



## Staff Report

**Report Title: 2024 Budget Community Engagement**

**Prepared By: Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer**

**Department: Treasury**

**Date: Feb. 16, 2024**

**Report Number: TR-2024-02-9**

**File Number: C11 TRE 24**

**Attachments: Survey Responses Report**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report TR-2024-02-9 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:**

Survey responses were down slightly (7%) from last year.

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

- The responses continue to represent a fairly even split between those who agree versus those who 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.
- The majority of respondents want to see service levels maintained across all categories. The highest support for increasing service levels was in transportation and the highest support for decreasing levels of service was in the category of economic development and tourism.
- 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. A significant number of people want to learn more about the budget process and of those interested, would use the municipal website to find information, although almost half of those interested also mentioned our newsletter H-K Connects as a method to learn more about the budget.

I appreciate the efforts of our communications and engagement team to make the survey available and express thanks to all 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, vibrant, spirited, accessible and environmentally conscious community.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer