

2017 Budget Priorities

Welcome to the 2017 Budget Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. We look forward to your input in identifying public priorities for 2017.

The survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete and is completely confidential (no names or other personally identifying information are requested). The City of Fernie will not collect, use, or disclose personal information using SurveyMonkey. Please be aware however that IP addresses are collected by SurveyMonkey itself, and these IP addresses and other information collected may be stored on SurveyMonkey's servers located outside of Canada.

Should you have any concerns regarding the use of SurveyMonkey, you are encouraged to submit a paper copy of this survey available at City Hall or on the website at www.fernie.ca.

The survey closes Sunday November 6, 2016.

Thank you for your participation!

Mayor and Council
City of Fernie

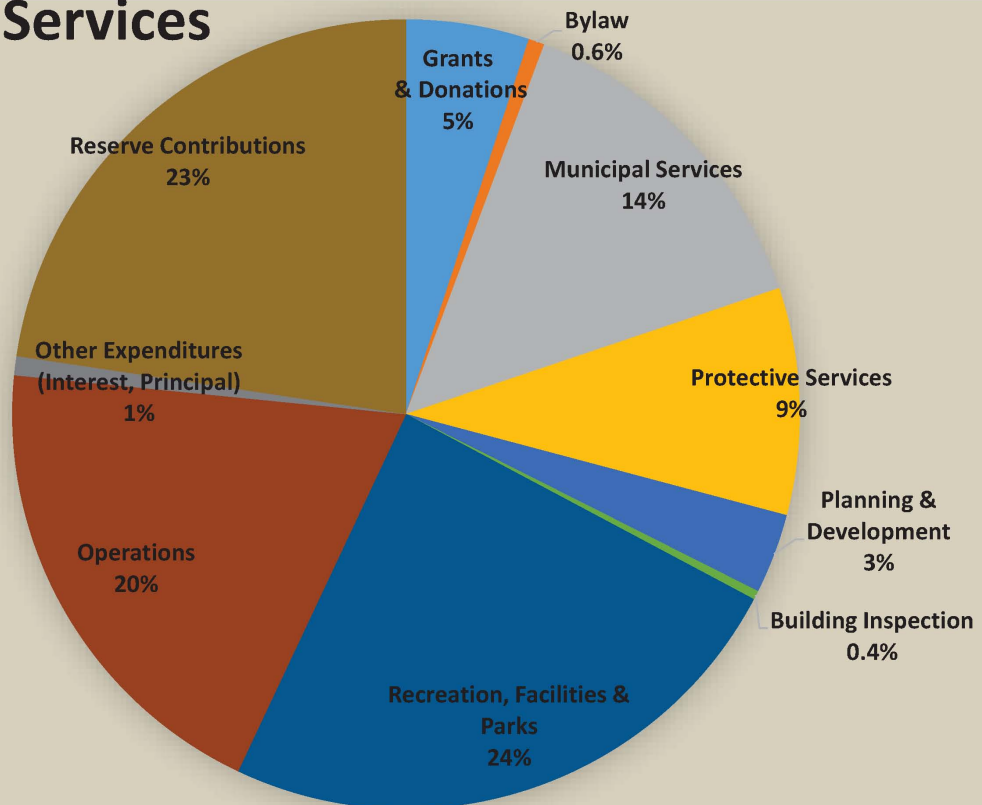


2017 Budget Priorities

Breakdown of Operating Expenditures



2016 - % of Taxation Used to Fund Services



2017 Budget Priorities

Service Level Standards and Sustainable Service Delivery

SERVICE LEVEL STANDARD is our commitment to a level of performance that can be expected under normal circumstances. When we set service level standards we consider many factors including staff & equipment resources, costs and public expectations.

SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY ensures that current public services, and the way we carry them out, do not have a negative impact on Fernie's ability to meet public service needs in the future. This requires measuring the benefits against the long term social, economic and environmental costs.

*** 1. The following are activities or services provided by the City of Fernie.**

Of the services listed below please identify five (5) services that you think should be Council's top priorities in 2017? (Your 1st priority being your most important).

	1st Priority (Highest)	2nd Priority	3rd Priority	4th Priority	5th Priority
Bylaw Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire & Emergency Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Road & Sidewalk Maintenance & Improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snow Removal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Garbage & Recycling Collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports Field Maintenance & Improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks & Trails Maintenance & Improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Programs & Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal Facilities Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sanitary Sewer System Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water Supply & Distribution Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stormwater Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land Use Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cemetery Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. There is a direct connection between taxes collected and the service levels provided to the community. Council is working to find the right balance between ensuring sustainable service delivery, quality of service and maintaining tax rates at an affordable level.

If the cost to maintain services at their current levels increase which one of the following options do you prefer?

- Maintain service levels by taxation increase.
- Reduce service levels and do not increase taxation.
- Combination of taxation increase and some reduced service levels.
- Don't know.

3. Of the following services listed below are there any you feel should be increased or decreased in 2017?

	Increase	Decrease
Bylaw Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire & Emergency Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roads & Sidewalk Maintenance & Improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snow Removal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Garbage & Recycling Collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports Field Maintenance & Improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks & Trails Maintenance Improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Programs & Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land Use Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cemetery Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Communities in British Columbia become responsible for policing costs when their population rises above 5,000. The estimated policing cost for Fernie is between \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 annually.

The City has included a strategy in the current draft budget to create a five year schedule to allocate money into a reserve that would prepare citizens for this cost. The impact to the 2017 budget would be an additional allocation of \$150,000 (or 2.8% tax increase) to a reserve . This allocation would have incremental increases to be implemented each year over the next five years. If the population were to remain under 5,000 the reserve could be used to reduce future tax burdens.

As a resident of Fernie do you support this approach?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

If not, what direction would you like to see the City take to prepare for potential policing costs in the future?

2017 Budget Priorities

Asset Management and Infrastructure Deficit

Municipalities are responsible for ensuring sustainable service delivery to its residents far into the future. As part of this sustainable service delivery, long-term management of City assets is an on-going concern. We continuously strive to maximize benefits while minimizing risks and costs to acquire, operate, maintain and replace our assets by developing a long term ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The City of Fernie has an extensive list of infrastructure (assets) including: parks, trails, community facilities, sidewalks, roads, and flood protection works such as dikes, water and sewer mains.

In Fernie, as in many communities across Canada, our infrastructure is aging and requires additional investment to fund a backlog of deferred repairs and construction referred to as INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT.

Our primary challenge in confronting the Infrastructure Deficit is sourcing sufficient funds to undertake much needed repairs or replacement.

*** 5. How do you think the City should fund our Infrastructure Deficit?**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in taxation | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in service levels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase in user fees | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the number of City owned facilities | |

Other (please specify)

*** 6. The City owns a large number of aging facilities that contribute to our Infrastructure Deficit. These facilities require significant investment in order to maintain them in good operating condition.**

Of all the facilities listed below please choose five facilities that you feel offer the greatest value to the citizens of Fernie and therefore should take priority for funding? (Please choose only five facilities from the list below with your 1st choice having the greatest value).

	1st Choice (most value)	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Fernie City Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ferie Fire Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Court House	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Aquatic Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Memorial Arena	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Centennial Community Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chamber of Commerce / Visitor Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Citizen Drop In Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Heritage Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Arts Station	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Curling Club	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Max Turyk Community Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fernie Museum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Park Facilities (playgrounds, ball diamonds)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Works Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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PART 3 Strategic Planning

Council has endorsed the following Corporate Goals:

1. Fostering and supporting business and economic diversity.
2. Increase and improve communications and public engagement.
3. Increase corporate and public safety.
4. Upgrade and maintain aging infrastructure & facilities.
5. Identify appropriate service levels.
6. Strengthen the City of Fernie Organization

Our Strategic Plan aligns with the community's long-term vision of Fernie stated in our Official Community Plan (OCP): Ensure Economic Viability; Enrich Community Life; and Protect the Environment. Our OCP sets out policies to improve Quality of Life and guide decision-making so we can achieve our vision.

*** 7. The following are policy areas in our OCP. Please choose three policy areas you feel Council should focus on to guide strategic planning in 2017? (Please choose only three policy areas from the list below with your 1st choice being the most important).**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Life, Arts & Culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Conservation & Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Community & Regional Collaboration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Economy | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Health & Safety | |

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PART 4 Communications

8. Communicating with citizens is very important. How would you prefer the City of Fernie communicate with you?

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Mail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radio/Television/Newspaper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newsletter/Pamphlet/Flyer/Brochure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
City Website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Media (Facebook/Twitter)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
RSS Feeds for News & Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Text Alerts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mass Email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

9. In your view, what is the single, most important issue you feel Council needs to address in 2016?

2017 Budget Priorities

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We ask these questions in order to gauge how representative our survey sample is of the total population of Fernie. No personally-identifying information is collected.

10. Are you a resident of Fernie?

Yes No

11. Which of the following age categories are you in?

Under 20 21-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 Over 70

12. Do you own or rent your home?

Own Rent

13. What industry do you work in?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale Trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Industry (Food / Accommodation) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Trades | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Based Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care or Social Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | |

Other (please specify)

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TaxTALK - Thank you for your valuable contributions to this process!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

This information will help guide budget discussions and strategic planning for 2016 and we need and value the input of all of Fernie's citizens.

Please encourage your family and friends to take part and join the TaxTALK! Stay tuned for more Talk in the near future!

Mayor and Council
City of Fernie

