

**Suggested**  
**Budget Process**

The Process

# Objectives

Take a more proactive role in establishing the budget.

Establish a framework which allows the Council to work more effectively together.

Provide clear guidance to County Executive and Department's.

Streamline's process, saving staff time and while allowing initiates to get started sooner.

## **Council Suggestions:**

- Reduce redundancies within County

Examples of

# **Budget Goals**

1. Establish two budgets reflecting a 10% and 20% decrease from 2019 revenue.
2. Achieve county-wide unemployment rate of 5% or less by end of 2022.
3. Achieve a balanced and affordable housing market, with MSI between 5-7 months and vacancy rate between 5-7% by end of 2023.

What are

# Guiding Principles

1. Guidelines that allow for consistent decision making.
2. Principles that will help us to achieve goals.
3. Typically no more than 10.
4. Can be used to support all decision making from budget to project selection.

Examples of

# Guiding Principles

1. Prioritize projects or initiatives working with Whatcom County businesses.
2. Prioritize deferred maintenance projects.
3. Prioritize projects which leverage third party grant funding.
4. Invest in digital infrastructure.
5. Retain expertise within staffing.
6. Ensure transparency in decisions, information, and data.
7. Prioritize environmentally sustainable solutions.

## Council Suggestions:

- Work within our authority.
- Prioritize cost sharing, collaboration with other jurisdictions.
- Look better output for community at a better cost.
- Children and families first.
- Combining requests for bids to leverage bulk purchasing power for goods and services.
- Reduce redundancies within County
- Continuity of county services and staff

Budget Process

# Next Steps

Possible Actions	Date
Invite local economist to give presentation on impacts and opportunities in Whatcom County.	
Invite local business owner(s) to give presentation on impacts to their business(es) and areas of concern or opportunity. <b>Childcare, Team Whatcom, Port, Chamber of Commerce.</b>	6/16 : Carol
Establish scoring system to prioritize projects based on available funds.	
Council members identify and suggest possible budget cuts, reallocations, and new opportunities to support community and economic growth.	
Review potential projects to identify what should be included in 2021-22 budget.	
Reach out and invite tribes to participate in conversation	
Host collaborative multi-council strategy and vision work session.	
Hold a public hearing for the community to participate and provide feedback.	
Request departments heads to complete questionnaire, providing information to understand demand and potential changes.	6/16