

## Report to Planning and Environment Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Planning and Environment Committee

**From:** Scott Mathers, MPA, P.Eng.  
Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development

**Subject:** 5-Year Review – Community Improvement Plans and  
Financial Incentive Programs

**Date:** June 12, 2023

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, the following actions be taken with respect to the evaluation of Community Improvement Plan and Financial Incentives Programs:

- a) the recommendations identified through the 5-Year Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentives Programs Review that can be addressed through existing budgets **BE IMPLEMENTED**:
  - i. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to revise the City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives to update references to The London Plan, Provincial planning legislation, and Provincial financing tools;
  - ii. that the Community Improvement Plan for Industrial Land Uses **BE AMENDED** to remove 'enhanced transportation and logistics', it being noted that the use is not defined as targeted in Schedule 3 of the Community Improvement Plan;
  - iii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to remove references to the former 1989 Official Plan and Provincial Policy Statement and to replace them with The London Plan and the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement in all Community Improvement Plans;
  - iv. that the Upgrade to Building Code Loan Program and the Façade Improvement Loan Program **BE AMENDED** to modify the repayment schedules to reduce the term length for loan amounts that are equal to or less than \$5,000 from 114 monthly payments to 54 monthly payments instead;
  - v. that the Airport Area Community Improvement Plan (CIP) **BE AMENDED** to revise the eligibility criteria and requirements for retroactive applications, it being noted the Airport Area CIP requirements are inconsistent compared to other City of London CIPs;
  - vi. that the goals and objectives of the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Plans **BE AMENDED** to introduce measurable objectives to inform when the CIPs' identified Community Improvement goals have been achieved;
  - vii. that the Heritage Community Improvement Plan, City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives, and Community Improvement Plan for Industrial Land Uses **BE AMENDED** to include performance measures, indicators of success, and targets to align with current City policies and Municipal Council Strategic Directions;
  - viii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to review the effectiveness of the Financial Incentive Programs supporting the City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives; and,
  - ix. that the Development Charges Grant and the Tax Increment Equivalent Grant Programs in the City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives **BE AMENDED** to limit the duration of Municipal Council's commitment, it being noted that the Program does not define a time limit for holding City funds committed in future budgets.

- b) the recommendations identified through the 5-Year Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentives Programs Review that result in a funding reduction, or a program being suspended, **BE IMPLEMENTED**:
  - i. that funding for the Industrial Lands Corridor Enhancement Grant Program **BE SUSPENDED** in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, it being noted that this program will continue to be approved under the Community Improvement Plan for Industrial Land Uses;
  - ii. The funding for the Property Tax Assistance Grant Program in the London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives **BE SUSPENDED** in the next Multi-Year Budget pending review of the impact of 2023 changes made to the Provincial Brownfield Financial Tax Incentive Program; and,
  - iii. that funding for the Wharncliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan Program in the Lambeth Area Community Improvement Plan **BE SUSPENDED** in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, it being noted that this program will continue to be approved as part of the Lambeth Area Community Improvement Plan.
  
- c) the recommendation identified through the 5-Year Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentives Programs Review that continues existing financial incentive programs with an existing budget **BE IMPLEMENTED**:
  - i. that, based on results from the review of the City's current Community Improvement Plans and the associated Incentive Programs, the following Programs, **BE CONTINUED**, noting that funding for these Programs was set to expire December 31, 2023:
    - A) Residential Development Charges Grant Programs offered in the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Project Areas;
    - B) Downtown, Old East Village, and SoHo Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Programs;
    - C) Downtown, Old East Village, Hamilton Road, and SoHo Upgrade to Building Code Loan Programs;
    - D) Downtown, Old East Village, and Hamilton Road Upgrade to Building Code Loan Programs, including existing provisions for forgivable loans;
    - E) Downtown, Hamilton Road, Old East Village, Lambeth and SoHo Façade Improvement Loan Programs;
    - F) Downtown and Old East Village Façade Improvement Loan Programs, including existing provisions for forgivable loans; and,
    - G) City-wide Industrial Development Charge Program that continues to distinguish between targeted and non-targeted industrial uses.
  
- d) Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to submit business cases for all recommendations requiring additional investment through the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget process:

### **Enhancing an Existing Financial Incentive Program**

- i. that the Core Area Community Improvement Plan **BE AMENDED** to make available to properties facing Dundas Street in the Midtown Area, the Façade Improvement Loan, Upgrade to Building Code Loan, and the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Programs;
- ii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of funding the Upgrade to Building Code Loan, the Façade Improvement Loan, and the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Programs approved in 2021 for the Argyle Core Area CIP, including consideration of a forgivable loan component for properties facing Dundas Street between Clarke Road and Hale Street;
- iii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of amending the Upgrade to Building Code Loan Program offered in the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Project Plans to increase the amount of the forgivable portion from 12.5% to 50% for

- residential units created in building levels above the ground floor and from 12.5% to 75% for commercial units created in building levels above the ground floor;
- iv. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to review the feasibility of including a Safety Audit Grant Program in the Hamilton Road Area and Argyle Core Area Community Improvement Plans;
  - v. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to report back to Municipal Council with recommendations for eligible property security improvements under the Core Area Safety Audit Grant Program to supplement recommended improvements from safety audits which also consider community visual impact;
  - vi. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of amending the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Program offered in the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Plans to increase the grant value for Level 2 properties to promote occupancy in above ground floors;
  - vii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate improving the functionality of the existing Additional Residential Unit Loan Program to encourage the construction of Additional Residential Units in alignment with the multi-year budget process;

### **Creating a New Financial Incentive Program or Community Improvement Plan**

- viii. that, following Council's adoption of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget setting funding for Financial Incentive Programs in existing Community Improvement Plan, Civic Administration **TO REPORT BACK** on the policy and financial impacts of introducing a new Community Improvement Plan for the Hyde Park Hamlet on Gainsborough Road;
- ix. that the Heritage Community Improvement Plan **BE AMENDED** to add a new Heritage Grant Program to incentivize the rehabilitation of Heritage properties up to \$5,000 capped at 50% of completed eligible improvements;
- x. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of adding energy upgrades and climate change adaptation measures into London's Community Improvement Plans;
- xi. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to review the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan and report back to Municipal Council on how to improve the Plan to incentivize affordable housing developments;
- xii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to prepare new Community Improvement Plans and programs to support low-cost housing within primary transit areas;
- xiii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of introducing a new grant program in the Downtown, Old East Village, SoHo, Argyle Core Area, Lambeth, and Hamilton Road Area Community Improvement Plans for funding 100% of eligible interior and exterior building improvements undertaken by business tenants, up to a maximum of \$5,000;
- xiv. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of a new community improvement financial incentive program to support conversion of vacant commercial buildings with a low potential for continued commercial use to residential units in alignment with the multi-year budget process;
- xv. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of introducing a new community improvement financial incentive program to support attainable housing within primary transit areas in alignment with the multi-year budget process; and,
- xvi. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to review the Core Area Community Improvement Plan to consider amendments addressing property acquisition options and financial incentive programs aimed at identifying and encouraging commercial occupancy options identified through the Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy.

## Boundary Changes to a Community Improvement Project Area

- xvii. that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the feasibility of consolidating the Core Area, Downtown, and Old East Village Community Improvement Plans, it being noted that the Core Area comprises of three distinct areas: Downtown, Midtown, and Old East Village;
- xviii. that the Old East Village Community Improvement Plan Project Area **BE AMENDED** to include the properties located at 425 Rectory Street, 419 Rectory Street, 417 Rectory Street, 415 Rectory Street, 800 King Street, 796 King Street, 794 King Street, 790 King Street, 786 King Street, 784 King Street, 774 King Street, 768 King Street, 764 King Street, 762 King Street, 758 King Street, 754 King Street, 748 King Street, 376 Hewitt Street, 378 Hewitt Street, 380 Hewitt Street, 382 Hewitt Street, 386 Hewitt Street, and 390 Hewitt Street; and,
- xix. that the Hamilton Road Community Improvement Plan Project Area **BE AMENDED** to include the property located at 512 Horton Street East.

## Executive Summary

The recommendations in this report resulted from the five-year review of the City of London's Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) and financial incentive programs, were presented at the May 23, 2023, Planning and Environment Committee meeting, and have been available since then to allow for public review. Civic Administration circulated the recommendations to individuals who had participated in the project, as well as advertised the recommendations through Facebook and the Londoner. The GetInvolved webpage was also updated.

The purpose of this report is to provide Municipal Council the recommendations for decision.

The recommendations include proposed changes to several of the CIPs, to the scope and terms of existing financial incentive programs, and consideration of new programs and approaches to address community improvement issues. Some recommendations herein address core area vacancy reduction, which form part of a comprehensive proposed Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy that was presented at the May 30, 2023, Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee meeting.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan identifies Council's priorities and implementing strategies to inform the associated Multi-Year Budget. The 5-Year Review of Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Programs aligns with the Strategic Area of Focus: Economic Growth, Culture, and Prosperity. The anticipated outcomes of this Area of Focus include that London encourages equitable economic growth and diversification and that London's Core Area (Downtown, Midtown, Old East Village) is a vibrant neighbourhood and attractive destination.

## Linkage to the Climate Emergency Declaration

On April 23, 2019, Municipal Council declared a Climate Emergency. The loan and grant Programs support the City's commitment to reducing and mitigating climate change by incentivizing rehabilitation and reinvestment to improve the environmental and economic performance of properties in designated Community Improvement Project Areas throughout the city to encourage more effective and efficient use of existing urban lands and infrastructure, brownfields clean-up, and the regeneration of existing communities.

# Analysis

## 1.0 Background Information

### 1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

Planning and Environment Committee – April 27, 2017 – Service Review of Community Improvement Plan Incentives

Planning and Environment Committee – May 13, 2019 – New Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 16, 2020 – Community Improvement Plans Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – March 29, 2021 – Downtown Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – March 29, 2021 – Old East Village Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measure and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – June 21, 2021 – CIP - Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 1, 2021 - SoHo Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 1, 2021 - Lambeth Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 1, 2021 – Hamilton Road Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – May 9, 2022 - Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Financial Incentives Program 5-Year Review Project Launch

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – February 7, 2023 - London's Housing Pledge: A Path to 47,000 units by 2031

Planning and Environment Committee – May 23, 2023 – 5-year Review – Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Programs – Background Analysis

Planning and Environment Committee – May 23, 2023 – 5-year Review – Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Programs

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – May 30, 2023 – Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy

## 2.0 Discussion

### 2.1 Proposed Recommendations

The 32 recommendations are duplicated from the May 23, 2023, 5-year Review – Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Programs report (attached in its entirety as Appendix “B” to this report) and placed in the recommendation section of this report for Municipal Council’s consideration.

The recommendations have been organized into four categories to assist the reader in reviewing and discussing the information:

- a) Recommendations that can be addressed through existing budgets means these recommendations relate to tasks of an administrative or legislative nature that

can be undertaken within existing operational budgets and the existing staff complement over the next four years or more.

- b) Recommendations that result in a reduction of funding or a program being suspended means these financial incentive programs will not be available for the next four years but will remain in their respective CIP(s) and can be funded at a future date if desired by Municipal Council. Beginning on January 1, 2024, no new applications will be accepted for these programs.
- c) Recommendations that continue existing financial incentive programs within an existing budget means the Five-Year CIP Review determined these financial incentive programs continue to offer a return on investment and work towards achieving the anticipated outcomes of the City's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.
- d) Recommendations that require business cases for additional investment through the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget process means the Civic Administration will prepare one or more business case submissions for those of the recommendations that Municipal Council approves at its June 27, 2023, meeting that requires a business case. This recommendation category has been divided into three sub-categories:
  - o Enhancing an Existing Financial Incentive Program
  - o Creating a New Financial Incentive Program or Community Improvement Plan
  - o Boundary Changes to a Community Improvement Project Area

It should be noted that in recommendation clause d), "Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to submit business cases for all recommendations requiring additional investment through the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget process," the recommendations have a large variance in potential budget impact ranging from an estimated low impact (less than \$100,000) to a high impact (\$1,000,000 or greater). These budget impacts are discussed in greater detail in Section 3.0.

