

From: Abe Oudshoorn
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Budget <Budget@CityofLondon.onmicrosoft.com>; SPPC <sppc@london.ca>
Cc: Dickins, Kevin <kdickins@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding upcoming budget considerations

To Council,

In budget update season I wanted to bring forward a few items that are actually future considerations but also need some attention now. Firstly, thank you for committing to another year of winter response to homelessness. It is vital that we provide low barrier options that bring people in from the elements. I hope that for as many of the residents as possible, this interim response is a pathway into permanent housing options.

I wanted to bring to your attention two things for the future. Firstly, I don't anticipate significant enough changes over the next year wherein we won't need a winter solution again for 2022/23. While the tapering off of the pandemic should allow for more return to usual services, and the current RFP should allow for a shift in the overall response, the incredible numbers of people experiencing homelessness in our community right now will mean a long pressure to adequately rehouse people with necessary supports. Therefore, I believe we should consider the likelihood of needing a 2022 winter response. Secondly, and the reason I raise this at budget season, it is unlikely that there will be federal pandemic funds available to fund this response going forward. Therefore, I'm wondering if you might consider directing finance staff to explore sources of funding a response in 2022 should no federal funds be available. It is important that this be considered early given the upcoming municipal election that will limit budget decisions right at the time that a winter response would normally be considered.

Additionally, I believe that in working together as a community we can come up with an optimal, long-term response that fills the need for safe spaces for people who face the most barriers in accessing current services and face mortal danger through the winter season. Ideally this means a shift from temporary to permanent housing options. To that end, I'm hoping in the next multi-year budget a business case might be put forward to support a more permanent response. This would allow time for the community to work in collaboration to develop the best ongoing response that is congruent with the Housing Stability Action Plan for London.

So, no immediate action required, but a few important items I'm hoping will carry forward with future budget implications.

Thank you for your consideration.

To clerks, this letter may be included in the public correspondence for the Nov 29 public participation meeting. I am not requesting an opportunity to present.

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