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Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2023 12:38 PM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>

Cc: Woolsey, Heather

Subject: [EXTERNAL] SPPC Meeting - Feb 28 - Item # 2.1 - 2023 Assessment Growth Funding Allocation

Please consider this submission as “ Added Agenda “ for the upcoming Feb 23 – SPPC Meeting with respect to Item # 2.1 – 2023 Assessment Growth Funding Allocation .

Mayor Morgan (Chair) - Council Members – Please consider the following with respect to amending the (New) Assessment Growth Allocation process & current policy going forward;

Recommendations

1. That the City of London Finance team align the timing of this process to be concurrent with our overall main Budget presentation and Approval process starting in December annually.

- This aligns with what other municipalities do . London is an exception – outlier here .
- This offers an enhanced “ Whole View “ budgeting process with respect to decision making , priorities & alignment of this source of revenue with the Strategic Plan .
- Offers enhanced opportunities for both Public & Council input on the allocation priorities & total \$\$ commitments. This is “ big “ as the Assessment Growth Allocation piece now regularly accounts for 40 % of the City of London’s total Operating Budget increases on an annual basis.

2. That the Finance Team table this report as Received & Recommended, reflecting a change from “ Received “ and consent . This policy change would encourage both Public & Council input including coverage by our “ Public Notice “ policy & like our main budget.

3. That Council take a lead with the Finance Team to amend the by-law currently umbrellaing our City of London’s “ Service Improvements “ program (previously Continuous Improvements) to reflect a change in the minimum annual savings in future cost avoidance or cost reductions from the current 0.25 % / \$1.5 Million to a more robust and competitive target of 1.0 % / \$6.0 million per year. This would drive improved program customer service levels , program delivery efficiencies which you & I both know our employee & management teams have the commitment and ownership to deliver. We have not even begun to tap this resource as full partners in “ leaders in public service “. WHY ? - this would drive the City of London’s ability to organically fund more of our service growth internally through improving the very metrics that are driving Assessment Growth Allocation and opening other opportunities for funding our high growth needs .

4. Comment – As we now hit 40 % infill compliance in our City of London’s designated areas , I & many have listened for years to the savings and benefits we would start to see from this London Plan initiative . We see none to date reflected in the Operations Budget when one would reasonably expect that growth in these infill areas can be serviced far cheaper and more organically than a new neighbourhood / subdivision . At this point MOST of the Assessment Growth Allocation metrics in this and prior reports use the same metrics for both infill & other .

- Council needs to consider and start asking some hard questions like – Why aren’t we allocating 40 % (the infill portion) of the Assessment Growth Allocation back to general revenue to reduce our bloated Operations Budget ? Why aren’t we allocating 40 % to new program pressure points (new program funding not allowed in current Assessment Growth Policy) . Our City is changing and this policy needs to start reflect that change.

Thanks for your consideration .

Chris Butler