## 2.2 Next Steps to Move Recommendations Forward

There are numerous steps required to bring approved recommendations to completion. As a result, it is important to note that all approved recommendations will not be implemented by January 1, 2024. Depending on the recommendation, the number of steps can vary. The common tasks required include:

- Adding the approved recommendation to the Core Area & Urban Regeneration Work Program (which may include consultation with other City Service Areas and departments as required).
- Preparing business case(s) for the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget.
- Updating CIP By-laws for financial incentive programs that will continue to operate within existing budgets. The by-laws contain the program requirements (application process, eligibility criteria, etc.) and need to be updated before December 31, 2023, to prevent the programs from lapsing.
- Amending or creating new financial incentive programs within an existing CIP. The complexity of each amended or new program will determine how long this process takes.
- Amending or creating a new CIP. Amending or creating a CIP has a defined process under the *Planning Act*, including required public consultation. At a minimum, an amendment to a CIP can take three months and creating a new CIP six months to a year based on the legislative requirements; however, these timelines might not be possible to achieve with the existing staff complement. Timelines might be accelerated through the hiring of additional staff or the retention of consultants. These factors will be built into the estimated cost of any related business case(s). Additional tasks when amending or creating a new CIP, may include:
  - o Preparing By-laws to adopt new or amended CIPs.
  - o Preparing any financial incentive programs to implement improvement goals and objectives identified in new CIPs.

Unless directed otherwise, Civic Administration will prioritize recommendations for implementation based on the existing staff complement available to undertake the work.

### **3.0 Financial Impacts**

The May 23, 2023, Five-Year CIP Review report outlined the preliminary cost of each recommendation ranging from no financial (budget) impact (negligible cost or reduction in cost) to a high financial impact (\$1,000,000 or greater increase in City funding).

The financial impact for approving recommendation clause b) “the recommendations identified through the 5-Year Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentives Programs Review that result in a funding reduction, or a program being suspended, BE IMPLEMENTED” is anticipated at being a funding reduction less than \$100,000 because no new applications would be accepted beginning in 2024 for those suspended programs.

At present, the financial (budget) impact of the CIP financial incentive programs can be measured by the cost of the issued and committed financial incentive by program. Table 1 in Appendix “A” of this report provides the same financial information as provided in the May 23, 2023, report but has slightly rearranged the presentation of the data to separate the development charges (DC) grant programs out from the other programs. The three DC grant programs were separated to better show how they account for 56% of total issued and committed/estimated costs for all financial incentive programs.

Alternatively, the financial impact can be measured by the taxpayer and ratepayer contributions to the reserve funds that support these initiatives. See Table 2 in Appendix “A”. Steady contributions to the reserve funds are determined that will support CIP program needs over the short and long term, while maintaining reasonable reserve fund balances. Fluctuations can occur when some CIP programs are in high demand, such as currently with Industrial DC incentives.

Table 3 in Appendix “A” shows the potential minimum order-of-magnitude cost of the 19 recommendations in clause d) that require business cases for additional investment through the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget. These are conservative estimates. For “high impact” recommendations, a figure of \$1 million was used, though for a building use conversion program, for example, the high impact figure could be substantially more when the scope of the program is able to be refined. For recommendations that were identified as being between two impact levels, a mid-range value was assigned. For example, for low-to-medium financial impact, the estimate is \$250,000.

The financial impacts of the recommendations approved at the June 27, 2023, Municipal Council meeting that require a business case will be refined through the business case submission process.

It is important to note that the financial impact of the financial incentive programs should also be considered relative to the return on investment of the programs. The more expensive grants (e.g., DC and Tax) tend to have bigger returns. For example, increasing the residential population of an area, reducing the amount of vacant land, implementing the Industrial Land Development Strategy, or increasing the assessed value of properties within a defined Community Improvement Project Area, whereas smaller scale programs (e.g., Façade Improvement Loan or Upgrade to Building Code Loan) have smaller financial results around specific improvements undertaken at an individual property to achieve the improvement goals and objectives of a CIP.

## **Conclusion**

This report presents the recommendations and estimated preliminary financial impacts from the Five-Year Community Improvement Plan Review for Municipal Council’s consideration. One or more business case submissions will be provided through the Multi-Year Budget process for any approved recommendations that require additional funding.

**Prepared by:** **Graham Bailey, MCIP, RPP**  
**Senior Planner, Core Area and Urban Regeneration**

**Reviewed by:** **Jim Yanchula, MCIP, RPP**  
**Manager, Core Area and Urban Regeneration**

**Recommended by:** **Stephen Thompson, MCIP, RPP**  
**Director, Economic Services and Supports**

**Submitted by:** **Scott Mathers, MPA, P.Eng.**  
**Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic  
Development**

May 30, 2023  
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## Appendix “A” – Financial Impact Tables

Table 1 – Financial Incentives Applications Issued 2018 to February 2023

<b>Financial Incentive Programs</b>				
<b>Community Improvement Programs</b>	<b>Total #</b>	<b>Issued</b>	<b>Committed / Estimated</b>	<b>Total Issued + Committed / Estimated</b>
Façade Improvement Loan	31	452,633	161,627	614,260
Upgrade to Building Code Loan	54	3,550,919	760,326	4,311,245
Downtown Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant	47	624,675	14,587,686	15,212,361
Old East Village Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant	52	3,934,612	1,245,439	5,180,051
Brownfields CIP Grants (4 Programs)	7	63,151	12,867,389	12,930,540
Heritage Development Charge Equivalent Grant	2	79,177	4,500,000	4,579,177
Recovery Grants	55	226,365	12,635	239,000
Safety Audit Grants	11	32,428	68,052	100,478
Airport Increment Tax Grant	3	669,526	242,104	911,630
Industrial Corridor Enhancement Grant	0	0	0	0
Affordable Housing Development Loan	2	0	2,100,000	2,100,000
Wharnccliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan	0	0	0	0
Additional Residential Unit Loan	2	0	40,000	40,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>\$9,633,486</b>	<b>\$36,585,258</b>	<b>\$46,218,742</b>
<b>Development Charges Grant Programs</b>				
Downtown Residential Charges Grant	7	17,495,372	7,702,192	25,197,564
Old East Village Residential Charges Grant	1	0	53,439	53,439
Industrial Development Charges Grant	30	33,202,176	0	33,202,176
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$50,697,548</b>	<b>\$7,755,631</b>	<b>\$58,453,179</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>\$60,331,034</b>	<b>\$44,340,889</b>	<b>\$104,671,921</b>

**Table 2 – Taxpayer / Ratepayer Contributions to Reserve Funds (000s)**

<b>Reserve Fund (RF)</b>	<b>Actual</b>					<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	
Community Improvement Program RF <sup>1</sup>	\$1,155	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$2,200	\$1,450	\$3,600	<b>\$13,805</b>
DC Incentive Program RFs <sup>2</sup>	\$8,750	\$9,450	\$11,250	\$5,250	\$8,850	\$7,700	<b>\$51,250</b>

1 – Reserve fund is maintained to support the cost of approved financial incentives from all CIP programs.

2 - Reserve funds are maintained to support the cost of grants for development charges incentive programs. Contributions are tax supported, and rate supported (Water and Wastewater & Treatment) (industrial only).

**Table 3 - Clause d) Recommendations - Estimated Order-of-Magnitude Preliminary Costs**

<b>May 23, 2023 PEC Report Table # - Rec #</b>	<b>Financial Impact Estimate</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Rec # June 12, 2023 PEC Report clause d)</b>
6-16	Low (L)	100,000	i.
6-17	L	100,000	ii.
6-18	Medium (M)	500,000	iii.
6-19	LM	250,000	iv.
6-20	LM	250,000	v.
6-21	M	500,000	vi.
6-22	High (H)	1,000,000	vii.
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$2,700,000</b>	
1-5	No(N) - M	250,000	viii.
6-23	M	500,000	ix.
6-24	MH	750,000	x.
6-25	L	100,000	xi.
6-26	L	100,000	xii.
6-27	M	500,000	xiii.
6-28	MH	750,000	xiv.
6-29	MH	750,000	xv.
6-30*	H	1,000,000	xvi.
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$4,700,000</b>	
3-9	N	0	xvii.
3-10	L	100,000	xviii.
3-11	L	100,000	xix.
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$200,000</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$7,600,000</b>	

\* The cost to implement recommendation xvi will very likely exceed \$1 million.

## Appendix “B” May 23, 2023, Planning and Environment Committee Report

### Report to Planning and Environment Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Planning and Environment Committee  
**From:** Scott Mathers, MPA, P.Eng.  
Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development  
**Subject:** 5-Year Review – Community Improvement Plans and  
Financial Incentive Programs  
**Date:** May 23, 2023

### Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, the following actions be taken with respect to the evaluation of Community Improvement Plan and Financial Incentives Programs:

- a) the report dated May 23, 2023, from the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, summarizing community consultations and Civic Administration’s comprehensive review of the City’s existing Community Improvement Plans and associated Financial Incentive Programs, **BE RECEIVED**; and,
- b) Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to circulate draft recommendations attached in the report as Appendix “A” for public review until **June 12, 2023**.

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on the consultation undertaken to date as part of the 5-year review of London’s Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) and the Financial Incentive Programs.

A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a tool defined by the *Planning Act* that is intended to replan, redesign, redevelop, and rehabilitate a designated area in need due to age, dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement, unsuitability of buildings or for any other environmental, social, or community economic development reasons. A Financial Incentive Program supports the objectives set out in a Community Improvement Program by providing financial incentives in the form of loans and grants.

This report contains draft recommendations for proposed changes to several of the CIPs, to the scope and terms of existing Financial Incentive Programs, and consideration of new programs and approaches to address community improvement issues, for Council direction and public feedback. Some recommendations herein address core area vacancy reduction, which form part of a comprehensive proposed Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy scheduled for presentation on the May 30, 2023, agenda of Council’s Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee.

### Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan identifies Council’s priorities and implementing strategies to inform the associated Multi-Year Budget. The 5-Year Review of Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Programs aligns with the Strategic Area of Focus: Economic Growth, Culture, and Prosperity. The anticipated outcomes of this Area of Focus include that London encourages equitable economic growth and diversification and that London’s Core Area (Downtown, Midtown, Old East Village) is a

vibrant neighbourhood and attractive destination.

## **Linkage to the Climate Emergency Declaration**

On April 23, 2019, Municipal Council declared a Climate Emergency. The loan and grant Programs support the City's commitment to reducing and mitigating climate change by incentivizing rehabilitation and reinvestment to improve the environmental and economic performance of properties in designated Community Improvement Project Areas throughout the city to encourage more effective and efficient use of existing urban lands and infrastructure, brownfields clean-up, and the regeneration of existing communities.

## **Analysis**

### **1.0 Background Information**

#### **1.2 Previous Reports Related to this Matter**

Planning and Environment Committee – April 27, 2017 – Service Review of Community Improvement Plan Incentives

Planning and Environment Committee – May 13, 2019 – New Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 16, 2020 – Community Improvement Plans Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – March 29, 2021 – Downtown Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – March 29, 2021 – Old East Village Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measure and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – June 21, 2021 – CIP - Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 1, 2021 - SoHo Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 1, 2021 - Lambeth Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – November 1, 2021 – Hamilton Road Community Improvement Plan – Performance Measures and Indicators of Success

Planning and Environment Committee – May 9, 2022 - Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Financial Incentives Program 5-Year Review Project Launch

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – February 7, 2023 - London's Housing Pledge: A Path to 47,000 units by 2031

#### **1.3 Community Improvement Plans**

A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a tool defined by Section 28 of the *Planning Act* that is intended to replan, redesign, redevelop, and rehabilitate a designated area in need due to age, dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement, unsuitability of buildings or for any other environmental, social, or community economic development reasons.

