### What We've Heard

This paper is a summary of feedback on the ReThink London project and the eight discussion papers.

The City of London has embarked on important city-building initiative – ReThink London. ReThink is a community conversation about our future. It will set the goals and priorities for the City's Official Plan that will influence the future growth and development of the City for years to come.

From a public engagement standpoint, ReThink London has achieved more than expected. There has been a very tangible buzz in the community around the topic of shaping London's future – "where do we want to go and how are we going to get there?"

Thank you to the many Londoners that participated in ReThink London – over 10,000 individuals – that provided feedback. These individuals represent all generations and abilities, diverse cultural communities and all socio-economic classes, as well as a variety of businesses, agencies, organizations, educational institutions, and health care institutions.

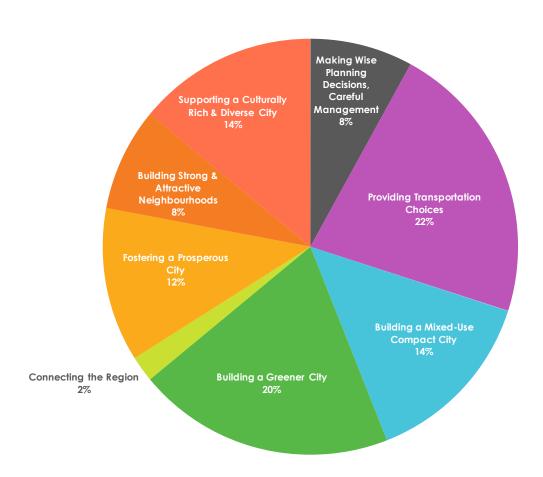
We have heard Londoners say that our future prosperity relies on building an exciting, exceptional and connected City where people want to live and invest in.

The message we have heard from Londoners goes well beyond the more traditional notions of prosperity. Londoners understand the link between economic prosperity and a high quality of life. Quality of life, wellness and prosperity were all comments and themes that we heard.



The chart below represent a breakdown of community interest by each of the key directions. Please note, the percentage shown represents the proportion of comments for each topic under the respective direction up to July 18, 2013.

#### **Comments Recieved**



ReThink London and the Official Plan that will arise from it is all about creating a City that builds on our existing strengths, addresses our weaknesses, and identifies the opportunities that will lead to a City that meets the needs of all Londoners.

Now that we have defined our vision – Our Future: Exciting, Exceptional, Connected London, the next step is to plan how we will best get there as a City. The actions we take today as a community will move us towards our vision for the next 20 years especially for the times when we are faced with both opportunities and challenges. The Plan will describe our vision for London so that the decisions we make as a community will collectively move us towards the prosperous City that we want to become.

### Foundation for the new Official Plan

We have lots to celebrate about London as well as the great foundation that we can rely on to shape London's future. London is a place of friendly people, unique places and spaces such as our Downtown, the Forks of the Thames and our natural areas. London is defined by its neighbourhoods, its heritage buildings, its many parks and open spaces that create "The Forest City".

Now is the time now to look at the things that are important to London's future and to choose the path that will lead us there. The simplest things that we rely on every day, like turning on the tap and getting

clean water, or having a convenient place to shop, would not happen without a plan that has policies about servicing and infrastructure or that has areas of the city identified for different kinds of land uses. Our investment in public projects, the strategies we set, the infrastructure we construct, and the development that occurs will shape our City over the next 20 years.

The Planning Act is the provincial legislation that requires cities like London to prepare Official Plans. But what's more important is that the Act requires that ALL municipal projects and all by-laws MUST be consistent with a City's Official Plan. That means the Official Plan sets the stage for municipal investments, regulations and actions taken by the City.

The most important tool that a community has at its disposal to plan a city is the Official Plan. It should contain both the aspirations of its citizens and set

expectations of what is to come. It should clearly convey the vision of the future and what people must do to get there. It most often does this through a set of policies that will guide our decision-making. A community is only as good as its Plan: a Plan is only as good as its ownership by the community it is designed to serve. That is why ReThink London is so important to our future – it needs to reflect the community's desires and set the course for our decision-making over the long-term.

Over the next 20 years, London will certainly face at least the same magnitude of change that it did since the last comprehensive Official Plan in 1989. With these changes will come many new opportunities and possibly some new challenges. One of the goals of this Plan will be to make sure that the City is positioned to take advantage of these opportunities and have a clear direction to address any challenges.



It is time to "ReThink" our Plan for the future for London. Below is a list of some of the important city building elements to be included in London's new Official Plan:

Strategic planning – growth management, building a prosperous city, Downtown, city image

City design – how we develop our city, looking at things like form, use, intensity, and placemaking features



Community building and great neighbourhoods – homes, aging in place, child friendly, schools, recreation, gathering places and parks

Affordable housing and housing for everyone

Community improvement and revitalization

Create safe places for all Londoners

Places to shop, eat, play, and enjoy arts & culture

Protection of our natural heritage, cultural heritage and agricultural areas

Urban Forestry Strategy – plant more, protect more and maintain better

Conservation of our water, wildlife, aggregate resources

Employment lands and job creation

Water, Sewers & Stormwater management – the hard services that we don't readily see, but use in our everyday lives - pipes under the ground that service our homes, businesses, facilities and institutions

