

# Proposed 2014 Financial Plan Timelines and Public Consultation



# Purpose of Report

Seek Council feedback on proposed:

- timeline for the 2014-2018 Financial Plan
- public consultation process

# Community Charter – Financial Plan

Financial Plan lists revenues and expenditures, which ultimately determines the tax requisition and rates.

It must be adopted annually, by bylaw, before the annual property tax bylaw is adopted (by May 15).

It may be amended at any time.

# Public Consultation

Council must undertake a process of public consultation regarding the proposed financial plan before it is adopted.

Council wants expanded public engagement scaled further along the IAP2 continuum (from Inform and Consult to Empower)

# Public Consultation

## **Inform**

To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.

## **Consult**

To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.



# Public Consultation in 2013

## Our Community Profile

- Almost 2/3 of Region's residents work in Victoria
- 42% of all jobs in Region are in Victoria
- Approximately 1,400 businesses in downtown Victoria
- 90% of Victoria businesses have less than 20 employees



2013 Budget Consultations



## Our Community Profile

- Estimated population: 79,000
- Average age is 41.6
- Population represents 22.6% of regional total and occupies 2.8% of regional land base
- Slightly lower growth rate (5.3%) than Capital Region (6%)
- Victoria residents earn 26% less than median CRD income

2006 Census, Stats Canada



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## Our Core City Reality

- Centralized social programs
- Entertainment district
- Special events: festivals/sporting events
- Tourism
- Victoria Conference Centre
- Police
- Grants and property tax exemptions
- Arena
- Theatres
- Capital City
- Limited land



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## External Pressures

- CRD costs: sewage, hospital
- Increasing expectations
- Downloading from other governments
- Regional competition
- Transit
- Esquimalt Police Agreement



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# Public Consultation in 2013

## Proposed budget reduction strategies:

- Limit Mayor and Council salary increases to 0% in 2013
- Change to Council taxable remuneration
- Limit exempt staff salary increases to 0% in 2013
- Limit budget increases for library and police to 2% for 2013, 2014, 2015
- Allocate 1.25% of 2013 tax increase (\$1.3 million) to capital work to maintain City infrastructure
- Partial automation of some parkades during slow periods
- Advertising in parkades, on parking machines etc
- Shift from annuals to perennials in some beds
- Reduce City-led seasonal programming in Centennial Square
- Review the organizational structure to identify efficiencies and savings

## 2013 Operating Budget Highlights:

### Focuses investment in priority areas

- \$8.3 million towards maintaining Victoria's 70 parks and green spaces
- \$60 million in emergency services; fire and police
- \$7.1 million in maintaining 250 km of roads, 30 km of bike lanes and sidewalks
- \$1.1 million in arts and cultural events and programming
- \$250,000 for economic development to grow the local economy
- Introduces webcasting of Council meetings and implementation of customer service improvements across the organization
- 16% of the operating budget is allocated to capital spending and reserves (in 2012 this was \$25 million)



2013 Budget Consultations



# Proposed Public Consultation - 2014

## **Solicit Public Input Online**

April 11 to April 20

## **Public Budget Session (Open House)**

City Hall on April 14 from 4 pm to 8 pm

Provide information on the 2014-2018 Financial Plan



# Proposed Timelines for 2014

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April	7	8	9	<u>GPC:</u> - Proposed 2014-2018 Financial Plan - Proposed 2014 tax rates - Approval of Public Consultation questions To Council: - Financial Plan & Tax Rate Bylaws 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	10 11	12	13
April	Online Public Budget Input Public Budget Session (Open House) 14	Online Public Budget Input 15	Online Public Budget Input 16	Online Public Budget Input 17	Online Public Budget Input 18	Online Public Budget Input 19	Online Public Budget Input 20
April	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
April - May	28	29	30	<u>Special Council:</u> - Report on public feedback - Further consideration of 2014-2018 Financial Plan 1	2	3	4
May	5	6	7	<u>Council:</u> - Financial Plan & Tax Rate Bylaws 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Readings 8	9	10	11
May	<u>Special Council:</u> - Financial Plan & Tax Rate Bylaw adoption 12	13	14	15	16	17	18

# Council input – Online Survey

A common approach is to simply ask the public to submit feedback on the 2014-2018 Financial Plan

Are there questions Council would like to ask?

# 2015 Financial Plan

In 2015 the financial plan will be a document the City can be proud of:

- services provided to the community
- service levels
- details on capital work planned
- forecasted increases to taxes and utilities
- more opportunity for public engagement early in the development of the plan

# Recommendations

## **That Council direct staff to:**

1. Schedule a Budget Open House on April 14 from 4 pm to 8 pm at City Hall.
2. Schedule Special Council meetings on May 1 and May 12.
3. Bring forward a work plan on a revised Financial Plan process, including public participation that incorporates the City's core values for public participation by June 30, 2014.