

MULTI-YEAR BUDGET: 2021 UPDATE

Public Engagement Summary

November 2020

Background

The City of Winnipeg’s multi-year budget provides a plan for the City’s revenue and expenses from 2020-2023. This plan gives the City a blueprint for spending over four years. The multi-year budget process allows for flexibility because each year, the budget has to be approved by City Council.

In 2020, a pandemic created unexpected impacts on the City. City Council will have to make some decisions on how to adjust the budget to accommodate the financial impacts from the pandemic.

Engagement

In order to assist Council in updating the multi-year budget for 2021, the City collected feedback through an online survey of self-selected participants, and through the annual customer satisfaction survey of a representative sample of Winnipeggers. An overview of the annual customer satisfaction survey is available on the [budget webpage](#).

The online survey asked the public to get involved and provide feedback on what they value most and how that may have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – launched on October 9, 2020;
- News release – circulated on October 9, 2020;
- Facebook posts with 29,886 followers - four posts;
- Twitter posts with 99,700 followers - four posts;
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 2,900 recipients - October 15 and October 29.

Key Findings

- The top priority (40.5% or 307 of 767 responses) from the 2020-2023 multi-year budget list of seven priorities was community services.
- In thinking about the impacts of COVID-19, the most important services/programs identified were medical response (588 said very important), community liveability (437 said very important), and public transit (401 said very important).
- When asked about value for tax dollars, 4% said tax dollars provide very good value, 46% said good value, 38% said poor value, 10% said very poor value and 2% said they don’t know.
- The Winnipeg Police Service received the most feedback of all City services (360 comments from questions six, eight, and ten), mostly focused around shifting budget towards community supports.

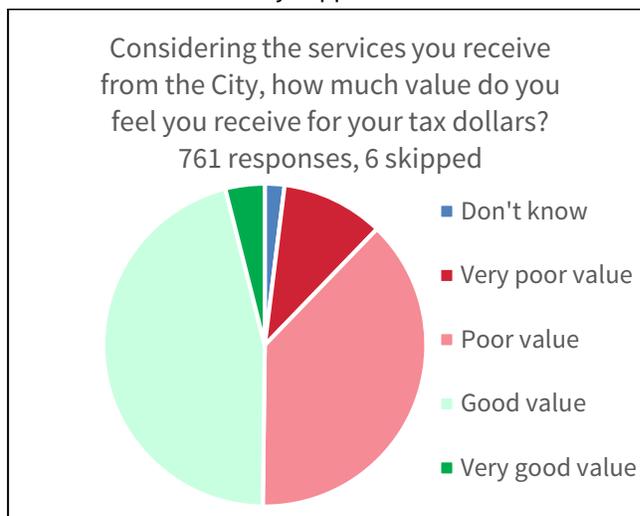


Figure 1 Value for tax dollars

Date	Activity	Details
May 1 - May 20, 2020	2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey	Telephone survey of a representative sample of 600 Winnipeggers. Results summarized here .
October 9 – October 30, 2020	Online survey	Self-selected participation. 767 participants: 765 in English and two in French. Full results in Appendices B and C. A breakdown of the demographics is available in Appendix B.

To learn more about the Multi-year Budget 2021 Update, please visit winnipeg.ca/engagebudget2021



Results

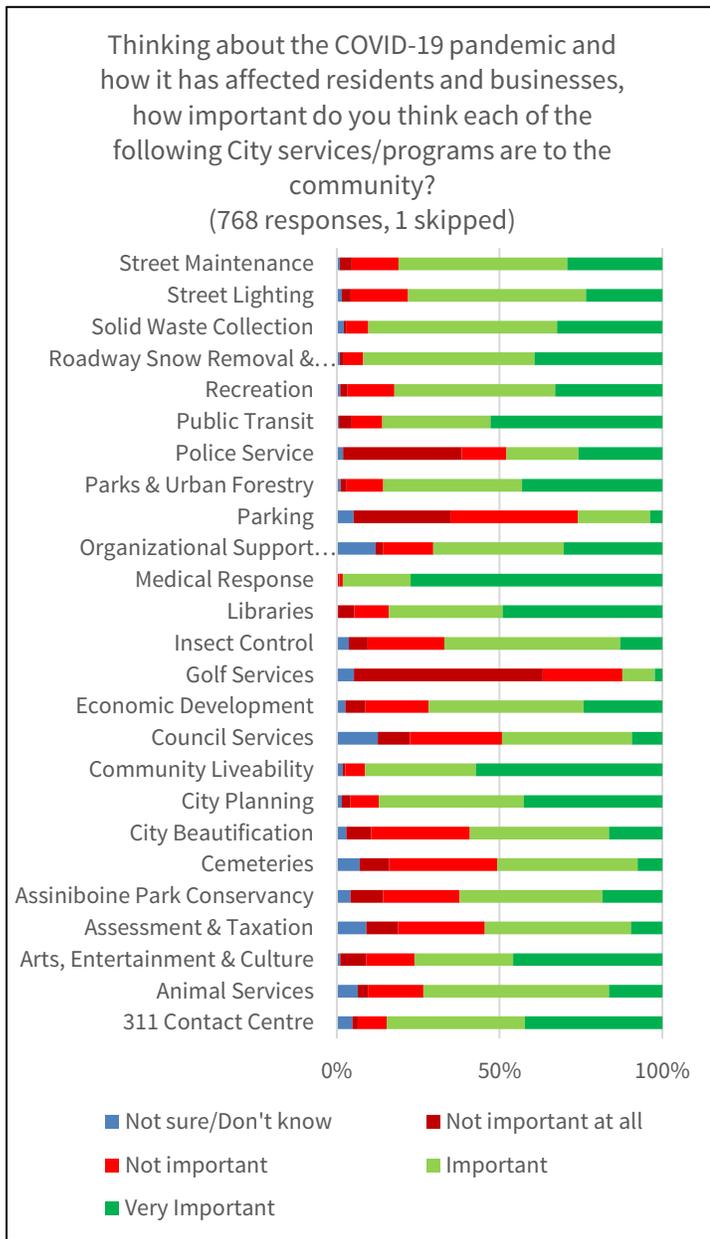


Figure 2 Importance of City services

Feedback received regarding the importance of services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic showed that respondents think medical response and community livability are most important to the community and golf services and parking are least valuable.

When asked if priorities have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic and how, responses focused on the need for community support, safe transportation options, and a need to shift budgets priorities to accommodate changes.

Of the seven multi-year budget priorities, please select the one that you feel is the most important for you now.



Table 1 Ranking of importance of seven multi-year budget priorities

Next Steps

The public's input will be shared with elected officials in order to assist Council in updating the multi-year budget for 2021. After the preliminary budget is reviewed by Standing Policy Committees and the Executive Policy Committee, the 2021 preliminary budget will be reviewed by Council and subsequently adopted.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Promotional materials
- Appendix B – Survey results
- Appendix C – Comments on City services
- Appendix D – Postal code map

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