A CIP can help:

- Focus public attention on local priorities and municipal initiatives;

- Target areas in transition or in need of repair, rehabilitation, and redevelopment;
- Facilitate and encourage community change in a coordinated manner; and,
- Stimulate private sector investment through municipal incentive-based Programs.

Financial Incentive Programs in Community Improvement Plans are often used as tools to encourage and support community and economic redevelopment. The Financial Incentives are geared to encourage private sector investment in specific areas that further support the City’s policy goals and objectives, for example reinvestment in the Core Area.

Appendix “C” has a summary of the grant and loan programs identified in London’s Community Improvement Plans. Not every Program is offered in every CIP.

### **1.3 Current 5-Year Review Program Review**

The May 9, 2022, report, which launched the current 5-Year Review, outlined the questions that this review set out to answer. The following questions guided the review of the CIPs and Financial Incentive Programs:

1. Are the goals and objectives of each CIP still valid?
  - a. Do the CIPs align with current City policies and with the City’s Strategic Plan?
  - b. Do the financial incentives still support the goals and objectives of the CIPs?
  - c. Are the Community Improvement Project Areas’ defined boundaries still valid?
2. Are the Financial Incentive Programs meeting the goals and objectives of the City’s Strategic Plan?
  - a. What is the return on investment of the Programs for public investment in London’s Downtown and urban areas?
  - b. Are the financial incentive Programs relevant and performing well?
  - c. Are there any inefficiencies present in the financial incentives?
  - d. How have the financial incentives achieved the targets outlined in the CIPs?
3. Should the boundary of the areas eligible for financial incentives be amended?

## **2.0 Discussion and Considerations**

### **2.1 Proposed Changes to the Community Improvement Plan and Financial Incentive Program Framework**

Changes are proposed to many of the City’s Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Program based on City staff review and feedback from public engagement. These changes range from administrative updates due to legislative changes to significant program enhancements. A complete list of the proposed changes to be made available for public review are summarized in Appendix “A”. The changes have been categorized as follows:

#### **Legislation and Housekeeping (Appendix “A”: Table 1)**

- Minor changes and changes due to legislative changes.

#### **Add Metrics and Targets to a Community Improvement Program (Appendix “A”: Table 2)**

- Recommendations to provide metrics and targets to existing plans.

#### **Community Improvement Plan Boundary Changes (Appendix “A”: Table 3)**

- Boundary changes including adding additional properties to existing plans to merging existing community improvement areas.

**Continue a Financial Incentive Program  
(Appendix “A”: Table 4)**

- Recommendation to continue an existing plan past its initial sunset date.

**Decrease a Financial Incentive Program’s Scope  
(Appendix “A”: Table 5)**

- Limit or decrease the terms or applicability of an existing Financial Incentive Program.

**Increase Financial Incentive Program’s Scope  
(Appendix “A”: Table 6)**

- Expand or increase the terms or applicability of an existing Financial Incentive Program.

**Create a New Financial Incentive Program  
(Appendix “A”: Table 7)**

- Introduce a new Financial Incentive Program.

**Suspend a Current Financial Incentive Program  
(Appendix “A”: Table 8)**

- Suspend a current Financial Incentive Program

Eight proposed changes raised during the 5-Year process are not recommended. These are documented in Appendix B.

## **2.2 Housing Supply Related Programs**

On October 25, 2022, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing sent a letter to the City of London assigning a housing target of 47,000 units by 2031. The letter also included a request that the City of London develop a Housing Pledge that includes necessary strategies and actions to facilitate the construction of the targeted housing units. On February 15, 2023, Council made a pledge to accelerate the housing supply of 47,000 units in our community by 2031 in response to the Minister of Municipal Affairs letter. In addition, on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council resolved that “there is an untenable emergency in our city related to housing and homelessness”. In order to proceed with the housing pledge and acknowledgement of a housing and homelessness emergency, the completion of a Housing Supply Action Plan is underway and is built on the three pillars of financial supports, enterprise-wide resources, and shared accountability. This report highlighted Community Improvement Programs and Financial Incentive Programs as one of the key strategies and actions available to Council to support additional housing supply.

It is recommended that London’s Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan be reviewed and financial incentive programs be further developed for Council consideration to support increasing the housing supply. To implement London’s Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy, a new program is desirable to support conversion of vacant commercial properties with a low potential for continued commercial use into residential apartment units. To build on an existing program, amends may be considered to better support the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units, to encourage the construction of a second smaller unit on the same property as a primary unit. Each of these initiatives would come forward with a series of performance metrics and targets. These initiatives would develop in alignment with the multi-year budget process.

It is also recommended that new community improvement plans and financial incentive programs be developed for Council consideration to support increasing the housing supply. These include initiatives to support low-cost housing within primary transit areas. This initiative would support construction of additional units with a defined radius

of the London Plan's Rapid Transit Corridors and Transit Villages. These programs would also come forward with a series of performance metrics and targets and be developed in alignment with the multi-year budget process.

### **2.3 Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Strategy**

On July 6, 2021, Municipal Council resolved that Civic Administration be directed to report back on a proposed strategy that sets out potential tools that may assist in reducing Core Area land and building vacancy. Civic Administration was directed by Council on December 7, 2021, to move forward with a detailed Implementation Plan for the proposed strategy. The Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy to be brought forward at the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee will include a suite of strategies including but not limited to proposed amendments to existing CIPs and to amend and/or introduce new CIP Financial Incentive Programs. These strategies are contained in the proposed recommendations in Appendix "A" of this report.

### **2.4 Provincial Legislative Changes – Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022**

The More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 made changes to the Development Charges Act, 1997, the Municipal Act, 2001, the Ontario Heritage Act, 1990, and the Planning Act, among other Acts. These changes have some implications for London's CIPs and Financial Incentive Programs.

- DC exemptions for affordable housing units, attainable housing units, and 3 units per detached home may reduce the uptake of the Residential Development Charges Grant and the Affordable Housing Loans; and,
- The timeline to designate listed Heritage properties within 2-years may result in more Part IV Heritage Designated Properties. (Part IV designation pertains to individual properties, as opposed to groups of properties in a Part V Heritage Conservation District). With more of such properties becoming designated, Civic Administration expects there will be more frequent requests from property owners for financial assistance in the conservation of heritage attributes through CIP Programs under the Heritage CIP, particularly to target smaller Part IV properties that currently do not receive Financial Incentives.

## **3.0 Community Consultation and Engagement**

Community engagement was held to inform the analysis of the CIPs, the CIP Financial Incentive Programs, and to develop the draft recommendations in this report. The engagement techniques used were an interactive GetInvolved City of London webpage, a virtual Public Meeting, a public presentation, several community meetings, and the City of London Facebook page promoting the project.

Community meetings were held with the London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), the Business Improvement Associations, and the London International Airport. A presentation was made to the Urban League. Further, the London Development Institute (LDI), London Home Builders Association (LHBA), Chamber of Commerce, City's Building & Development Liaison Forum, and the public were reached out for comment.

The full results of the community engagement are found in Appendix "D". All comments and questions received are summarized in "Appendix "D" Table 1: What We Heard".

## 4.0 Community Improvement Plan and Financial Incentive Program Framework for Enhanced Communication

During public engagement input was received that there is not enough awareness of the Financial Incentive Programs. To address this concern, a request for funding to support an enhanced communications program will be submitted for consideration as part of the multi-year budget process. An enhanced communication program may include developing stronger links with City planning and building permit processes, by-law enforcement, and Core Area programs, to proactively advise prospective investors of City assistance available through CIP Financial Incentive Programs, using print and digital promotional materials, more frequently [e.g., annually] disseminated.

## 5.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

CIP Financial Incentive Programs, including any recommended adjustments to them, will be considered through the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget process. Some of the recommended changes to the Financial Incentive Programs will result in a reduction in the funding required for the overall Community Improvement Plan and Financial Incentive Plan framework. Other programs may result in a significant increase in the funding required to support the plans objectives. These impacts are highlighted in each proposed change in the tables included in “Appendix A: Proposed CIP and FIP Framework Changes for Public Input” as either “No Impact”, “Low”, “Medium”, or “High”:

- No Financial Impact: Negligible cost or reduction in cost;
- Low Financial Impact: Less than \$100,000;
- Medium Financial Impact: \$100,000 to \$1,000,000; and
- High Financial Impact: \$1,000,000 or greater.

These impacts may represent an increase in funding being provided or a decrease in funding being provided. Full estimates of the costs will be established through the Financial Incentive Plan reviews and brought forward in the form of a multi-year budget business case or cases.

It is important to note that all the recommendations in Appendix “A” will not be ready for implementation by January 1, 2024. Many of the recommendations (e.g., amending a CIP) require additional public consultation and process as directed by the Planning Act. Based on the feedback received from Municipal Council and the community during the public review period, and the immediate need for the recommendation to move forward, Civic Administration will prioritize recommendations for implementation based on the existing staff complement available to undertake the work.

A summary of the funding provided and committed through the City’s Financial Incentives Programs is summarized Appendix “E” Financial Incentives Programs Cost Summary. This table summarizes actual and committed spending between 2018 to February 2023. The following table provides a high-level summary of Financial Incentives Program over this 5-year period.

Program Type	Applications	Issued	Committed/ Estimated	Total Issued + Committed/Estimated
Grants	214	\$56,327,000	\$41,279,000	\$97,606,000
Loans	89	\$4,004,000	\$3,062,000	\$7,065,000
Program Type	Applications	Issued	Committed/ Estimated	Total Issued + Committed/Estimated
Grants	215	\$56,327,482	\$41,278,936	\$97,606,418
Loans	89	\$4,003,552	\$3,061,953	\$7,065,505
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>\$60,331,034</b>	<b>\$44,340,889</b>	<b>\$104,671,923</b>

## 6.0 Next Steps

It is recommended that this report be circulated for public review and feedback on the draft recommendations herein until the June 12, 2023, Planning and Environment Committee meeting. Administration will submit a report for Council consideration in Q3 of 2023 which summarizes the impact of the final list of recommendations approved by Council at its June 27, 2023, meeting, for amendments to London's Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Programs. Council's approved recommendations thereafter relating to the funding of Financial Incentive Programs will be referred to the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget deliberations.

## Conclusion

This report summarizes the community engagement conducted for the 2018-2022 5-Year Review of London's Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentive Programs. The draft recommendations herein are the result of the analysis of the data collected and Council's direction on the need to increase housing supply. It is recommended that Civic Administration be directed to circulate this report for public review until the June 12, 2023, Planning and Environment Committee meeting, using the GetInvolved City of London webpage, the City of London Facebook page, Londoner notices and direct contact with Communities, and that feedback received be brought back to Municipal Council for decision on changes to CIPs and CIP Financial Incentive Programs.

