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Town of Aylmer
Mayoral Directive to Staff MDI-2025-02

To direct the Chief Administrative Officer and Town Treasurer on Preparation of the 2026 Budget and Preliminary Works on the 2027 Budget

Under the Authority: Part VI.1 (Special Powers and Duties of Head of Council) of the Municipal Act, 2001, Sections 284.3 & 284.4 (Direction to Employees) the Mayor may direct Staff to:

a) undertake research and provide advice to the head of council and city council on policies and programs of the City or of the head of council as they relate to the powers and duties under this Part; and

b) carry out duties related to the exercise of the power or performance of the duty, including implementing any decisions made by the head of council under this Part; and,

In accordance with O. Reg. 530/22, this directive is issued in writing, provided to the Clerk, and made available to the public.

Purpose

To reaffirm the Town of Aylmer's commitment to responsible budgeting, transparent communication, and the sustainable delivery of community priorities, including the proposed Aylmer Public Library project, and to correct recent misinformation suggesting that the Town intends to adopt double-digit property-tax increases.

Background

Recent online commentary has inaccurately stated that the Town is considering a **10 percent or higher** annual levy impact increase to fund the library project. No such proposal exists. The Town's fiscal approach continues to be guided by **affordability, transparency, and sustainability**, consistent with the 2024–2027 Strategic Plan. Aylmer's continued growth means that while the **total tax levy** may rise as new

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assessment is added, the **impact on existing taxpayers** is expected to remain **moderate and manageable**.

Direction

1. **Fiscal Responsibility**
   Staff will continue to prepare budgets that use taxpayers' dollars wisely while expanding services to keep pace with Aylmer's growth and changing community needs. Annual levy impacts on existing taxpayers are to remain moderate and affordable, generally within the range experienced in recent years[1], except where unavoidable external pressures, such as provincial mandates, inflationary shocks, or emergency infrastructure needs, require temporary adjustment.

2. **Growth and Affordability**
   Budget development shall recognize that community growth increases total levy requirements. Staff shall leverage new assessment growth to offset costs and minimize the impact on existing taxpayers, ensuring that growth helps pay for growth.

3. **Capital Project Affordability**
   When advancing major capital projects, including the library, staff shall ensure proposed funding strategies fit within these affordability principles, utilizing grants, donations, partnerships, and phasing as appropriate to avoid extraordinary tax impacts.

4. **Public Communication**
   The CAO and Communications staff shall continue to prepare and publish plain-language information explaining the Town's approach to budgeting and correcting misinformation regarding levy impacts, using the Town's official communications platform, Aylmer.ca and getinvolved.aylmer.ca.

5. **Reporting and Integration with Budget Process**
   The CAO and Treasurer shall incorporate this directive into the 2026 and 2027 budget development process outlined in Directive MDI-2025-01 ("Preparation of the 2026 Budget and Preliminary Works on the 2027 Budget") and report back periodically on progress.

[1] The 2025 tax rate increase was approximately 3.19%, or a $5.38 a month increase on the average household

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Conclusion

This directive establishes a clear, principle-based fiscal framework:

- **Stable and affordable levy impacts** for residents;
- **Responsible growth management**; and
- **Transparent communication** to maintain public trust.

It supports the Town's strategic objectives and ensures that future budgets and major projects are advanced within a disciplined, sustainable financial plan.

Signed by:

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MAYOR, Jack Couckuyt

Dated: November 5, 2025