 Media Release

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# November County Council Highlights – Draft Budget, ARC Reviews and Launch Pad Funding

Grey County Council met on November 3 for the monthly meeting. Highlights of the discussion include school accommodation reviews, a summary of the draft 2016 budget, and funding for Launch Pad.

## Council Unhappy with ARC Process

Grey County Council is unhappy with the lack of municipal and public consultation in the school accommodation review (ARC) process. Council believes many social service issues need to be discussed, including the effects on parents for transportation, and the availability of before and after school childcare programs.

“Closures affect more than what happens in classrooms; they impact valuable social programs around the schools slated to close,” said Grey County Warden Kevin Eccles. “We want to work together with the school board and program providers to make sure these essential services continue and are accessible to the families that need them.”

Grey County is requesting to be involved in the review process.

Early in October, Grey County requested a meeting with the Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB). The meeting is scheduled for November 18. On Tuesday, Council furthered their request by asking to work with the school board on the overlooked social issues. Grey County believes this has always been the intent of the ARC review process, as indicated by Minister of Education Liz Sandals at a meeting in August.

The request is also being sent to the Minister of Education.

## Draft 2016 Budget Overview

The draft 2016 budget offers a modest tax increase of 1.88 per cent. It supports economic development, invests in roads and infrastructure, and supports people who need it most. In fact, of every tax dollar received, 48 cents directly benefits people who need it most through social programs and other services.

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The draft budget is subject to change. The county is waiting for final assessment numbers from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Grey County Council will vote on the budget at the November 24 session.

 The full budget summary can be found on [Grey.ca](http://www.grey.ca/government-administration/finance/budget-summaries/?search=draft%20budget%20overview) under Government & Administration.

## Launch Pad Funding

Hanover’s Launch Pad, a skill building centre for youth aged 12-18, will receive $20,000 from Grey County for upgrades. Grey County believes Launch Pad is a great resource for encouraging youth to live in Grey County after they receive a post‑secondary education. The centre connects teens with the technology and resources needed for careers that interest them and are in high demand locally.

Area businesses also see the value in Launch Pad. Generous donations have been received with an outpouring of support from the business community.

Youth outmigration is a major issue identified in Grey County’s economic development plan.

You can learn more by vising their website [www.yatc.ca](http://www.yatc.ca).

For more information please contact Warden Kevin Eccles at Kevin.Eccles@grey.ca or 519‑372‑0219 ext. 1225, or CAO Kim Wingrove at Kim.Wingrove@grey.ca or 519‑372‑0219 ext. 1292.

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