



## Staff Report

**Report Title: 2021 Budget Community Engagement**

**Prepared By: Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer**

**Department: Treasury**

**Date: Feb. 26, 2021**

**Report Number: TR-2021-02-13**

**File Number:**

**F05-BUD21**

**Attachments: Budget 2021 Survey Results**

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### **Recommendation:**

That Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number TR-2021-02-13 prepared by Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer.

### **Background:**

This is the second time that we have engaged the public in a brief survey to help guide the development of the budget and to ensure our programs and services meet the needs of the community.

A new feature was added where the public could participate in a budget simulator, allocating funding within the categories and making decisions about which departments received more or less funding.

### **Discussion:**

The number of engagements this year was lower than last year and the budget simulation tool was not well utilized.

The data collected resulted in similar trends from 2020, stressing the importance of:

- Providing up-to-date information on the municipal website,
- Maintaining existing service levels, and
- Setting aside funds for future infrastructure replacement

There was a shift in the geographic area of the respondents, however it does not appear to have significantly impacted the results. That being said, the sample size is smaller this year so we may be able to make more accurate conclusions with future data.

Overall, the information collected has been helpful in preparation of the 2021 draft budget and staff look forward to continued community engagement on this topic.

I wish to thank all the residents who took the time to complete the budget survey, budget simulator or both.

**Financial Impacts:**

The survey results help staff in the creation of the operating and capital budgets. The budget simulation feature may not be worthwhile given the complexity.

**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;

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

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer