

# Public Engagement

City of Saint John Long Term Financial Plan





About the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)

The Budget Simulator: Public Engagement for the LTFP



## About the Long Term Financial Plan?

- Best Practice in Financial Governance and Policy;
- Long term Targets to reduce the City's Infrastructure Deficit;
- Long term Targets to reduce the City's Long Term Debt;
- Long term Financial Strategies to eliminate the Structural Deficit;
- Long term planning of tax rates;
- Long Term Capital Investment Planning;
- Financial Monitoring.



# Long Term Financial Plan

Initiatives	Target	Deliverables
Public Engagement	Q1/ 2019	<ul> <li>Obtain community feedback respecting expectations and prioritization of service delivery through the Citizen Survey and online web based tool</li> </ul>
10 Year Financial Plan	Q3/ 2019	<ul> <li>Prepare a 10-Year Operating and Capital Plan</li> </ul>
Financial Policies	Q3/ 2019	<ul> <li>Council approved financial policies that will strengthen the governance respecting fiscal responsibility and influence decision making during the budget planning process;</li> </ul>
Financial Health Report Card	Q4/ 2019	<ul> <li>Annual Report Card on Financial Health (Sustainability, Flexibility, Vulnerability)</li> </ul>





#### Budget Simulator – Public Engagement for the LTFP

- Best Practice in Long Term Financial Planning
- Public input on funding priorities to inform long term strategic direction of the City
- Opportunity to Communicate to the Public:
  - On the Value Taxpayers Receive in City Services
  - On the realities of balancing revenues and expenditures
- We are looking for themes, in terms of what value the community places on various services.

One of many inputs into the development of the Long Term Financial Plan!



#### **Best Practice**





**Challenge:** Beginning in 2021, it is expected that the City will face a \$12 million shortfall. The City will undertake, as part of further austerity measures, efforts to reduce this shortfall by \$3 million by the end of 2020, leaving the City with a \$9 million shortfall to address.

- This tool allows users to increase or decrease service area budgets and to see real consequences expressed as changes to service levels.
- We are featuring employees who agreed to be a part of the videos and demonstrate the work they do in the community.



### How can the Public find out more?

- Visit saintjohn.ca, Facebook, and Twitter for updates from the City of Saint John
- Tune in to Common Council March 25 for a presentation and official launch of the Budget Simulator via saintjohn.ca
- Tune in to local media
- Email us: <u>SJBudgetSimulator@saintjohn.ca</u>



## Next Steps / Timeline







# Thank you