Roads, transportation and transit and how they link to our land use

Public service uses and utilities

### Summary of the key ReThink London points

We started the ReThink London process with some basic questions around "where do we want to go and how are we going to get there"? Through those questions and subsequent conversations, we have developed the vision - Our Future: Exciting, Exceptional and Connected London - and eight key directions that summarize what we heard from Londoners. They are:

Fostering a Prosperous City

Connecting the Region

Building a Mixed-Use, Compact City

**Providing Transportation** Choices

Building a Greener City

Supporting a Culturally Rich and Diverse City

Building Strong and Attractive Neighbourhoods

Making Wise Planning Decisions, Careful Management

The connecting theme among the directions is prosperity. We have heard Londoners say that our future prosperity relies on building an exciting, exceptional and connected City that people want to live in and businesses want to invest in. The messages we have heard from Londoners go well beyond the more traditional notions of prosperity. Londoners understand the link between economic prosperity and a high quality of life – What is London's role on the world economic stage? What economic \le opportunities will be available to us in the future and how do we best prepare ourselves to seize on these opportunities? How can we retain the outstanding businesses, institutions, and organizations that we have in the City and how can we best attract new ones? How do we ensure that there are jobs for everyone that can help all Londoners to be prosperous?

The following is a summary of Londoner's comments for each of the eight directions that will deliver our vision for the next 20 years.

#### Fostering a Prosperous City

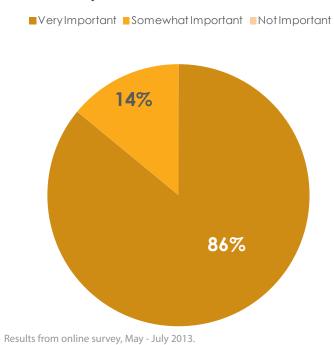
Civic prosperity is the result of multiple elements that, when working together, determine a city's level of prosperity. To be a prosperous city that is competitive locally, nationally and globally, we are striving for more of the following:

More of this...

Building the City that people and businesses want to invest in:

- Successful City image
- Cost efficient growth patterns to keep development charges, taxes and cost of services low
- High quality infrastructure and services
- Strategic growth opportunities
- Support for both existing and emerging sector development
- A high quality of life that businesses know will be able to draw a quality workforce

### Building a city that people & companies want to invest in



Building the City that people want to live in:

- Positive City image
- Strong Downtown
- Great neighbourhoods
- Outstanding public spaces including streets, gathering places, parks, etc.
- Quality development
- Culture and arts opportunities
- High quality recreational facilities

Building the City for everyone:

• Build an age-friendly city for all Londoners

Building the City that is connected and accessible:

- Integrate our plans for land use with our plans for transit
- Become a "smart city" and create a competitive advantage in doing so
- Integrate universal accessibility into all of our projects and initiatives

#### Building the City that is sustainable

Summary of some written public feedback on the discussion papers:

- When discussing the key elements of creating a prosperous city, also focus on areas within the city, including Byron, Lambeth, North East London as they are vital to London economic growth and they deserve the attention and resources.
- Control urban sprawl to preserve London's natural beauty.
- Ensure that historic parts of London are pedestrian friendly by improving lighting, adding street furniture and upgrading the facades.
- Create a city that attracts and retains young professionals.

#### Connecting the Region

From tourism to agriculture, to natural and built heritage, it is essential that city, county, business and community leaders to work together to capture the attention, imaginations, and capital of investors and tourists to London and the region. For regional collaboration that celebrates the unique diversity of Southwestern Ontario as the calling card for future business, tourism and residents alike, we are striving for more of the following:

More of this...

Collaborate with regional partners to develop a growth plan

Build on our glaobal strong connections

Promote regional tourism and economic development

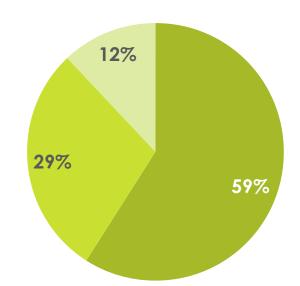
Conserve and enhance the regional natural heritage system

Enhance connections and invest in the Quebec-Windsor corridor to benefit London

Promote agri-business industry

## Promote agri-business industry

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



Results from online survey, May - July 2013.

Establish strong transportation and communication linkages with regional municipalities

Summary of some written public feedback on the discussion papers:

- Connect with the surrounding green space to promote agri-business and sustainable farming.
- Support local farmers with farmers markets.
- Implement a high speed rail system to connect London with other provinces.

## Building a Mixed-Use, Compact City

Other cities have been successful in growing smarter, and we know London is up to the challenge as a community to do the same. To make a difference we are striving for more of the following:

More of this...

Strong and consistent growth

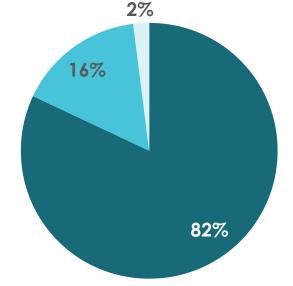
Compact growth - building inward and upward

Mix of housing types within neighbourhoods - allow live-work opportunities

Quality infill and intensification to take advantage of existing services

### Quality infill and intensification

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



Results from online survey, May - July 2013.

Mix stores, restaurants, and services in an appropriate way within neighbourhoods

Build high-density, mixed use centres and corridors linked to rapid transit

Build great public spaces and pedestrian environments that support walking

Continue to support and invest in a strong Downtown as the City's primary centre connected to other centres via rapid transit

Promote low cost and affordable housing in new and innovative ways; minimize costs of growth

Protect valuable agricultural land

Conserve natural heritage

Summary of some written public feedback on the discussion papers:

- Develop a professionally recognized information technology College in the City.
- Infill developments must fit the urban design of the existing neighbourhood. City polices must regulate urban form of future infill developments.

### Providing Transportation Choices

Mobility, Mobility, Mobility... Londoners want a convenient, efficient and quick way to move around the city. To achieve increased level of mobility we are striving for more of the following:

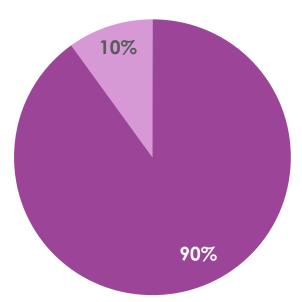
More of this...

Linkland use and transportation to focus density where transit is located; promoting health and well-being of Londoners; and fostering economic benefits of a well connected city.

Invest in transportation alternatives like walking, biking and transit to make them more attractive and desirable and continuing to provide suitable road corridors for the car as a transportation choice by designing complete streets for viable, convenient and affordable transportation option.

#### Not always car-first

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



Results from online survey, May - July 2013.

Think of streetscapes, residential and business environments before moving forward with overpasses and underpasses.

Create more desirable walking environments through better designed streets and development along streetscapes.

Develop a transportation system based on "centres" and "corridors" and focusing mixed-use development at these locations; directing intensification to centres that can ultimately support rapid transit services; and locating major destinations along routes and near major transit stops.

Efficient movement of goods and services through the City by providing transportation choices to keep London competitive – both to businesses and attracting new residents; minimizing traffic conflicts; and establishing strong and identifiable north/south and east/west connections through the city.

Strengthen north-south connections and consider a linkage from Highway 402 to Highway 7 at Stratford.

Develop subdivisions with a variety of road networks and with a preference for a grid or modified grid pattern.

Summary of some written public feedback on the discussion papers:

- Improve winter sidewalk maintenance by conducting a best practices review to ensure that the sidewalks are accessible by all means of transportation all year long. This can also be achieved by reviewing homeowner roles and responsibilities of clearing residential sidewalks. Improve the fleet size and equipment to have faster response times. Designated bike paths should be maintained all year long.
- Separate bike lanes and roads with a curb or barrier.
- Shared transit options should be available for residents in surrounding counties.

- Create high density roads around the city to improve accessibility and reduce traffic in the downtown core.
- Improve the Highway 401 corridor in London to market the city's identity. Restrict the development of subdivisions around the highway.

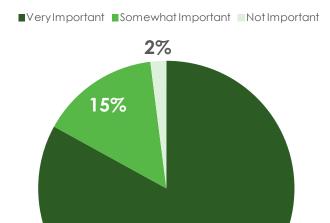
### Building a Greener City

To be smart about how we grow and to ensure we protect elements of our city that are of most value to us, we are striving for more of the following:

More of this...

Promote Green Development Practices by considering the ecological footprint that development creates and take action to reduce it; implementing mixed use and mixed density development; providing services within walking distances, as well as density supporting higher-order public transit; and ensuring adequate allocation of space for tree cover.

## Promote Green Development Practices



83%

Results from online survey, May - July 2013.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation by calculating and tracking our progress towards reducing our greenhouse gas emissions; designing projects differently to respond better to frequent and intense extreme weather events; make our urban and natural environments more resilient to climate change.

Implement Green Infrastructure Strategies by promoting innovation in the way we construct infrastructure – such as stormwater management facilities and planted street trees; and promoting "Natural Capital" (woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitats, watercourses, and Environmentally Significant Areas – ESAs) as significant and irreplaceable components of the natural heritage system for London and area.

Conserve energy by planning for energy conservation at all levels of city-building – from a city level (eg. linking transit and land use plans) to a community level (eg. street network, mix of land use, walkable streets, district energy) to a site level (xeriscaping, geothermal and solar and sustainable construction technologies).

Strengthen our Forest City by planting more, protecting more, maintaining more and engaging all citizens in strengthening and promoting our urban forest.

Strengthen our efforts to encourage Brownfield remediation by identifying creative opportunities for brownfield redevelopment; addressing necessary clean-up requirements; and providing incentives for properties to be viably cleaned and re-developed for productive purposes.

Development of a bio-diversity strategy to protect our natural wealth of ecosystem, species and genetic diversity.

Build upon our successes by conserving our natural resources; protecting and enhancing our natural heritage; and improving environmental management and stewardship (reduce waste, promote recycling, reduce pesticide use).

Linking the pieces of the "green puzzle" by planning and coordinating all our efforts such as Environmental Significant Area preservation, natural heritage corridor protection, flood plain management, waste management, energy conservation, active transportation, and human wellness.

Summary of some written public feedback on the discussion papers:

- Environmentally significant areas and other parts of the Natural Heritage System need better protection. Use Section 51 of the Planning Act to keep paths on the tableland. Provide incentives and grants to fund green businesses.
- Protect trees and wildlife from the development of roads by avoiding natural areas.
- Ensure the protection and retention of green space through the development process.
- Protect the Medway Valley Heritage Forest and surrounding woodlots by prohibiting the expansion of paved pathways.

### Supporting a Culturally Rich and Diverse City

To recognize the role of culture at the heart of our thriving and vibrant city, in building economic and community growth, attracting and retaining talent, informing municipal decision-making processes and elevating the profile of London as a regional cultural centre, we are striving for more of the following:

More of this...

Promote culture as a prosperity tool to attract and retain talent.

Foster eco-tourism opportunities through community groups and neighbourhoods, and by collaborating with our regional partners to benefit from inter-connected regional trail systems.

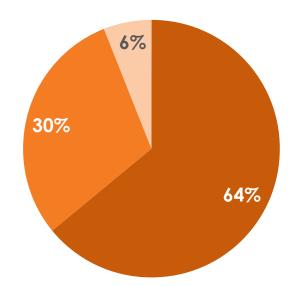
Protect our built and cultural heritage to promote our unique identity and develop links to arts and eco-tourism in the London region.

Do more to establish public art to strengthen London's strong and unique identity.

Leverage London's cultural assets and promote them to the world.

### Leverage London's cultural assets

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



Results from online survey, May - July 2013.

Promote, protect and provide for cultural facilities that increas access to arts, recreation and other cultural facilities and foster a culture of innovation.

Promote Downtown prosperity by reinforcing Downtown's role as the cultural hub of the city, together with its surrounding urban neighbourhoods.

Develop affordable housing that attracts diversity to the city.

Summary of some written public feedback on the discussion papers:

- Connection with First Nations communities to encourage more involvement with the City of London.
- Ensure that equal job opportunities exist for all residents.
- Consider including afforable housing in this direction.

### Building Strong and Attractive Neighbourhoods

Just as other cities have been successful creating strong and attractive neighbourhoods, we are striving for more of the following:

More of this...

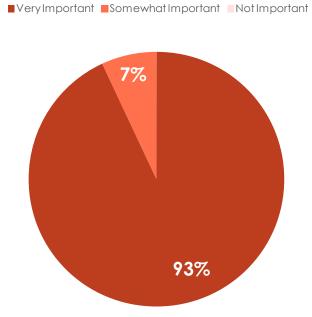
Create social gathering places where neighbours come together by the continued use of community gardens, urban parks and small parkettes, cafés, restaurants and small service commercial uses fronting park spaces, active neighbourhood trails, recreational facilities and playing fields.

Implement "Placemaking" by promoting exceptional neighbourhood design that creates diverse, walkable, healthy and connected communities; create a sense of place; and promote "beauty" as a value in neighbourhoods.

Design "complete" neighbourhoods by meeting the needs of people of all ages and abilities; promoting aging in place; having mixed uses that provides convenient access to goods and services for daily life; having affordable housing choice; and providing for a more equitable distribution of social infrastructure.

Promote healthy neighbourhoods by designing walkable, safe and connected areas; making non-auto transportation alternatives desirable and preferable; integrating recreational opportunities into neighbourhoods; addressing crime prevention through environmental design (CEPTED); giving residents the ability to improve their neighbourhoods in creative and positive ways.

## Promote healthy neighbourhoods



Results from online survey, May - July 2013.

Protect what we cherish by recognizing and protecting cultural identity, built heritage, neighbourhood character, and the environment; establishing ecological connections between woodlands, environmentally significant areas, and corridors; and incorporating views and vistas to and from the Thames River valley; and parks trail systems.

Summary of some written public feedback on the discussion papers:

- Use the identity of London to inspire neighbourhood designs. Preserve the heritage of a neighbourhood by instituting stronger restrictions on single detached homes being turned into student rental housing, this has caused neighbourhoods to lose their historic identity.
- Incorporate the needs of various age groups (like youth and children) into the design of neighbourhoods.
- Reduce the influence that the developers have on design of neighbourhoods. Although there are various forums of public input, the developers ignore the input and think monetarily.

### Making Wise Planning Decisions, Careful Management

In order to be consistent, and to make sure that we get to where we set out to go, we will need to meet the expectations that we have set out in the Plan. To do this, we are striving for more of the following:

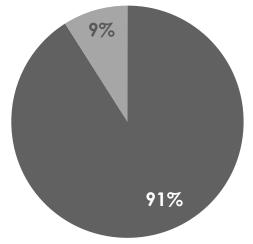
More of this...

Ensure the new Official Plan is current by ongoing monitoring through 5-year updates; thinking long term by building on short-term opportunities; planning for a competitive city; and identifying and promoting opportunities for alternative implementation tools.

Our decisions should reflect planning principles by avoiding land use conflicts; preserving and conserving what we cannot replace, such as Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage, agricultural lands, aggregate lands, tree canopy and coverage; protecting the environment, including air quality, ground water, and water resources; adapting to climate change and avoid contributing to climate change; supporting prosperity and growing in fiscally prudent ways; and plan for beauty.

## Ensure efficient and collaborative processing of applications

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



Results from online survey, May - July 2013.

Ensure efficient and collaborative processing of applications by collaborating with regional partners and the Province; implementing the new Official Plan in an integrated way that involves all City departments; providing for flexibility, but in an integrated manner; and linking land use and transportation planning.

Planning for changes by engaging citizens early in the process for their input on planning applications that may affect communities and neighbourhoods; and creating expectations through form, use and intensity.

