



## 2020 to 2023 Business Plan

### Service: Neighbourhood Strategic Initiatives & Funding

**\$0.06**

Cost per day for the average rate payer (2020 to 2023)

**0.68%**

Of the 2020 to 2023 City of London Net Property Tax Supported Budget

#### Who we are:

- Community Development and Funding supports residents of all ages, neighbourhood associations, and not-for-profit organizations working to strengthen our community with funding, tools, resources, and education.
- The City provides opportunities to grow and build communities, and strengthen neighbourhoods through key strategic investments in the health and well-being of our local communities. In addition, strong community partnerships at both the neighbourhood and city-wide level are cultivated, working to build a better city for all.

#### What we do:

- Contributes to the growth and strengthening of communities, neighbourhoods, and the city as a whole, through both financial and non-financial resources.
- Supports residents to build capacity through a variety of tools and resources to improve neighbourhoods through neighbourhood driven activities and decision making
- Supports initiatives such as community gardens that are seen as essential to the health and quality of life of residents and are deemed as important social gathering spaces within neighbourhoods, on par with community centres, cafés and recreational facilities.

## Why we do it:

- **Traditional** – The provision of financial and non-financial support to community groups and associations is a service offered by most of the selected comparator municipalities.

The following table provides an overview of the budget for this service:

Budget Summary (\$000's)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020 to 2023 TOTAL
Gross Operating Expenditures	\$4,845	\$4,882	\$4,894	\$4,901	\$19,522
Other Revenues	-\$269	-\$270	-\$270	-\$270	-\$1,079
<b>Net Tax Levy Supported Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$4,576</b>	<b>\$4,612</b>	<b>\$4,624</b>	<b>\$4,631</b>	<b>\$18,443</b>
Total Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's)	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.9	N/A

Reflects 2020 to 2023 Housekeeping Budget Adjustments up to August 31, 2020.

The following section provides an overview of the key activities the service plans to undertake from 2020 to 2023 to implement the Corporation's 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan, as well as an overview of the risks and challenges the service is anticipated to experience during this period:

## Service Highlights 2020 to 2023

### London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy (LSNS)

- Continue to develop and implement enhanced targeted engagement strategies for London residents to support the Neighbourhood Decision Making Program.
- Continue to support the resident-led implementation of London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy.
- Maintain support to activities with NeighbourGood resources.
- Create opportunities for new neighbourhoods to participate in neighbourhood festivals, cultural events and activities across the city.
- Expand NeighbourGood with new tools that support Neighbourhood activities.
- Continue to implement the Adopt-a-park program.

## Service Highlights 2020 to 2023

### London Community Gardens Program

- Continue to support affordable community garden plot options for low income Londoners.
- Improve accessibility at gardens identified by the community.
- Continue to implement the London Community Gardens Program Strategic Plan.

### London Community Grants Program

- Allocate municipal funding through programs such as the London Community Grants Program and the Neighbourhood Small Events fund to advance priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan for the City of London.
- Update the London Community Grants Program Policy to align with Council's Strategic Areas of Focus.
- Support organizations to apply for the London Community Grants Program and other municipal funding opportunities.

## Risks and Challenges Anticipated in 2020 to 2023

- Traditional community work has emphasized in-person meetings, events, and general engagement (e.g. neighbourhood movie nights, community meetings for London's Child & Youth Network, Age Friendly London Conference); City staff will need to adapt its approach to building community to align with public health guidelines related to COVID-19.
- Through the allocation of municipal grants to not-for-profits, there are cost pressures on grant budget lines through the London Community Grants Program.
  - 2020: The multiyear granting stream received 71 applications with requests totaling \$27.5M (a total of \$9.3M was available), the innovation and capital granting stream received 26 applications with requests totaling \$4.3M (a total of \$496,000 was available).
  - Please note that in April 2019, Municipal Council approved a policy change to address requests greater than the innovation and capital grant stream's annual budget amount. The update includes a new process that will allow projects to be reviewed by a community review panel using the London Community Grants Program process and criteria. Projects recommended by the community review panel will then be referred to the budget process. This may help to alleviate some of the cost pressures within the innovation and capital grant stream.
- Current resources supporting LSNS programs and activities (including Neighbourhood Decision Making, Outdoor Movie Nights, Neighbourhood Equipment Lending, Community Gardens, Neighbourhood Safety Audit, Neighbourhood Small Events Fund) in neighbourhoods across London have reached capacity.

## Risks and Challenges Anticipated in 2020 to 2023

- Currently City staff are targeting engagement strategies to neighbourhoods that haven't participated or neighbourhoods that have minimal participation.
- However, as demand for programs and activities continue to increase, particularly in neighbourhoods in London's growth areas, additional resources are required (such as staffing and equipment).

The service directly supports the following components of the Corporation's 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan:

### Strengthening Our Community

Londoners are engaged and have a sense of belonging in their neighbourhoods and community.

**Expected Result:** Increase the number of meaningful opportunities for residents to be connected in their neighbourhood and community.

**Strategy:**

- Strengthen engagement opportunities for all Londoners to participate in their neighbourhoods. (SOC-20)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>38,400</b> residents that voted in Neighbourhood Decision Making	7,300	7,500	7,700	7,900	8,000
<b>1,375</b> residents who submitted ideas through Neighbourhood Decision Making	235	255	275	295	315
<b>80%</b> of London neighbourhoods supported through community development	72%	74%	76%	78%	80%
<b>95%</b> of neighbourhoods that participate in Neighbourhood Decision Making	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
<b>35</b> active neighbourhood associations	33	34	35	35	35
<b>1,249</b> activities supported within each neighbourhood. *Please see <a href="#">Appendix A</a> for a breakdown by Planning District	221	236	250	264	278

## Strengthening Our Community

Londoners are engaged and have a sense of belonging in their neighbourhoods and community.

**Expected Result:** Increase the number of meaningful opportunities for residents to be connected in their neighbourhood and community.

**Strategy:**

- Support neighbourhood festivals, cultural events, and activities across the city. (SOC-21)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Over 200</b> neighbourhood activities supported annually	221	236	250	264	278
<b>181</b> movie nights hosted in neighbourhoods	35	35	37	37	37
<b>25</b> movie nights hosted in neighbourhoods for the first time	5	5	5	5	5
<b>350</b> neighbourhood events supported	70	70	70	70	70
<b>5</b> new neighbourhood tools	0	2	2	1	0
<b>\$14M</b> invested to support community organizations	\$2,795,543	\$2,795,543	\$2,795,543	\$2,795,543	\$2,795,543
<b>4%</b> increase in neighbourhoods supported	76%	77%	78%	79%	80%

Londoners have access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the City.

**Expected Result:** Increase participation in recreation, sport, and leisure activities.

**Strategy:**

- Remove barriers to access recreation, sport, leisure, and leadership programs and services. (SOC-29)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>43%</b> subsidized community garden plots	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%
<b>25%</b> accessible community garden plots	14%	19%	21%	23%	25%

## Strengthening Our Community

Londoners have access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the City.

**Expected Result:** Increase participation in recreation, sport, and leisure activities.

**Strategy:**

- Increase the number of recreation, sport, and leisure opportunities. (SOC-30)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
12% increase in the number of community garden plots	0%	6%	0%	6%	0%

**Expected Result:** Increase resident use of community gathering spaces.

**Strategy:**

- Invest in community building projects. (SOC-32)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
18 community gardens	16	17	17	18	18

**Expected Result:** Increase neighbourhood safety.

**Strategy:**

- Develop and implement a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. (SOC- 33)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# of Neighbourhood Watches in London	470	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

**Expected Result:** Increase the number of community gathering spaces in neighbourhoods.

**Strategy:**

- Invest in community building projects. (SOC-43)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
18 community gardens	16	17	17	18	18

## Growing Our Economy

London is a leader in Ontario for attracting new jobs and investments.

**Expected Result:** Increase public and private investment in amenities that attract visitors, a talented workforce, and investment.

**Strategy:**

- Increase partnership funding, sponsorships, and donations to recreation services and amenities. (GOE-19)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
132 adopt-a-parks	106	113	120	127	132

## Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls

London has enhanced the potential for women and girls to live safe lives.

**Expected Result:** Decrease male violence against women and girls who are subjected to abuse, assault and non-state torture in their intimate relationships; sex trafficking; sexual assault; and workplace harassment.

**Strategy:**

- Support community- based initiatives and organizations committed to ending male violence against women including but not limited to Anova (UN Safe Cities); Atlosha Family Healing Services; the London Abused Women's Centre/Youth Opportunities Unlimited/Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services (Phoenix and Choices programs); and London Police Services (DV Unit and HT Unit).

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
10 applications submitted that align with Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls	N/A	4	2	2	2
\$147,000 funded annually to support Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls	N/A	\$147,000	\$147,000	\$147,000	\$147,000

## Leading in Public Service

The City of London is trusted, open, and accountable in service of our Community.

**Expected Result** Increase opportunities for residents to be informed and participate in local government.

**Strategy:**

- Develop and deliver a corporate communications strategy, including staff training and tools to enhance communications and public engagement. (LPS-01)

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
38,400 residents vote in the Neighbourhood Decision Making process	7,300	7,500	7,700	7,900	8,000

**Other reference information and links:**

- [London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy: Neighbourhood Decision Making Program CPSC May 28, 2019](#)
- [London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy: Neighbourhood Decision Making Program CPSC June 17, 2019](#)
- [London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy: Neighbourhood Event Equipment Lending Program CPSC August 13, 2019](#)
- [London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy 2017 - 2020](#)
- [London Community Grants Policy Update SPPC April 8, 2019](#)
- [London Community Grants Program Innovation and Capital Funding Allocations \(2019\) SPPC September 17, 2018](#)
- London Community Gardens Strategic Plan – Available by request at [neighbourgood@london.ca](mailto:neighbourgood@london.ca) or 519-661-5336
- London Community Grants Policy – Available by request at [neighbourgood@london.ca](mailto:neighbourgood@london.ca) or 519-661-5336

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