

## REVISED ANNEX A TO BUDGET REPORT



## 2019/20 Budget Consultation Additional Feedback

This year's budget consultation ran from 6 December 2018 to 31 January 2019.

Further to Annex A, we received the following feedback:

**By email:**

- In favour of greater enforcement for littering, including mobile cameras; anti-littering education in schools; litter bins to be added to bus stops, with bus companies responsible for keeping the immediate area clean; a move to bins from waste sacks to reduce litter; and policy change for waste teams to collect loose card.
- Against the removal of freely available recycling sacks as this may increase black sack collection costs. Against an increase in Council Tax. In favour of greater transparency on the income from city centre parking. In favour of giving residents more influence on where cuts should be made.
- Feedback from Care Management Group Ltd highlighting a net increase in costs of 5.9% due to the National Living Wage, inflation and other costs and requesting an annual inflationary increase of 17.5%.
- Feedback from Sanctuary Care accepting the 2.3 percent fee increase offer but highlighting the gap between fees paid and the cost of care (impacted by the National Living Wage, apprenticeship levy, the impact of auto-enrolment and other costs).
- Feedback from Acorn Supported Housing Ltd highlighting that the National Living Wage alone increases costs by over 4% and this will not be covered by the offer.
- Feedback from Arts for Health Milton Keynes (**Appendix 1 attached**)
- Feedback from YiS Youth Counselling Service (**Appendix 2 attached**)
- Feedback from MKBUG - Milton Keynes Bus Users Group (**Appendix 3 attached**)

**From attendees at budget roadshow:**

- Concerns that council financial challenge will lead to greater reliance on voluntary sector in the future. This led to a discussion about how grants to the sector had not been reduced in this or recent budgets.

- In favour of greater gender responsive budgeting. This led to a discussion around MKC's ongoing investment in care services and others that disproportionately affect women, and the role of forward projections that identify e.g. the number carers needed (and how they will be recruited).
- In favour of more equalities impact assessments being formalised and published, and the sharing of open data.
- Additional funding for adult social care was noted and appreciated.
- Is there any opportunity to develop key worker housing in MK? This led to a discussion around setting a local definition of affordable housing, as well as 'lifetime home standards' where homes and estates were future-proofed for older residents.

### **From MK Youth Cabinet questionnaire answered by 193 young people age 11-18:**

Young people were asked to rank eight issues in terms of importance, and add comments on any points that matter to them.

Their issues in order of importance are:

1. Period poverty
2. Regeneration action plan
3. Tackling fly-tipping
4. Deep clean
5. Tree management
6. School mobility and action plans
7. Grid road name signs
8. Roundabout improvements

### **Period poverty**

84 people believed their school provided free sanitary items. The consensus (from male and female participants) was that schools should provide free and accessible sanitary products for girls not just in need. Suggestions on how this could be achieved include working with voluntary organisations, and goodie bags given to girls in schools or placed in toilets. Some felt items left out for free could be abused. Further feedback will be provided separately to the relevant Cabinet lead.

### **Environmental matters**

There is a lack of bins and accumulation of rubbish in public parks and around lakes – more are needed. MK in recent times has become not as clean as it should be. Regular cleaning is needed with possible options for voluntary clean-ups and sponsorships. Trees have a high importance - we should plant more trees and protect and preserve our green areas.

### **Traffic outside schools**

Traffic accumulating outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times is getting worse. Promotion of other modes of transport and mobility is needed, or a designated drop-off and pick-up zone at schools to avoid congestion for general traffic.

### **Buses**

Buses are unreliable and people use cars to get to school which causes congestion. Public transport should be cheaper and more reliable. There should be more routes to out of catchment school areas to stop people having to get multiple buses to and from school.

### **Libraries**

107 young people did not use MK libraries, typically because they had no time or found no use for the library – others felt libraries were hard to reach by public transport, or said they preferred their own books. Most people (a third) used libraries to read and borrow books. Ideas on other ways libraries could be used will be provided separately to the relevant Cabinet lead.