Promote opportunities to foster public-private relationships by collaborating with local partners to examine how education, business and community linkages can be leveraged for economic opportunity; making more efficient use of public resources by targeting and meeting the needs of specific populations; fostering an exchange of ideas, talent, and innovation; and usE public funds more effectively.

#### The Chance of a Generation...

ReThink London represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Londoners to shape their City. The community discussion and the plan that comes from it has the opportunity to be transformational in London's history.

A Plan of this size and scope will not come to fruition overnight. It will continue through changes in civic and community leadership. In order for the Plan to achieve the vision that we set out and make a true difference, the community must have ownership of the Plan and participate in its implementation. Future generations will similarly be affected by the decisions we make in this plan.

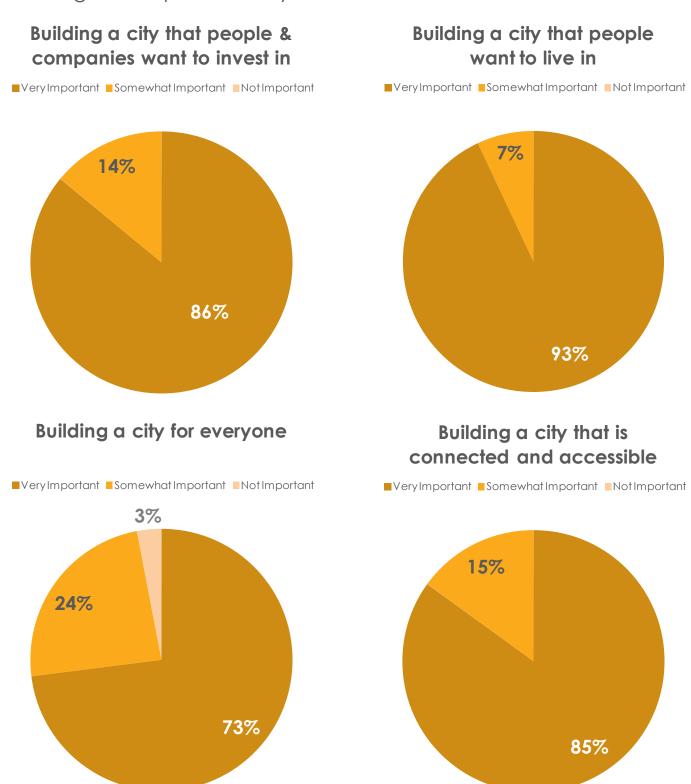
Our investment in public projects, the strategies we set, the infrastructure we construct, and the development that occurs will shape our City over the next 20 years. This Plan will describe our vision for London so that the decisions we make as a community will collectively move us towards the prosperous City that we want to become.

Now it is time for us to take what Londoners have told us and deliver a Plan that will create the city that Londoners told us that they want – a city that is second to none.



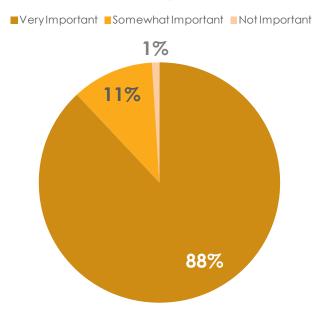
## Appendix A: Directions Feedback Survey Results

Fostering a Prosperous City



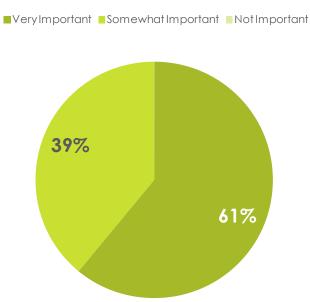


## Building a city that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable



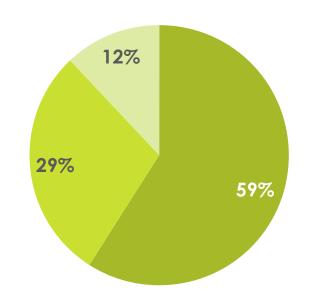
### Connecting the Region

## Collaborate with regional partners to develop a growth plan



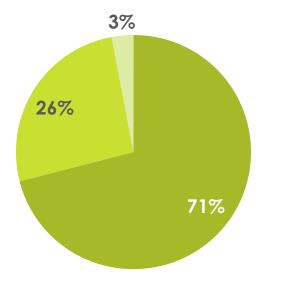
## Promote agri-business industry





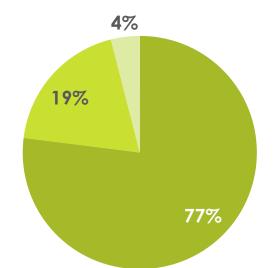
## Promote regional tourism and economic development





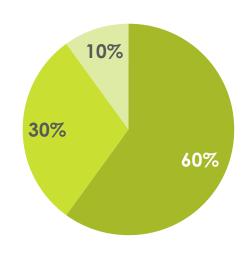
### Conserve and enhance the regional natural heritage system



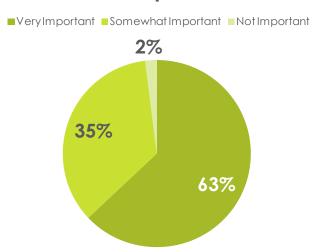


### Enhance connections and invest in the Quebec-Windsor corridor to benefit London

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



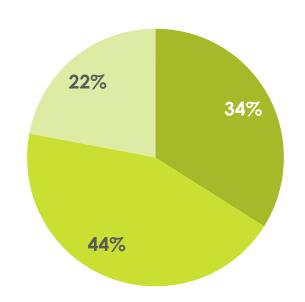
# Establish strong transportation and communication linkages with regional municipalities



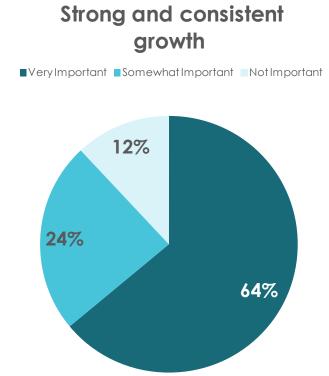


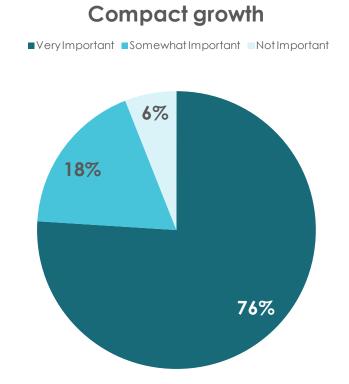
## Build on our strong connections to the globe

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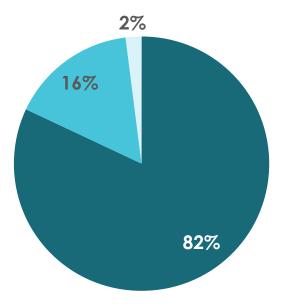
### Building a Mixed-Use Compact City





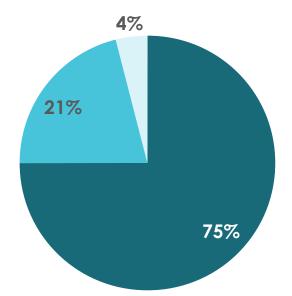
### Quality infill and intensification





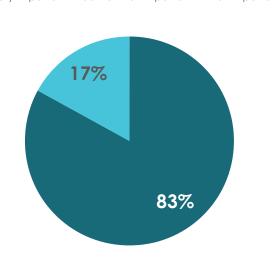
## Mix of housing types within neighbourhoods



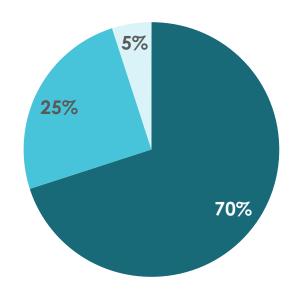


### Mix stores, restaurants, and services in an appropriate way within neighbourhoods





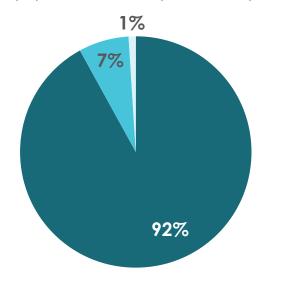
### Build high density, mixed use centres and corridors





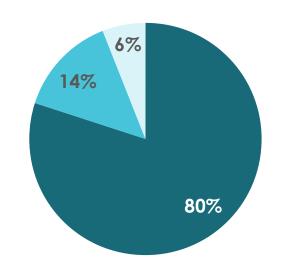
## Build great public spaces and pedestrian environments

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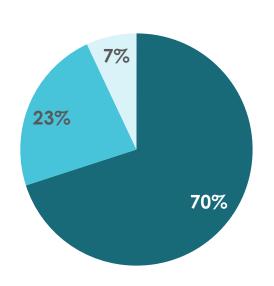
## Continue to support and invest in a strong Downtown

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant

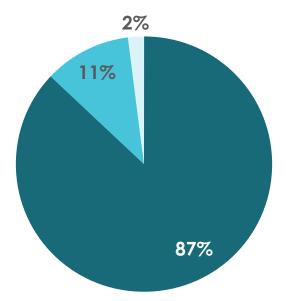


## Promote low cost and affordable housing in new and innovative ways

 $\blacksquare$ VeryImportant  $\blacksquare$ SomewhatImportant  $\blacksquare$ NotImportant

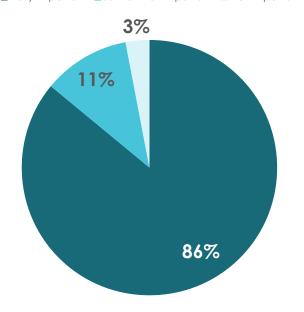


## Protect valuable agricultural land





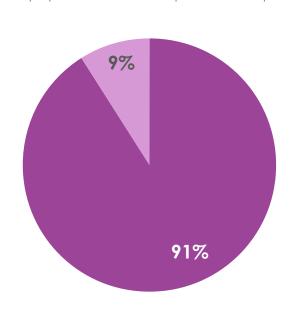




### **Providing Transportation Choices**

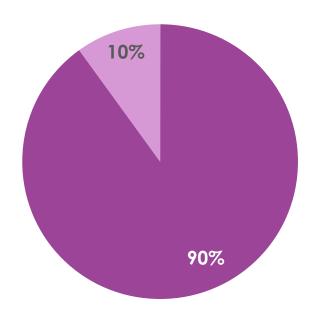
## Link land use and transportation

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### Not always car-first

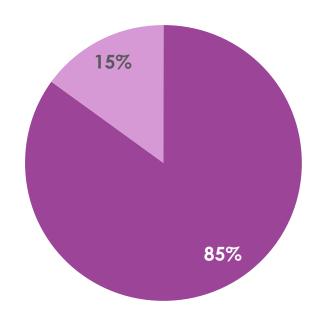
 $\blacksquare$ Very Important  $\blacksquare$ Somewhat Important  $\blacksquare$ Not Important





#### Connect different centres

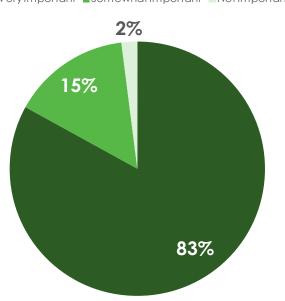
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### Building a Greener City

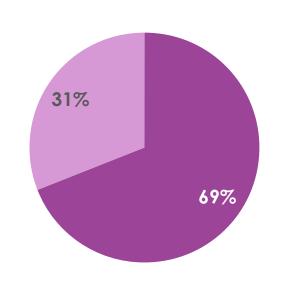
## Promote Green Development Practices

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



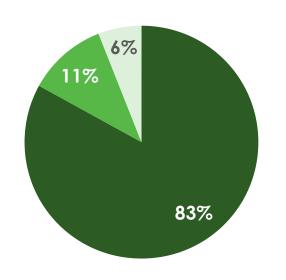
## Efficient movement of goods and services through the City

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



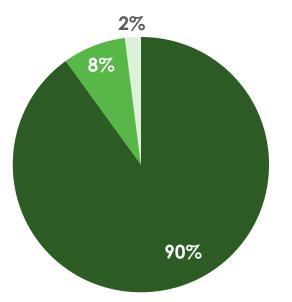
### Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

 $\blacksquare$  Very Important  $\blacksquare$  Somewhat Important  $\blacksquare$  Not Important



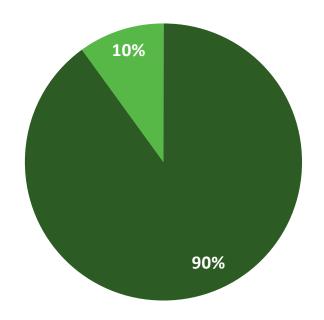
## Implement Green Infrastructure Strategies

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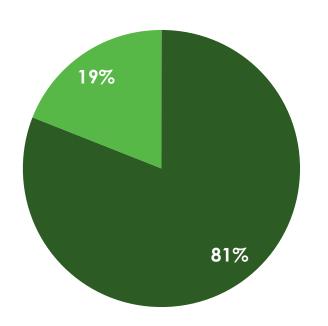
#### Conserve energy

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant

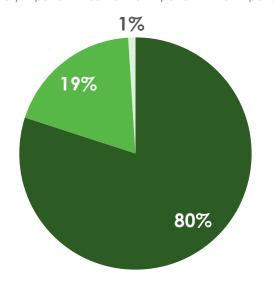


### **Build upon our successes**

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



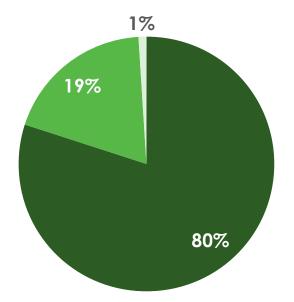
## Strengthen our efforts to encourage Brownfield remediation





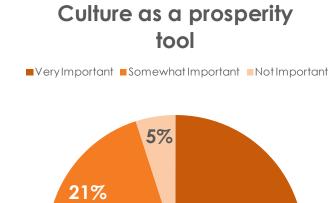
## Linking the pieces of the "green puzzle"

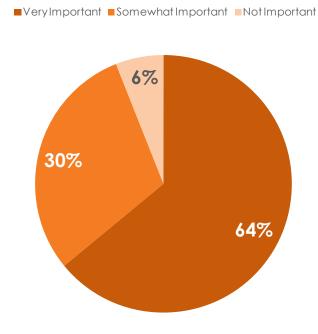




### Supporting a Culturally Rich and Diverse City

**74%** 

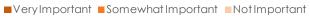


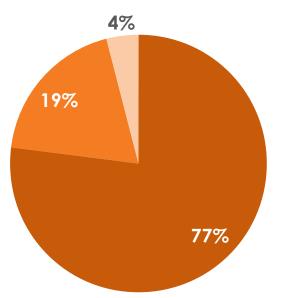


Leverage London's

cultural assets

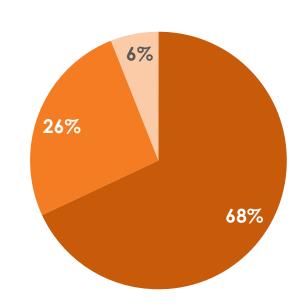
## Protect our built and cultural heritage





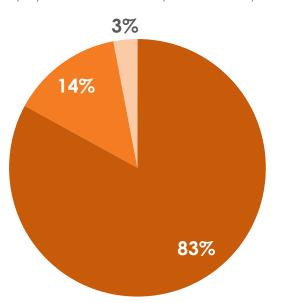
## Do more to establish public art



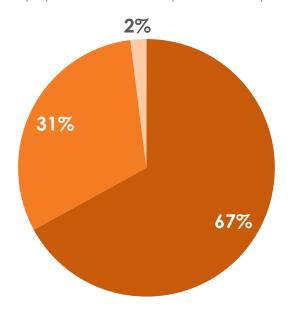


## Promote Downtown prosperity

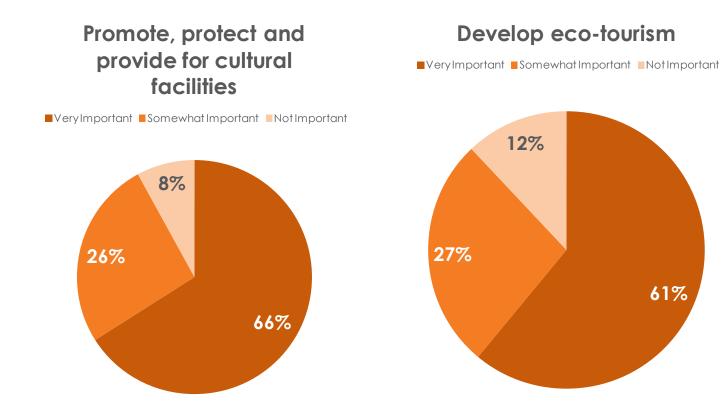
■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



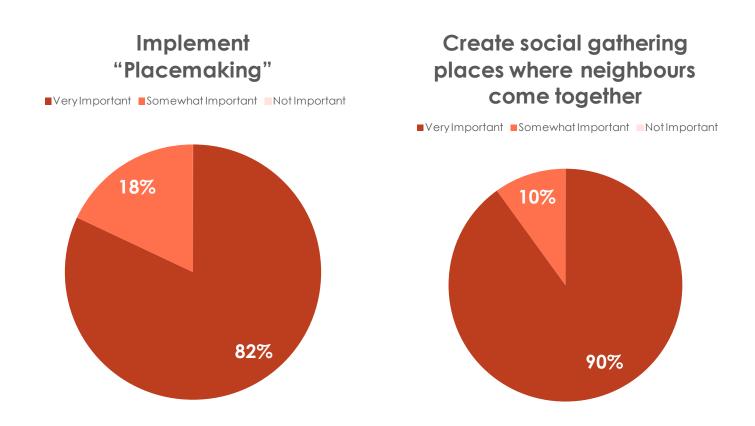
## Develop affordable housing





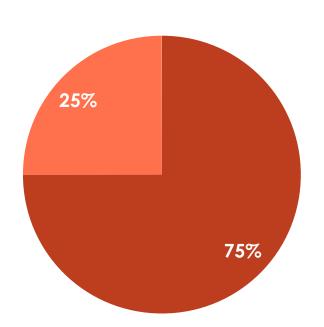


Building Strong and Attractive Neighbourhoods



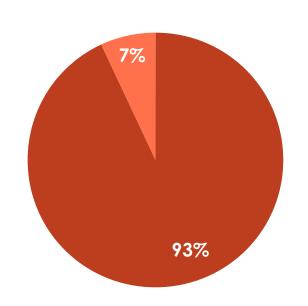
#### Protect what we cherish

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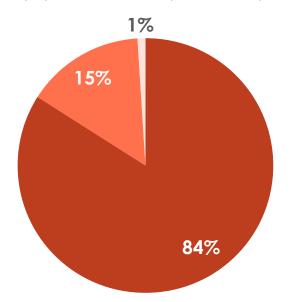


## Promote healthy neighbourhoods

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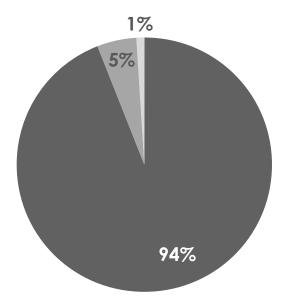
## Design "complete" neighbourhoods



### Making Wise Planning Decisions, Careful Management

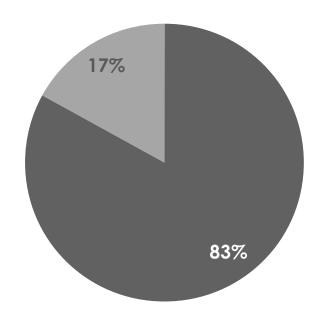
## Our decisions should reflect Planning principles

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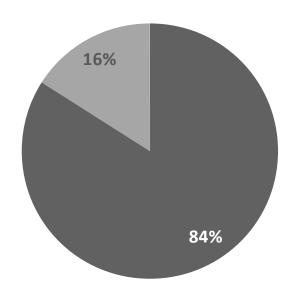
#### Planning for changes

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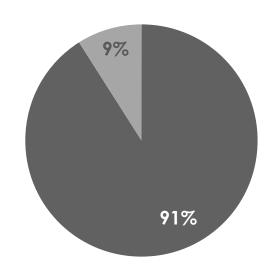


### Ensure the London Plan is current

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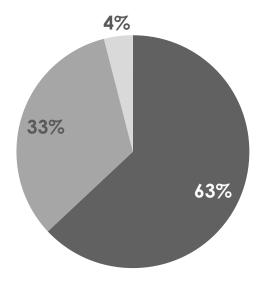


## Ensure efficient and collaborative processing of applications



## Opportunities to foster public-private relationships

■VeryImportant ■SomewhatImportant ■NotImportant



The survey results are from a total of 316 unique responses between May and July 2013.