**Prepared by:** Jasmine Hall, MCIP, RPP  
Planner II, Core Area and Urban Regeneration

**Submitted by:** Jim Yanchula, MCIP, RPP  
Manager, Core Area and Urban Regeneration

**Recommended by:** Stephen Thompson, MCIP, RPP  
Director, Economic Services and Supports

**Recommended by:** Scott Mathers, MPA, P.Eng.  
Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development

## Appendix “A” Proposed CIP and FIP Framework Changes for Public Input

Table 1: Legislation and Housekeeping (Appendix “A”: Table 1)

	Recommendation	Rationale
1.		<p>that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to revise the City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives to update references to The London Plan, Provincial planning legislation, and Provincial financing tools.</p> <p>Certain legislative references in the 2006 CIP are outdated. For example, the Provincial Policy Statement 2005, the 1989 Official Plan, and the Government of Ontario’s Brownfield Financial Tax Incentive Program (BFTIP) have been replaced with newer versions.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)</p>
2.		<p>that the Community Improvement Plan for Industrial Land Uses BE AMENDED to remove ‘enhanced transportation and logistics’, it being noted that the use is not defined as targeted in Schedule 3 of the Community Improvement Plan;</p> <p>The targeted uses for DC grants are required to align with the Industrial Land Development Strategy. Enhanced transportation and logistics are not listed as a targeted use in the Industrial Lands Development Strategy. In addition, in the 2017 CIP and Financial Incentive Program Review, enhanced transportation and logistics was not included in Schedule 3 of the Industrial Lands CIP but remained in the main body of the CIP. For DC grant calculation, removing references to enhanced transportation and logistics from the entire CIP is required.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)</p>
3.		<p>that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to remove references to the former 1989 Official Plan and Provincial Policy Statement and to replace them with The London Plan and the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement in all Community Improvement Plans;</p> <p>Each of the CIPs refers to the former 1989 Official Plan and older Provincial Policy Statement versions. The London Plan was fully approved in May 2022 and is the governing Official Plan for the City of London. Consultation with the Legal department determined that CIPs should refer only to legal provisions that are in force.</p>

	Recommendation	Rationale
		<p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)</p>
4.		<p>that the Upgrade to Building Code Loan Program and the Façade Improvement Loan Program BE AMENDED to modify the repayment schedules to reduce the term length for loan amounts that are equal to or less than \$5,000 from 114 monthly payments to 54 monthly payments instead;</p> <p>Modifying the payment schedules would help reduce administrative cost of managing loans with small monthly payments, while ensuring repayments are manageable for applicants. For example, a \$5,000 loan would have a monthly payment of \$92.59 over 54 months instead of \$43.86 for 114 months. Further, having the smaller loans repaid more quickly would allow the City to reinvest that repayment money into new loans quicker.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)</p>
5.		<p>that, following Council’s adoption of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget setting funding for Financial Incentive Programs in existing Community Improvement Plan, Civic Administration REPORT BACK on the policy and financial impacts of introducing a new Community Improvement Plan for the Hyde Park Hamlet on Gainsborough Road;</p> <p>On March 7, 2023, Council resolved that the communication dated January 31, 2023, from the Hyde Park Business Improvement Association, BE REFERRED to the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) And Financial Incentives Program 5-Year Review being undertaken by Civic Administration, to assess the feasibility of the Hyde Park Hamlet as a candidate for a Community Improvement Plan and Financial Incentive Programs, specifically for Gainsborough Road.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No to Medium Impact: (No change to increase in City funding – Will depend on outcome from CIP feasibility analysis and if deemed feasible, the length of the public process to create a new CIP).</p>
6.		<p>that the Airport Area Community Improvement Plan (CIP) BE AMENDED</p> <p>During the Civic Administration’s Community Improvement Plan Review it was found</p>

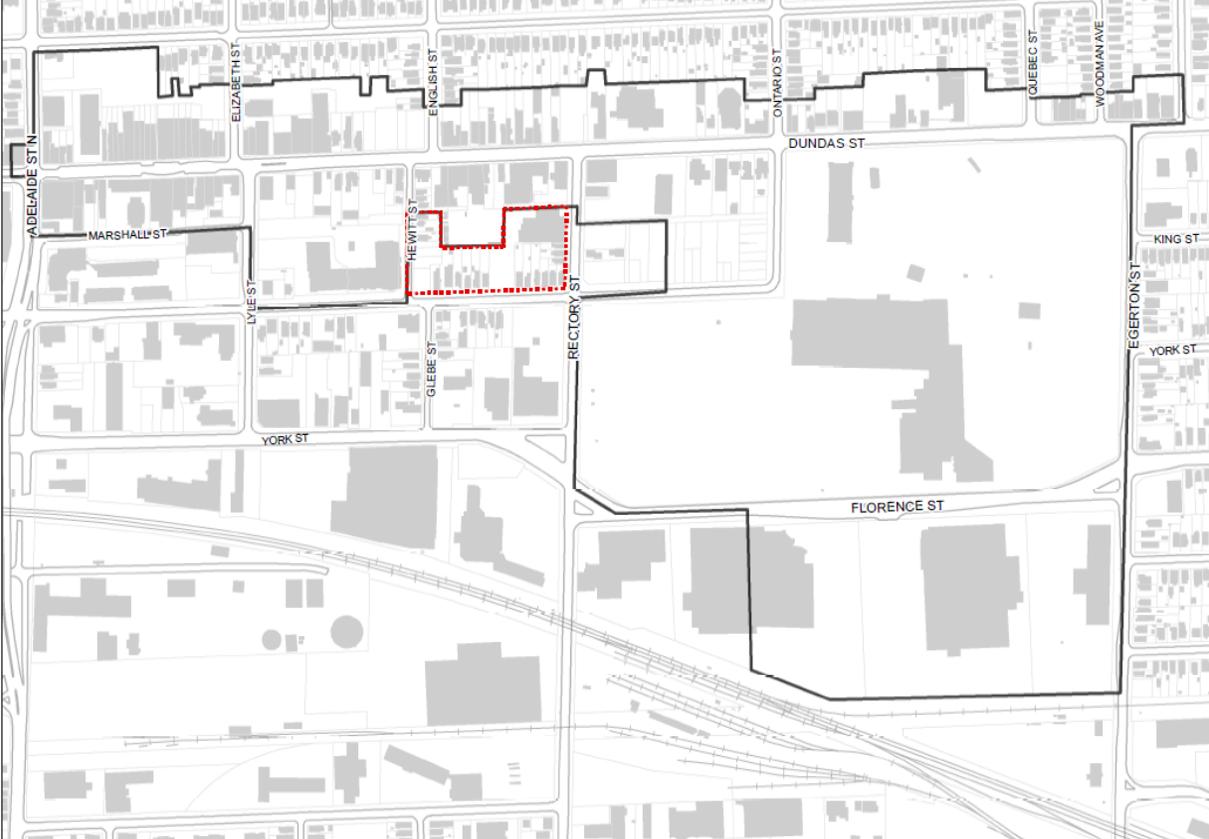
	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
		to revise the eligibility criteria and requirements for retroactive applications, it being noted the Airport Area CIP requirements are inconsistent compared to other City of London CIPs;	that the Airport Area CIP contains language regarding retroactive applications that is inconsistent with all other City of London CIPs. To reduce confuse and ensure consistency among CIPs, the eligibility criteria and requirements in the Airport Area CIP needs to be updated.  <b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)

**Table 2: Add Metrics and Targets to a Community Improvement Program (Appendix “A”: Table 2)**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
7.	that the goals and objectives of the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Plans BE AMENDED to introduce measurable objectives to inform when the CIPs’ identified Community Improvement goals have been achieved;	Input received during public consultation stated that the current goals and objectives of the Downtown and Old East Village CIPs are not measurable. Proposed revisions would allow Administration to track the success of the CIPs and inform Council when CIPs have achieved their intent.  <b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)	
8.	that the Heritage Community Improvement Plan, City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives, and Community Improvement Plan for Industrial Land Uses BE AMENDED to include performance measures, indicators of success, and targets to align with current City policies and Municipal Council Strategic Directions;	This was a recommendation from the previous 2017 CIP Review. The purpose of adding performance measures and indicators of success is to inform Council of how the CIPs have achieved their intent and whether changes to their Financial Incentive Programs are advisable.  The Downtown, Old East Village, SoHo, Hamilton Road, and Lambeth Area CIPs were amended in 2020 and 2021 to add performance measures, indicators of success, and targets for the Financial Incentive Programs.  <b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)	

**Table 3: Community Improvement Plan Boundary Change (Appendix “A”: Table 3)**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
9.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of consolidating the Core Area, Downtown, and Old East Village Community Improvement Plans, it being noted that the Core Area comprises of three distinct areas: Downtown, Midtown, and Old East Village;	<p>Consolidating the Core Area, Downtown, and Old East Village Area CIPs would reduce redundancy and streamline Financial Incentive applications to save on the administrative cost of processing applications. Further, consolidating the three CIPs could reduce confusion of boundary lines and determining eligibility of CIP Programs for property owners and expand program offerings to Midtown.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Cost reduction to no impact (No change in City Funding)</p>
10.	that the Old East Village Community Improvement Plan Project Area BE AMENDED to include the properties located at 425 Rectory Street, 419 Rectory Street, 417 Rectory Street, 415 Rectory Street, 800 King Street, 796 King Street, 794 King Street, 790 King Street, 786 King Street, 784 King Street, 774 King Street, 768 King Street, 764 King Street, 762 King Street, 758 King Street, 754 King Street, 748 King Street, 376 Hewitt Street, 378 Hewitt Street, 380 Hewitt Street, 382 Hewitt Street, 386 Hewitt Street, and 390 Hewitt Street;	<p>These properties are currently just outside of the Old East Village CIP boundary and are not eligible for Financial Incentive Programs. In addition, these properties are adjacent to the eastern leg of the Rapid Transit Corridor Protected Major Transit Station Area. Including these properties in the Old East Village CIP and permitting Financial Incentives could help intensify the lands and comply with the Vision of The London Plan for Major Transit Station Areas. Further, input received from property owners at these locations were in support of this recommendation.</p> <p>Expanding the Old East Village CIP Project Area and the Financial Incentive Programs to add the 23 properties is expected to have a negligible impact in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No to Low impact (No Change in City Funding to Increase in City Funding)</p>

	Recommendation	Rationale
	 <p data-bbox="219 1096 544 1169"> <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Old East Village CIP  <span style="border: 1px dashed red; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> OEV CIP Amendment Area </p>	<p data-bbox="576 1096 1096 1128" style="text-align: center;">Amendment to Old East Village CIP Boundary</p>
<p data-bbox="203 1188 251 1223">11.</p>	<p data-bbox="344 1188 841 1370">that the Hamilton Road Community Improvement Plan Project Area BE AMENDED to include the property located at 512 Horton Street East;</p>	<p data-bbox="863 1188 1421 1446">This is a comparatively larger property abutting the Hamilton Road CIP boundary which is appropriate for redevelopment and currently not eligible for Financial Incentives. Input received from the property owner is in support of this recommendation.</p> <p data-bbox="863 1483 1356 1706">Expanding the Hamilton Road CIP Project Area and the Financial Incentive Programs to add this property is expected to have a negligible impact in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget.</p> <p data-bbox="863 1741 1388 1849"><b>Financial Impact:</b> No to Low impact (No Change in City Funding to Increase in City Funding)</p>

**Table 4: Continue a Financial Incentive Program (Appendix “A”: Table 4)**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
12.	<p>that, based on results from the review of the City’s current Community Improvement Plans and the associated Incentive Programs, the following Programs, BE CONTINUED, noting that funding for these Programs was set to expire December 31, 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residential Development Charges Grant Programs offered in the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Project Areas</li> <li>- Downtown, Old East Village, and SoHo Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Programs</li> <li>- Downtown, Old East Village, Hamilton Road, and SoHo Upgrade to Building Code Loan Programs</li> <li>- Downtown, Old East Village, and Hamilton Road Upgrade to Building Code Loan Programs, including existing provisions for forgivable loans</li> <li>- Downtown, Hamilton Road, Old East Village, and SoHo Façade Improvement Loan Programs</li> <li>- Downtown and Old East Village Façade Improvement Loan Programs, including existing provisions for forgivable loans</li> </ul> <p>City-wide Industrial Development Charge Program that continues to distinguish between targeted and non-targeted industrial uses.</p>	<p>Funding for these Programs was set to expire on December 31, 2023. These Programs are still relevant in addressing community improvement needs cited in the CIPs.</p> <p>The breakdown of what these Programs cost from 2018 to the time of writing is listed in Appendix “E”. It is anticipated that the cost of the Programs may be similar in the next Multi-Year Budget.</p> <p>Retaining these Programs is expected to have a negligible impact on the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No Change in City Funding)</p>

**Table 5: Decrease a Financial Incentive Program’s Scope (Appendix “A”: Table 5)**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
13.	that funding for the Industrial Lands Corridor Enhancement Grant Program BE SUSPENDED in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, it being noted that this program will continue to be approved under the Community Improvement Plan for Industrial Land Uses;	<p>Properties abutting the 401/402 Corridor are for eligible for this program. This program received funding in 2018 and to date no applications were received for this Program. Administration set aside \$40,000 annually in the current Multi-Year Budget that was intended to fund approximately two applications annually. Reallocating these funds can be directed to other Financial Incentive Programs with more uptake.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Reduction in City Funding</p>
14.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to review the effectiveness of the Financial Incentive Programs supporting the City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives;	<p>The four Financial Incentive Programs that support the City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives are more expensive than forecasted when the Programs were first established. As an example, soil remediation costs were added as an eligible grant expense. This change has been shown to drive up the cost of the Development Charge Rebate program offered under the Brownfields CIP. The average of the Council Approved remediation costs for Brownfield grants before the addition of soil remediation cost was \$230,837.34 compared to the average afterwards of \$3,114,636.75. The Grant Commitments represent money reserved from the budget that is unavailable for other Financial Incentive Programs.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Reduction in City Funding</p>
15.	that the Development Charges Grant and the Tax Increment Equivalent Grant Programs in the City of London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives BE AMENDED to limit the duration of Municipal Council’s commitment, it being noted that the Program does not define a time limit for holding City funds committed in future budgets;	<p>There is no expiration on the City’s Financial Commitments made in Brownfields Financial Incentives Programs, whereas Financial Commitments made in other incentive Programs have an expiration date. For example, the Façade Improvement Loan, Upgrade to Building Code Loan, and the Core Area Safety Audit Grant have an expiration of one year from when the Commitment Letter is sent. This program change is intended to help reduce vacancies and bring brownfield properties into productive use faster. Further, this program change is expected to have little financial impact to the Multi-Year Budget, other than possibly making funds available to other Financial Incentive Programs.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Reduction to No impact (No change in City Funding)</p>

**Table 6: Increase Financial Incentive Program’s Scope (Appendix “A”: Table 6)**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
16.	that the Core Area Community Improvement Plan BE AMENDED to make available to properties facing Dundas Street in the Midtown Area, the Façade Improvement Loan, Upgrade to Building Code Loan, and the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Programs;	<p>Input received during public consultation inquired about Midtown being eligible for these Financial Incentive Programs that are already available in the Downtown and Old East Village CIPs. Administration determined that doing so would encompass 36 additional eligible properties along Dundas Street in Midtown which is expected to have a negligible impact in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget. Further, Midtown is already within the Core Area CIP Project Area boundary and is eligible for other Core Area grants (Core Area Safety Audit Grant, Core Area Sign Grant, and the Core Area Boulevard Café Grant Programs).</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding) to low (increase in City Funding)</p>
17.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of funding the Upgrade to Building Code Loan, the Façade Improvement Loan, and the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Programs approved in 2021 for the Argyle Core Area CIP, including consideration of a forgivable loan component for properties facing Dundas Street between Clarke Road and Hale Street;	<p>When the Upgrade to Building Code Loan, the Façade Improvement Loan, and the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Programs were approved in late 2021, Council referred their funding to the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget. Input received from Argyle community representatives during public consultation for this 5-Year Review indicated that eligible applicants are more likely to undertake community improvement investments when financial incentive programs offer forgivable loans rather than fully repayable loans. Input from consultation also indicated that if forgivable loans were made available in the Argyle Core Area CIP Programs, the eligible area should be defined to the 181 properties facing Dundas Street between Clark Road and Hale Street.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Low impact (Increase in City Funding)</p>
18.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of amending the Upgrade to Building Code Loan Program offered in the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Project Plans to increase the amount of the forgivable portion from 12.5% to 50% for residential units created in building levels above the ground floor and from 12.5% to 75% for commercial units created in building levels above the ground floor;	<p>Through research being undertaken for the Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy, the proposed changes to the forgivable loan amount would be a potential means of increasing the interest of eligible applicants in improving the condition of Core Area vacant buildings to be made suitable for occupancy. Approximately, 591 properties in these CIP Areas are eligible for the Upgrade to Building Code Loan.</p> <p>This recommended program amendment feasibility investigation would be undertaken for consideration in in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, including a recommended annual cap for funding the program.</p>

		<b>Financial Impact:</b> Medium impact (Increase in City Funding)																																				
19.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to review the feasibility of including a Safety Audit Grant Program in the Hamilton Road Area and Argyle Core Area Community Improvement Plans;	<p>Input received during public consultation requested that a Safety Audit Grant Program, modeled after the Core Area Safety Audit Grant Program, be also made available in the Hamilton Road Area and the Argyle Core Area Community Improvement Plans. Both CIPs list improving safety as an Area for Improvement. Further, Action Item 2.5 in the Argyle Core Area CIP directs the undertaking of a Safety Audit to identify specific safety concerns in the Argyle Core Area CIP Project Area. In addition, at the time of writing this Report, funds remain available in the existing Core Area Safety Audit Grant budget that could be redirected to other areas.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Low to Medium impact (Increase in City Funding)</p>																																				
20.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to Municipal Council with recommendations for eligible property security improvements under the Core Area Safety Audit Grant Program to supplement recommended improvements from safety audits which also consider community visual impact;	<p>From the public consultation received, the eligible improvements under the Core Area Safety Audit Grant Program (gates and security cameras) could give a negative impression of a community. The goal of a CIP is in part to rehabilitate and beautify a community. Financial Incentives used to improve property security in a community in ways that may detract from its visual appeal work at cross-purposes.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Low to medium (Increase in City Funding)</p>																																				
21.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of amending the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Program offered in the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Plans to increase the grant value for Level 2 properties to promote occupancy in above ground floors;	<p>Through research being undertaken for the Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy, the proposed grant increase would be a potential means of increasing the interest of eligible applicants in improving the condition of Core Area vacant properties to be made suitable for occupancy. This amendment is intended to help reduce vacancies in existing buildings (which is what Level 2 targets). The Tax Grant Rebate currently starts at a 70% rebate in year 1 and scales down to 10% at year 10.</p> <p>Example of a potential revision: Based on a post-construction Tax increment of \$35,111.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Existing %</th> <th>Revised %</th> <th>Existing Grant</th> <th>Revised Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>70%</td> <td>90%</td> <td>24,578</td> <td>31,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70%</td> <td>90%</td> <td>24,578</td> <td>31,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60%</td> <td>90%</td> <td>21,067</td> <td>31,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50%</td> <td>80%</td> <td>17,556</td> <td>28,089</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40%</td> <td>70%</td> <td>14,044</td> <td>24,578</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30%</td> <td>60%</td> <td>10,533</td> <td>21,067</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>7,022</td> <td>17,556</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>3,511</td> <td>14,044</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Existing %	Revised %	Existing Grant	Revised Grant	70%	90%	24,578	31,600	70%	90%	24,578	31,600	60%	90%	21,067	31,600	50%	80%	17,556	28,089	40%	70%	14,044	24,578	30%	60%	10,533	21,067	20%	50%	7,022	17,556	10%	40%	3,511	14,044
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20%	50%	7,022	17,556																																			
10%	40%	3,511	14,044																																			

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>10%</td> <td>30%</td> <td>3,511</td> <td>10,533</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>3,511</td> <td>7,022</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>129,911</b></td> <td><b>217,688</b></td> </tr> </table>	10%	30%	3,511	10,533	10%	20%	3,511	7,022	<b>Total</b>		<b>129,911</b>	<b>217,688</b>
10%	30%	3,511	10,533											
10%	20%	3,511	7,022											
<b>Total</b>		<b>129,911</b>	<b>217,688</b>											
		<p>There are approximately 673 properties in the Downtown, OEV, and SoHo Area CIPs that are eligible for the Tax Grant Program.</p> <p>This recommended program amendment feasibility investigation would be undertaken for consideration in in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, including a recommended annual cap for funding the program.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Medium (Increase in City Funding)</p>												
22.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate improving the functionality of the existing Additional Residential Unit Loan Program to encourage the construction of Additional Residential Units in alignment with the multi-year budget process;	<p>On February 15, 2023, Council made a pledge to accelerate the housing supply of 47,000 units in our community by 2031 and on April 4th, 2023, Council resolved that “there is an untenable emergency in our city related to housing and homelessness”. The objective of this initiative would be to encourage the construction of Additional Residential Units to provide lower cost housing for Londoners. An annual funding cap for this program will also be recommended.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> High, may be eligible for senior level government funding (Increase in City funding)</p>												

**Table 7: Create a New Financial Incentive Program (Appendix A: Table 7)**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
23.	that the Heritage Community Improvement Plan BE AMENDED to add a new Heritage Grant Program to incentivize the rehabilitation of Heritage properties up to \$5,000 capped at 50% of completed eligible improvements;	<p>The current Tax Grant and Development Charges Grant Programs under the Heritage CIP are intended to encourage the rehabilitation of Part IV Heritage Designated Properties in larger property redevelopments by offsetting the financial burden of increased property taxes and Development Charges that form part of rehabilitation costs.</p> <p>A gap analysis of this CIP completed by Administration highlighted the lack of a grant program to target smaller Part IV Heritage Designated properties. A grant of up to \$5,000, capped at 50%, for completed eligible improvements may help offset the cost of smaller scale improvements that require a Heritage Alteration Permit. The annual cost of the program is estimated at \$130,000 based on Heritage Alteration Permit data collected.</p> <p>Legislation has changed significantly since the adoption of the CIP – particularly the introduction of Bill 23 that requires properties on a municipal registry to be removed if no notice of intention to designate has been issued by January 1, 2025.</p> <p>Civic Administration would introduce an annual funding cap for the proposed Program no higher than the estimated annual program cost to ensure the Program cost remains within the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget for CIP Financial Incentives.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Medium (Increase in City Funding)</p>

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
24.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of adding energy upgrades and climate change adaptation measures into London’s Community Improvement Plans;	<p>Input received during public consultation suggested the addition of climate change objectives into the CIPs and making Financial Incentives Programs available for environmentally friendly retrofit projects. Currently, improvements for green building measures for sustainable developments, such as living walls and green roofs, are eligible under the Upgrade to Building Code Loan Program.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency Action Plan Area of Focus 3 – Transforming buildings and development workplan listed reviewing the options for energy upgrades and climate adaptation measures for building upgrades using the Community Improvement Plan Program as a key action item.</p> <p>An annual funding cap for this program will also be recommended.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Medium to high impact (Increase in City Funding)</p>
25.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to review the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan and report back to Municipal Council on how to improve the Plan to incentivize affordable housing developments;	<p>Three applications have been received under the two Financial Incentive Programs introduced the 2020 Affordable Housing CIP. Development Charges and Property Tax Rebate Grant incentives are available to Not-for-Profit housing providers. In addition, recent legislative changes introduced through Bill 23 changed the DC requirements for some affordable housing providers, making the structure of the existing CIP loan programs less attractive and effective.</p> <p>The intent of the Affordable Housing CIP is to incentivize the development of affordable housing in support of the plan set out in the Roadmap to 3,000 Affordable Units Report, and in subsequent commitments and reports. The Affordable Housing Development Loan Program may not provide sufficient incentive to encourage the development of affordable units.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No to Low impact (No change in City Funding to Increase in City Funding). Existing funding was previously approved for the Affordable Housing CIP that remains available for financial incentives during the upcoming Multi-Year Budget.</p>

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
26.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to prepare new Community Improvement Plans and programs to support low-cost housing within primary transit areas;	<p>The London Plan states that the highest level of transit service will be provided within the Primary Transit Area. This initiative would support construction of additional units within a defined radius of the London Plan’s Rapid Transit Corridors and Transit Villages. Because the rapid transit network will connect Transit Villages and major activity generators, including many of our educational and health care institutions, with the Downtown, low-cost housing will be linked to many community destinations and services.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No to Low impact (No change in City Funding to Increase in City Funding). Existing funding was previously approved for the Affordable Housing CIP that remains available for financial incentives during the upcoming Multi-Year Budget.</p>
27.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of introducing a new grant program in the Downtown, Old East Village, SoHo, Argyle Core Area, Lambeth, and Hamilton Road Area Community Improvement Plans for funding 100% of eligible interior and exterior building improvements undertaken by business tenants, up to a maximum of \$5,000;	<p>Input received during public consultation noted that the current Financial Incentive Programs only fund improvements initiated by property owners. Likewise, it was observed that many business tenants would like to improve the appearance of the buildings they occupy even when the property owners will not invest in renovations.</p> <p>Council in 2021-2022 initiated and approved funding for the Recovery Grant Program proposed by the London Community Recovery Network. That Program was available to tenants and was very successful (100% of funds made available in 2021-2022 were spent on building improvements). This proposed grant program could be an extension or adaptation of the Recovery Grant Program to help fund interior/exterior improvements, broken windows, and signs that support continued business occupancy.</p> <p>This recommended new program feasibility investigation would be undertaken for consideration in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, including a recommended annual cap for funding the program.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> Medium (Increase in City Funding)</p>

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
28.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of a new community improvement financial incentive program to support conversion of vacant commercial buildings with a low potential for continued commercial use to residential units in alignment with the multi-year budget process;	<p data-bbox="776 231 1403 634">On February 15, 2023, Council made a pledge to accelerate the housing supply of 47,000 units in our community by 2031 and on April 4th, 2023, Council resolved that “there is an untenable emergency in our city related to housing and homelessness”. The objective of this initiative would be to accelerate the conversion of vacant commercial buildings with a low potential for continued commercial use to residential apartment units.</p> <p data-bbox="776 728 1386 835"><b>Financial Impact:</b> Medium to high, may be eligible for senior level government funding (Increase in City funding)</p>
29.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to investigate the feasibility of introducing a new community improvement financial incentive program to support attainable housing within primary transit areas in alignment with the multi-year budget process;	<p data-bbox="776 862 1403 1231">On February 15, 2023, Council made a pledge to accelerate the housing supply of 47,000 units in our community by 2031 and on April 4th, 2023, Council resolved that “there is an untenable emergency in our city related to housing and homelessness”. The objective of this initiative would be to accelerate the construction of attainable housing in areas with access to primary transit routes.</p> <p data-bbox="776 1325 1386 1432"><b>Financial Impact:</b> Medium to high, may be eligible for senior level government funding (Increase in City funding)</p>
30.	that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to review the Core Area Community Improvement Plan to consider amendments addressing property acquisition options and financial incentive programs aimed at identifying and encouraging commercial occupancy options identified through the Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy.	<p data-bbox="776 1459 1419 1714">Through research being undertaken for the Core Area Land and Building Vacancy Reduction Strategy, it has been identified that property acquisition to advance strategic directions and new incentive programs aimed at cultivating commercial occupancy demand should be explored.</p> <p data-bbox="776 1809 1354 1889"><b>Financial Impact:</b> High (Increase in City Funding)</p>

**Table 8: Suspend a Current FIP (Appendix “A”: Table 8)**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
31.	<p>The funding for the Property Tax Assistance Grant Program in the London Community Improvement Plan for Brownfield Incentives BE SUSPENDED in the next Multi-Year Budget pending review of the impact of 2023 changes made to the Provincial Brownfield Financial Tax Incentive Program.</p>	<p>Administration has received only one application for the Property Tax Assistance Grant Program since 2006. The Program terms are cumbersome for applicants, offering modest grant funding, and requiring Ministry approval to offset Provincial education property taxes.</p> <p>The Province of Ontario has made recent changes to its Brownfield Financial Tax Incentive Program (BFTIP) that might alleviate some of Civic Administration’s past concerns with the Property Tax Assistance Program and the related cancellation of the matching education property taxes; however, suspending the Program pending further analysis is recommended. Suspending the Property Tax Assistance Program is expected to have a negligible impact in the next four years on the uptake of Brownfield CIP applications.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)</p>
32.	<p>that funding for the Wharncliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan Program in the Lambeth Area Community Improvement Plan BE SUSPENDED in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, it being noted that this program will continue to be approved as part of the Lambeth Area Community Improvement Plan;</p>	<p>Administration received no applications under this loan program since the adoption of the Lambeth Area CIP in 2019. Normally signs are a tenant’s expense, who are normally not eligible for City loans unless the landlord / property owner agrees to take on responsibility for the loan. Suspending funding for the Wharncliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan Program would allow for reallocation of funding to more frequently used Programs.</p> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b> No impact (No change in City Funding)</p>

## Appendix "B" Proposed Changes Not Recommended

	Potential Change	Rationale for not Recommending
1.	Increasing the forgivable portion offered in the Façade Improvement Loan Program	It was determined that this potential change would have less of an impact compared to increasing the forgivable component of the Upgrade to Building Code Loan. The Upgrade to Building Code Loan Program has the potential to increase the usable Gross Floor Area of a building whereas the Façade Improvement Loan would not. Therefore, it was found that there is greater return on investment on focusing budget funds on improving the interior of buildings than the façade.
2.	Introducing a new Financial Incentive program for a one-time 50% grant up to \$20,000 for property owners to renovate the building interiors	Input received in public consultation suggested a new program for a 50% grant up to \$20,000 to renovate building interiors. Recommendation #19 is a stronger incentive to address the improvement objective of more building rehabilitations to encourage greater occupancy in the Core Area.
3.	Dissolving the Lambeth CIP Project Area	Although there have been no applications received through the Façade Improvement Loan or the Wharnccliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan Programs offered in the Lambeth CIP, the 3% vacancy target set in the Lambeth CIP has not been met (The most recent 2021 field data showed a 4.1 % vacancy rate). Further, Lambeth uptake of the 2021-2022 Recovery Grant Program indicates interest in Financial Incentive Programs.
4.	Amending the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Program offered in the Downtown and Old East Village Community Improvement Plans to increase the grant value offered for Level 3 properties	The Level 3 Tax Grant targets vacant lands available under the Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant Program of the Old East Village and Downtown CIPs. No evidence received suggested that increasing Tax Grants on vacant lands would further incentivize the development of vacant lots enough to justify improving the grant schedule as with the Level 2 Tax Grant.
5.	Dissolving the Airport Area CIP Project Area	The Airport Area Community Improvement Plan Tax Grant program has received few applications since its adoption in 2007. Civic Administration consulted with the London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and the Airport Authority, that emphasized the importance of the Airport Area CIP for future investment opportunities. Further, the Airport Area CIP's purpose of stimulating community economic development by retaining

		aerospace companies within London is still relevant.
6.	Offering Forgivable Loans in the in the SoHo and Lambeth Community Improvement Plan Project Areas	Forgivable Loans for the Façade Improvement Loan and Upgrade to Building Code Loan Programs are already offered in the Downtown, Old East Village, and Hamilton Road Area CIPs. Given the costs of funding forgivable loans, and budget pressures anticipated in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, expanding the offer of forgivable loans beyond what is current is not recommended.
7.	Expanding the Downtown CIP boundary to include Pall Mall Street, Piccadilly, and Central Street.	Expanding the Downtown CIP boundary would require an assessment of whether the additional proposed areas conform with community improvement criteria in the London Plan, and an examination of the impact on extending available Financial Incentives Program funding to a wider downtown area. Given budget pressures anticipated in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, the staff/resources needed to pursue this expansion are better prioritized within existing boundaries of existing CIPs.
8.	Expanding the boundaries of the Core Area CIP to expand the southern boundary along the CN railroad tracks, the western boundary to the Thames River and the eastern boundary to Egerton Street.	Expanding the Core Area CIP boundary would require an assessment of whether the additional proposed areas in Old East, Midtown, and Downtown conform with community improvement criteria in the London Plan, and an examination of the impact on extending available funding to a wider Core Area territory. Given budget pressures anticipated in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, the staff/resources needed to pursue this expansion are better prioritized within existing boundaries of existing CIPs. There are recommended changes to CIP boundaries and Financial Incentive Programs made in this report that are intended to address requests for improvements within the existing Core Area CIP boundaries.

## Appendix “C” Summary of the Grant and Loan Programs

### The Grants:

**Airport Tax Grant:** Through this program, the City provides a ten-year tax grant for eligible properties. The grant is based on the increase in municipal taxes resulting from the development of the property for aerospace related uses.

**Brownfields Contamination Assessment Study Grant:** This program provides a grant for 50 percent of the cost to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, Remedial Action Plan and/or Risk Assessment in accordance with the requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act*. The maximum grant provided is \$10,000 per property, subject to available funding.

**Brownfields Property Tax Assistance Grant:** This program provides for the cancellation of 25 percent of the municipal property taxes for up to three years during which rehabilitation and development activity is taking place. The property would also be eligible to receive matching education tax assistance from the Province, subject to available funding and approval by the Minister of Finance.

**Brownfields Development Charge Rebate:** This program provides a grant for up to 50 percent of the normal development charges to cover eligible remediation costs. This rebate is intended to reduce the “up-front” development costs and encourage investment by landowners.

**Brownfields Tax Increment Equivalent Grant:** This program provides a grant equal to the increase between the pre-development and post-development municipal property tax after rehabilitation and development has taken place. The grant can be provided for a maximum of three years from the date of the increase in assessed value.

**Heritage Development Charge Equivalent Grant:** This program provides a grant in the amount of the development charges rate that would have applied to the heritage building, had it been built today, when that structure is rehabilitated or incorporated into a development project. The intent is for the owner to preserve the heritage features and/or historic context of the designated building.

**Heritage Tax Increment Grant:** This program provides a grant equivalent to the increase in the municipal portion of the property tax following from a reassessment resulting from a development or rehabilitation project related to an intensification or a change of use that rehabilitates an associated designated heritage property. The development or rehabilitation project, however, must not compromise the reasons for designation of a heritage structure.

**Industrial Corridor Enhancement Grant:** This program provides a grant to enhance the public realm of industrial lands directly abutting the Highway 401/402 Investment Corridor. This program provides a grant equal to 50% of the cost of eligible landscaping, fencing, berming, screening, and public art on industrial properties that sufficiently improves the aesthetics of industrial sites, and/or provides effective screening of outside storage areas. The maximum grant per property is \$20,000.

**Industrial Development Charges Grant:** This program provides a grant for Targeted and Non-Targeted industrial uses to reduce the amount of Development Charges (DC) paid by the applicant. The program offers a 100% DC grant for Targeted industrial uses. For Non-Targeted industrial uses, a grant equivalent to 50% of the DCs to be paid, up to a maximum grant of \$250,000, with the remainder of the DCs to be fully paid by the applicant is available.

DCs that are owed for a non-targeted industrial use, will be required to be paid at building permit issuance. For speculative or shell buildings, when a non-targeted industrial use occupies the building or a unit in the building, DCs will be paid when the building permit is issued at the tenant finish stage.

Targeted Industrial Uses are: Advanced Manufacturing (Renewable and Clean Technology, Automotive, Agri-Food/Food Processing, and Defense and Aerospace), Life and Health Sciences, Information Technology and Digital Media, and Research and Development.

**Rehabilitation & Redevelopment Tax Grant:** This program rebates a portion of the municipal tax increase that results from the rehabilitation of an existing building or construction of a new building. A percentage of this tax increment is rebated back to the property owner each year, for ten years.

**Residential development charges Incentive Grant:** This program provides a grant equal to a rebate of Development Charges (DCs) for residential units constructed. DCs are required to be paid “up-front” at the time the building permit is issued. The program grants back a portion of the residential DCs paid by the applicant over an approximately 10-year schedule until 100% of the residential DCs have been repaid to the applicant. The program is aimed at encouraging private sector investment in residential development in the Downtown and Old East Village.

#### **The Loans:**

**Affordable Housing Development Loan Program:** This program provides a loan per affordable rental unit created. A minimum of five affordable rental units must be created. The amount of the loan depends on the level of affordability being provided compared to Average Market Rent (AMR), the location of the project, and whether the developer pays property taxes.

**Additional Residential Unit Loan Program:** This program provides a loan of up to \$20,000 for the creation of an additional residential unit (ARU) within an existing residential building or on the same property (for example, above a detached garage or in a coach house). To be eligible for this loan, the main dwelling on the property must be owner-occupied and a valid Residential Rental Unit License (RRUL) must be maintained and renewed annually with the City.

**Façade Improvement Loan:** This program provides a loan for building façade improvements. The loan can be up to a maximum of \$50,000 or half the value of work, whichever is less. Loans are paid back at 0% interest over a 10-year period. In certain areas of Downtown, Old East Village, and Hamilton Road, a portion of the loan may be forgivable.

**Upgrade to Building Code Loan:** This program provides loans to property owners who improve their buildings for items that relate to Ontario Building Code requirements. Loans are up to \$200,000 or half the value of work, whichever is less. Loans are paid back at 0% interest over a 10-year period. In certain areas of Downtown, Old East Village, and Hamilton Road Area a portion of the loan may be forgivable.

**Wharncliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan:** This program provides loans for business owners to improve their signage and bring their properties into conformity with the Property Standards By-law, Sign By-law, and applicable City Design Guidelines. The City may provide no-interest loans that are paid back to the City over a 10-year period. A maximum of \$5,000 per eligible property for up to 50% of eligible works can be provided.

**Appendix “C” Table 1: Financial Incentives available under each CIP**

(\* denotes recent CIPs that were not available in the last 5-year review)

<b>CIPs</b>	<b>Financial Incentive Programs Offered</b>			
<b>Airport Area</b>	Tax Increment Grant			
<b>Brownfield</b>	Contamination Assessment Study Grant	Tax Increment Equivalent Grant	Development Charge Rebate	Property Tax Assistance Program
<b>Downtown</b>	Façade Improvement	Upgrade to Building Code	Tax Grant Program	Residential DC Grant
<b>Heritage</b>	Tax Increment Grant		Development Charge Equivalent Grant	
<b>Industrial</b>	Industrial Corridor Enhancement Grant		Development Charge Grant	
<b>Old East Village</b>	Façade Improvement	Upgrade to Building Code	Residential DC Grant	Tax Grant Program
<b>SoHo</b>	Façade Improvement	Tax Grant Program	Upgrade to Building Code	
<b>Lambeth*</b>	Façade Improvement		Wharncliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan	
<b>Hamilton* Road</b>	Façade Improvement		Upgrade to Building Code	
<b>Core Area*</b>	Core Area Safety Audit	Core Area Boulevard Café Grant	Core Area Sign Grant	
<b>Affordable* Housing</b>	Affordable Housing Development Loan		Additional Residential Unit Loan	
<b>Argyle Core* Area</b>	Façade Improvement	Upgrade to Building Code	Tax Grant Program	

## Appendix “D” Community Consultation and Engagement

A GetInvolved London webpage for this project was published on August 8, 2022, and has remained live at the time of writing this report. There was a total of 621 visitors to the webpage and supporting documents were downloaded 69 times.

The Get Involved page included three (3) quick poll questions. Below are the questions and the results received.

1. How Important do you feel Financial Incentives are for Community Improvement?

There was one response received that answered that they thought Financial Incentives were ‘very important’ for Community Improvement.

2. If eligible, how likely are you to apply for a Grant or Loan in the next 5 years?

There was no response received for this question.

3. Were you aware that the City of London offers Financial Incentive Programs?

There were three responses received: two responded ‘yes’ and one responded ‘no’.

Further, the GetInvolved webpage had an opportunity for webpage viewers to ask questions regarding the project. One response on the GetInvolved webpage was received and answered by Civic Administration. In addition, there is a survey on the GetInvolved webpage that has not been filled out at the time of writing.

**Facebook Ads:** Facebook ads were published on the City of London Facebook page between September 7, 2022, through September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

Below are the Facebook ads that were published:

### Affordable housing

Housing affordability is on top of mind of many Londoners. Did you know that there is an Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan (CIP) to encourage the development of affordable homes? Through the CIP, there are two loan Programs available. The City is undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentive Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

### Heritage

Did you know that the City has a Heritage Community Improvement Plan (CIP)? Through the CIP, the City offers grants to help retain London’s beautiful heritage properties. The City is undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentives Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

### Industrial and Brownfields

Did you know that the City has Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) for Industrial Lands and Brownfields? Through the CIP, the City offers grants to encourage the development of Industrial Lands and to rehabilitate Brownfield sites. The City is undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentive Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

### Area Specific:

#### Argyle

Did you know that there is a new Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Argyle area? Through the CIP, the City can offer loans and grants to businesses to help revitalize Dundas Street. The City is undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentives Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

#### Downtown and Old East Village, Core Area

There are Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) for Core Area, Old East Village, and Downtown. Through these CIPs, the City offers loans and grants to help revitalize the mainstreets of these communities. The City is currently undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentives Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

#### SoHo

Did you know that there is a SoHo Community Improvement Plan (CIP)? Through the CIP, the City offers loans and grants to businesses to help revitalize Wellington Street. The City is undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentives Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

#### Lambeth

Did you know that there is a Lambeth Community Improvement Plan? Through the CIP, the City can offer loans to businesses to help revitalize the main streets. The City is undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentives Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

#### Hamilton Road

Did you know there is a Hamilton Road Community Improvement Plan? Through the CIP, the City can offer loans to businesses to help revitalize Hamilton Road. The City is undergoing a 5-Year review of all CIPs and Financial Incentives Programs. Check out [www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives](http://www.getinvolved.london.ca/cip-financial-incentives) to learn more!

### **Community Consultation Meetings**

Using the questions listed in Section 1.4 of this report, which have guided the review of the CIPs and Financial Incentive Programs, feedback was received at three meetings.

A virtual Public Meeting was held on September 22, 2022, between 6 and 7 PM. Several matters were raised and are documented in **Appendix “D”: Table 1** below.

Representatives of London’s Business Improvement Associations met on November 3, 2022. Their concerns and questions are likewise documented in **Appendix “D”: Table 1** below.

A presentation of the 5-Year Review Community Improvement Plans and Financial Incentives project was given during an Urban League meeting held on November 24, 2022. No comments were received from the Urban League.

**Appendix “D”: Table 1: What We Heard**

	Question/Comment	Where it Came From	Date	Staff Analysis	Action
1	Are there other options available for the Core Area Safety Audit grant, such as shatter proof film for windows, indoor cameras that face outdoors, and automatic locking mechanism triggered by a button?	GetInvolved.London Webpage	September 24, 2022	Civic Administration will examine the program guidelines for the Core Area Safety Audit Grant to include more esthetically pleasing options in the program eligibility.	Review of the program guidelines of the Core Area Safety Audit Grant. Possible recommendation to change the guidelines to ensure safety options are more attractive to the community.
2	Combine the OEV and Downtown CIP’s (along with their goals, vision, and objectives,) and place them into the Core Area Community Improvement plan. That way the entire Core Area will be able to access all the tools and Programs such as the “Façade Improvement Loan” that is necessary to achieve the above goals and objectives. Failing this, then it would be beneficial for there to be a separate CIP created, for the Midtown Neighbourhood.	Email	October 18, 2022	Civic Administration will examine the possibility of including the Façade Improvement Loan in the Midtown area.	Possible recommendation that Council Direct Civic Administration to examine the feasibility of combining the Downtown, Core Area, and OEV Area CIPs.
3	Would like to see that the boundaries of the Core Area CIP, be redrawn. So that the Core Area CIP, southern boundary is along the CN railroad tracks. From the Thames River in the West to Egerton Street in the East.	Public Meeting	September 22, 2022	Civic Administration is reviewing the boundaries of all our Area CIPs as part of the 5-Year Review.	Possible recommendation to amend the boundaries of the Core Area CIP.
4	Can we expand the Downtown CIP boundary to Pall Mall, Piccadilly, Central Street? As they have asked about financial incentives and could not get	Public Meeting	September 22, 2022	Civic Administration is reviewing the boundaries of all our Area CIPs as part of the 5-Year Review.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration to consider the expansion of the Downtown Area CIP boundary to include Pall Mall, Piccadilly, and Central Street.

	Question/Comment	Where it Came From	Date	Staff Analysis	Action
	them because they are outside the boundary.				
5	Are Residential DCs still required? No one is going to build a building that isn't going to rent or sell, currently you will fill the building anyways even without the grant, the grant is helpful for the profit of the building, 30 years I would understand it to rehabilitate it, are the Residential DC grants still necessary when industrial leaders are saying that the demand will continue as its been and are these DC grants.	Public Meeting	September 22, 2022	The Downtown and OEV CIPs were amended in 2021 to include a target population for when Residential DC Grants will be scaled back. At the time of writing, the populations in Downtown and OEV did not trigger a scale back of Residential DC Grants.	No action required.
6	For the Tax Grant, it would be helpful to be able to apply after starting construction because it is challenging to apply retroactively and we don't always catch everyone, why is it not always caught when someone comes in with plans maybe we should fix the process first before allowing those to apply after the fact. Is there a change of the property taxes just because of inflation?	Public Meeting	September 22, 2022	It would be preferable if applicants are reminded of the available Tax Grants prior to starting the building permit process. Applicants can apply retroactively to the Tax Grant program, but that would require approval from Council.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to prepare a communication strategy to build more awareness of the available Financial Incentives Programs.
7	Affordable housing loans – when secondary dwelling units were required in the London plan and there was hope that would lead to more secondary suits to add to affordable housing, which part of affordable housing part are we talking (shelter beds to affordable single-family	Public Meeting	September 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2022	Currently, the Affordable Housing Community Improvement Loans do not consider the type of Affordable dwellings, only the how many units are created and how affordable they are	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to amend the Affordable Housing Loans to better align with the market needs for affordable dwellings.

	Question/Comment	Where it Came From	Date	Staff Analysis	Action
	housing) what is affordable housing is it just the percentage of market rents? Will social housing be part of it? we need to be clear about what part of the affordable housing loans are addressing in the affordable housing continuum.			compared to market rate rentals.	
8	Are you reviewing the metrics and targets in the Area CIPs	Public Meeting	September 22, 2022	Yes, Civic Administration is reviewing the metrics and targets of the CIPs to ensure they are still accurate and properly examining the effectiveness of the Programs.	No action required.
9	Will there be a climate lens be put on the goals of the CIPs? More funding for green solutions.	Public Meeting	September 22, 2022	Eco-friendly retrofits are eligible under the Upgrade to Building Code Loan.	Possible amendment that Civic Administration be directed to examine other ways to incorporate more green solutions into the CIPs and Financial Incentive Programs.
10	Does the city step in a buy these properties if you are not getting cooperation? Could make things much faster.	Public Meeting	September 22, 2022	The City typically does not purchase properties if the owners are not cooperating.	No action required.
11	Could we have a District Focused CIP that would be focused on arts and culture?	BIA Meeting	November 1, 2022	Perhaps that could be better suited to be addressed in the Core Area Action Plan instead of a CIP.	No action required.
12	A Sign Grant beyond the Core Area Sign Grant would be helpful to businesses.	BIA Meeting	November 1, 2022	Improvements that add Signs affixed to the façade is	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to add more grants for Façade Improvement.

	Question/Comment	Where it Came From	Date	Staff Analysis	Action
				eligible under the Façade Improvement Loan program.	
13	With Financial Incentives, you need to focus on the awareness piece (i.e., marketing of the Programs) CAUR needs to work with Building Department to ensure applicants are aware of the Programs early on.	BIA Meeting	November 1, 2022	Civic Administration has heard that there may not be enough awareness of the Financial Incentive Programs.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to prepare a communication strategy to build more awareness of the available Financial Incentives Programs.
15	Consider expanding forgivable loans	BIA Meeting	November 1, 2022	Boundary reviews and amendments to the percentage of forgivable loans property owners are eligible for is part of the 5-Year review.	Possible recommendation to increase in the percentage of the forgivable portion of the Upgrade to Building Code Loan.
16	Consider that property taxes in Downtown generate more income to the City than other parts of the City of London	BIA Meeting	November 1, 2022	Civic Administration understands that some areas of the City have higher property taxes rate than others.	No action required.
17	Façade Improvement Loan and Upgrade to Building Code Loan applications are too confusing for applicants and BIAs don't get compensation for championing CIPs and Financial Incentives Recommendation, that City Staff handle all applications and are responsible for marketing the Financial Incentive Programs	BIA Meeting	November 2, 2022	Civic Administration is currently processing all Façade Improvement and Upgrade to Building Code Loan applications.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to prepare a communication strategy to build more awareness of the available Financial Incentives Programs.

	Question/Comment	Where it Came From	Date	Staff Analysis	Action
18	0% interest on a loan is not incentivizing enough for small businesses; grants are preferable	BIA Meeting	November 2, 2022	Civic Administration is examining ways to better incentivize private sector investment.	Possible increase to forgivable portion of loan repayments or offering grants.
19	Could the Argyle area get the Core Area Grants, such as the safety audit grant?	BIA Meeting	November 2, 2022	The Core Area Safety Audit Grant is only available in the CIP. However, Action Item 2.5 states that a Safety Audit to be conducted for the Argyle CIP project area.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration examine the possibility of a Safety Audit Grant for the Argyle CIP in a future Multi-Year Budget.
20	Forgivable Loans for beautification are best for properties facing Dundas Street from Clark Road to the train tracks.	BIA Meeting	November 2, 2022	Civic Administration is reviewing where forgivable loans are most appropriate.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration examine the possibility of including forgivable loans in the Argyle CIP project areas for a future Multi-Year Budgets.
21	Patio Grant is great, except you have to pay up front and could be a hindrance to some small businesses	BIA Meeting	November 2, 2022	The LCRN Patio Grant is not provided through a CIP Financial Incentive Program.	No action required
22	Interior state of buildings is a hindrance to reducing vacancies. Perhaps a forgivable part could be backed up to 50% with a sunset clause that improvements need to be made for 2 years to honor the Commitment. City of Toronto example that grants \$40K for up to 2 years to reduce vacancies.	BIA Meeting	November 3, 2022	Civic Administration is reviewing the Forgivable portion of the Upgrade to Building Code Loan. Commitments for loans are good for a year after issuance.	Possible recommendation that the Forgivable percentage of the Upgrade to Building Code Loan be increased to 50%.
23	Boundaries of the CIP matches the BIA and that remains valid. The CIP shouldn't be expanded to properties outside the BIA	BIA Meeting	November 3, 2022	The BIA boundaries and CIP boundaries are not necessarily correlated.	No action required

	Question/Comment	Where it Came From	Date	Staff Analysis	Action
	as they would get financial incentives without paying levies.			Likewise, an area could have a CIP without a BIA and vice versa.	
24	Affordable Housing is a function of the price of land. We want a spectrum of housing and surrounded around the City (not just certain areas).	BIA Meeting	November 3, 2022	Civic Administration is reviewing the effectiveness of all CIPs, including the Affordable Housing CIP.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to revise the Affordable Housing CIP to better incentive affordable housing.
25	Core Area Safety Audit Grant fine for now, but long-term unappealing, prefer to see it evolve to include more esthetically pleasing methods	BIA Meeting	November 3, 2022	Civic Administration is examining the guidelines of the Core Area Safety Audit Grant.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration revise the Core Area Safety Audit Guidelines to include more esthetically pleasing methods for property safety.
26	Brownfields CIP need to own property, but sometimes the sale of the land is contingent on the results of the ESA. Perhaps an agency letter for landowners to find authority to tenants so they benefit from the loan.	BIA Meeting	November 3, 2022	Civic Administration will examine possible administration changes of the Brownfields CIP grant Programs.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to review the Brownfields CIP and its Financial Incentive program guidelines.
28	DC discounts the most effective with our industry and property tax Programs can also drive investment and development.	LDI Letter	January 4, 2023	Our analysis of the Financial Incentives come up with the same conclusion.	Possible recommendation that the Property Tax Grants and DC Grants in Downtown and Old East Village are continued.
29	Stronger financial Incentives are required for the creation of secondary unit opportunities in new construction.	LDI Letter	January 4, 2023	Civic Administration will consider opportunities for further incentivizing secondary unit developments.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to amend current Financial Incentive Programs to target secondary unit opportunities.
30	Development of a Climate Sustainability CIP could be developed as a driver to encourage environmentally sustainable developments	LDI Letter	January 4, 2023	The Upgrade to Building Code Loan program guidelines includes green	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to incorporate climate sustainability into the Community Improvement Programs.

	Question/Comment	Where it Came From	Date	Staff Analysis	Action
				technologies as eligible upgrades.	
31	The City needs to improve its communications with the public on the role and importance of the CIP Programs for the City of London. The public tends to view CIPs as a “bonus” to developers and not an incentive for redevelopment.	LDI Letter	January 4, 2023	Civic Administration will consider opportunities to increase the public’s awareness of the CIPs and Financial Incentive Programs.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration be directed to prepare a communication strategy to build more awareness of the available Financial Incentives Programs.
32	Regarding the Core Area Safety Audit Grant Program, we are interested in having it included in the Hamilton Road Community Improvement plan review project as draft recommendation.	Email from Hamilton Road BIA	March 16, 2023	Civic Administration will consider expanding the Core Area Safety Audit Grant Program to other CIP areas.	Possible recommendation that Civic Administration investigate the possibility of expanding the Core Area Safety Audit Grant to the Hamilton Road CIP Project Area.

Below are the written comments received during project consultation:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2022 7:08 PM  
**To:** Hall, Jasmine <jahall@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding the CIPs-Financial incentives 5-year Review.

October 18, 2022

Jasmine Hall  
Planner II, Core Area & Urban Regeneration, Economic Services and Supports

Thank you for the presentation. Regarding the Community improvement Plans-Financial incentives 5-year Review. That is on the Get Involved Website. Please accept the Midtown Community Organization response below.

On behalf of Midtown Community Organization,(MCO) and after reading the Core Area Community improvement plan pdf, document, the goals of this plan, is something that this organization would also like to work towards for our Urban Neighbourhood.

The last time CIPs were reviewed was in 2016/2017. The Midtown Neighbourhood, located in the middle of the Core Area was left out of discussions. This resulted in the area only being able to access the Grants/loans that are available in the city-wide CIPs.

Later, and less than five years ago, the CIP, known as the Core Area Community Improvement Plan, was created, and it covers the middle of the Core Area, which was created out of the Core Area Action Plan. However, the three programs within the Core Area CIP are great to have, and work well with the Downtown and OEV CIPs. But for the middle of the Core Area, that do not have their own CIP. Such as Midtown. Then these three programs in the current Core Area CIP, are not enough.

We feel that in order to reach the goals and objectives in the current Core Area CIP pdf document it will need to be amended.

We at Midtown Community Organization (MCO), (given that we are not planners), but if it can be accomplished, then we believe that the easiest way of achieving this is to combine the OEV and Downtown CIP's (along with their goals, vision, and objectives,) and place them into the Core Area Community Improvement plan. That way the entire Core Area will be able to access all the tools and programs such as the "Façade Improvement Loan" that is necessary to achieve the above goals and objectives. Failing this, then it would be beneficial for there to be a separate CIP created, for the Midtown Neighbourhood.

In addition, the phrase, "Offer compassionate care for those who need it" we ask that it be deleted as one of the goals, for that should be expected as part of the objective/goal/vision in all the CIPs.

MCO, would like to see that the boundaries of the Core Area CIP, be redrawn. So that the Core Area CIP, southern boundary is along the CN railroad tracks. From the Thames River in the West to Egerton Street in the East.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]  
Coordinator  
Midtown Community Organization



# LONDON DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

January 4, 2023

Jim Yanchula, MCIP RPP  
Manager, Core Area & Urban Regeneration  
Economic Services & Supports  
City of London

Dear Mr. Yanchula

Please accept the following comments regarding the review of the Community Improvement Programs (CIP) for the City of London.

Currently, the CIP programs are not used often by our LDI members and not the significant driver of development decision making by our members.

In general, the current CIP's involving DC reductions and property tax discounts can be an effective development incentive. The current Brownfield CIP incentives are the most comprehensive and effective in driving redevelopment of the applicable properties.

Going forward, we believe that any CIP program needs to be robust enough to be considered a "driver" of development and not just "incentives" for our industry to be an active partner.

The following points would be key components of any further CIP programs:

1. DC discounts the most effective with our industry
2. Property tax programs can also drive investment and development
3. Stronger financial incentives are required for the creation of secondary unit opportunities in new construction
4. Development of a Climate Sustainability CIP could be developed as a driver to encourage environmentally sustainable developments

Finally, the City needs to improve its communications with the public on the role and importance of the CIP programs for the City of London. The public tend to view CIPs as a "bonus" to developers and not an incentive for redevelopment. The City needs to take a stronger position that CIPs as the name indicates are drivers of development that have "community" benefits.

LDI would be happy to work with the City on any future CIP program development.

Sincerely,



Mike Wallace  
Executive Director

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The number of applications and funds disbursed for Financial Incentives from 2018 to the time of writing this report are available in **Appendix “E” Table 1** which summarizes the grants and loans issued and committed under the Financial Incentive Programs. A list and description of each Financial Incentive program is available in **Appendix “C”** of this report.

## Appendix “E” Financial Incentives Programs Cost Summary

**Table 1: Financial Incentives Applications Issued 2018 to February 2023**

This Table indicates the number of applications and funds disbursed for Financial Incentives from 2018 to the time of writing this report and the grants and loans issued and committed under the Financial Incentive Programs. A list and description of each Financial Incentive program is available in **Appendix “C”** of this report.

Incentive Program	Number of Approved Financial Incentives Applications	Cost (\$) of Approved Financial Incentives by Program		
		Total	Issued	Committed/Estimated
Façade Improvement Loan	31	452,633	161,627	614,260
Upgrade to Building Code Loan	54	3,550,919	760,326	4,311,245
Downtown Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant	47	624,675	14,587,686	15,212,360.79
Old East Village Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Tax Grant	52	3,934,612	1,245,439	5,180,051
Downtown Residential Charges Grant	7	17,495,372	7,702,192	25,197,564
Old East Village Residential Charges Grant	1	0	53,439	53,439
Brownfields CIP Grants (4 Programs)	7	63,151	12,867,389	12,930,540
Heritage Development Charge Equivalent Grant	2	79,177	4,500,000	4,579,177
Recovery Grants	55	226,365	12,635	239,000
Safety Audit Grants	11	32,428	68,052	100,478
Airport Increment Tax Grant	3	669,526	242,104	911,630
Industrial Development Charges Grant	30	33,202,176	0	33,202,176
Industrial Corridor Enhancement Grant	0	0	0	0
Affordable Housing Development Loan	2	0	2,100,000	2,100,000
Wharncliffe Road Corridor Sign Loan	0	0	0	0
Additional Residential Unit Loan	2	0	40,000	40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>\$60,331,034</b>	<b>\$44,340,889</b>	<b>\$104,671,923</b>