillier

Absent: (1): A. Kayabaga

**Motion Passed (14 to 0)**

Moved by: E. Pelozza

Seconded by: S. Lewis

Motion to approve part d) i) of the staff recommendation:

d) the following allocations from the Property Tax Supported Budget surplus BE APPROVED with respect to RBC Place London:

i) a one-time grant to support RBC Place operations for the remainder of 2021 in the amount of \$2.5 million;

Yeas: (13): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, and S. Hillier

Nays: (1): P. Van Meerbergen

Absent: (1): A. Kayabaga

**Motion Passed (13 to 1)**

4.3 2020 Year-End Capital Budget Monitoring Report and COVID-19 Financial Impacts

Moved by: E. Pelozza

Seconded by: M. Cassidy

That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, the following actions be taken with respect to the 2020 Year-End Capital Budget Monitoring Report:

a) it BE NOTED that the City Treasurer, or designate, will undertake the housekeeping budget adjustments identified in the staff report dated April 27, 2021, in accordance with the Multi-Year Budget Policy adopted by By-law No. CPOL.-45-241;

b) the following actions be taken with respect to the completed capital projects identified in Appendix "C", as appended to the above-noted report, which have a total of \$14.4 million of net surplus funding:

i) the capital projects included in Appendix "C" BE CLOSED;

ii) the following actions be taken with respect to the funding associated with the capital projects approved for closure in c) i), above:

Rate Supported

A) pay-as-you-go funding of \$213 thousand BE TRANSFERRED to capital receipts;

B) authorized debt financing of \$2.5 million BE RELEASED resulting in a reduction of authorized, but unissued debt;

C) uncommitted reserve fund drawdowns of \$5.2 million BE RELEASED back into the reserve funds which originally funded the projects;

Non-Rate Supported

D) authorized debt financing of \$2.7 million BE RELEASED resulting in a reduction of authorized, but unissued debt;

E) uncommitted reserve fund drawdowns of \$2.8 million BE RELEASED back into the reserve funds which originally funded the projects; and,

F) other net non-rate supported funding sources of \$883 thousand BE ADJUSTED in order to facilitate project closings.

Yeas: (14): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, and S. Hillier

Absent: (1): A. Kayabaga

**Motion Passed (14 to 0)**

4.4 Greater London International Airport Authority (GLIAA) Board of Directors

Moved by: M. van Holst

Seconded by: P. Van Meerbergen

That the communication dated April 8, 2021 from Michelle T. Faysal, Chair, Board of Directors, Greater London International Airport Authority (GLIAA) BE RECEIVED and the GLIAA BE AUTHORIZED to leave the aforementioned position vacant while undertaking a review of the size and composition of the board.

Yeas: (14): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, and S. Hillier

Absent: (1): A. Kayabaga

**Motion Passed (14 to 0)**

**5. Deferred Matters/Additional Business**

5.1 (ADDED) COVID-19 – City of London Services Update (Spring/Summer 2021)

Moved by: S. Lehman

Seconded by: J. Morgan

That, on the recommendation of the City Manager, the staff report dated April 27, 2021, entitled “Covid-19 – City of London Services Update (Spring/Summer 2021)”, BE RECEIVED for information.

Yeas: (13): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, E. Pelozza, and S. Hillier

Recuse: (1): S. Turner

Absent: (1): A. Kayabaga

**Motion Passed (13 to 0)**

**6. Adjournment**

Moved by: P. Van Meerbergen

Seconded by: S. Lehman

That the meeting adjourn.

**Motion Passed**

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM.