



Staff Report

Report Title: 2023 Budget Community Engagement

Prepared By: Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

Department: Treasury

Date: Feb. 17, 2023

Report Number: TR-2023-02-5

File Number: C11

Attachments: Survey Responses Report

Recommendation:

That Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number TR-2023-02-5 prepared by Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer.

Background:

The public was engaged in a brief survey to help guide the development of the annual budget and ensure our programs and services continue to meet the needs of the community.

Discussion:

The number of participants continues to increase and is up 37% over last year. As this was the fourth year for the survey, we can observe some trends from the data collected.

Some highlights that provide useful information for staff and Council to consider during the budget process include:

- The responses indicate a fairly even split between those who agree versus those that disagree that the services received for their tax dollars represent good value.
- The majority of respondents have a good understanding of what their taxes pay for and use the municipal website as a main source of information, followed by local media.
- The majority of respondents want to see service levels maintained across all categories. The highest support for increasing service levels was in

transportation services and the highest support for decreasing service levels was in the category of general government.

- The majority of respondents believe in the importance of saving for future infrastructure needs and own a primary residence in Huron-Kinloss.
- The highest level of participation was from lakeshore residents, age 60 and older. An almost equal number of people want to learn more about the budget process versus not interested in learning more and of those interested, the majority would like to find the information of the municipal website.

I appreciate the efforts of our communications and engagement team to make the survey available and express thanks to all the residents who took the time to share their opinions.

Financial Impacts:

The survey results help staff in the development of the operating and capital budgets.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the municipality's Vision & Mission.

We are a prosperous community that continues to grow in a sustainable manner by retaining and expanding our existing businesses and attracting new ones, diversifying our economy, growing a diversity of tourism opportunities and investing in infrastructure;

We are a vibrant community that values our uniqueness and creativity by creating places where people want to be, celebrating what makes us unique, preserving and protecting our history and heritage and supporting and growing the arts and creativity;

We are a spirited community that takes pride in calling Huron-Kinloss home and welcoming others by engaging in our community;

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having amenities and services nearby and being open and transparent; and

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment by protecting our natural assets, using our resources wisely and being aware and taking responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer