

ITEM 8(c)

SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

21 NOVEMBER 2007

EXAMPLE OF COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO STAGE 1 OF THE BUDGET CONSULTATION

The following are comments received in response to the following question:

Are there any other issues we should take into account when considering next year's budget and Council Tax?

1. Please, please implement a cut in council tax - I genuinely cannot afford it
2. Don't forget what attracts and keeps people in MK i.e., excellent landscaping and grid roads
3. Ensuring the infrastructure of MK will meet the needs of the proposed increase in population
4. Expansion of Higher education institutions in Milton Keynes
5. More money should be spent on children and young people to provide things for them to do
6. Support to vulnerable children and raise tax to national average if needed to do this
7. More effort to clean streets and grass cuttings, cut Cllrs numbers and expenses
8. Council Tax should be increased in line with inflation
9. Improve the look of Pennyland and Neath Hill. Redways and the surrounding area are excellent but we have a poor service provider. Educate young people on dumping litter-get supermarkets to charge for service bags (stop litter). What about the North of the city? Green Policy travel miles for supermarkets. Why areas of Supermarket in the south of the city? Don't forget Newport Pagnell and Stratford
10. Council Tax for all pensioners should be reduced as they are on fixed incomes
11. The increase in multi-occupancies - we need to address this problem before these areas turn into run down ghettos.
12. Better maintenance of redways system and improve signing of cycle routes. Reinstate park keepers to cut down on vandalism in parks and play areas.
13. Whatever we say on this questionnaire, the Council Tax will increase anyway. As a senior citizen with no benefits, I don't think I get value for the Council Tax I pay.

14. An improvement in bus services e.g. the direct bus from Bletchley to Aylesbury has virtually gone. The service 24 from Bletchley to Bedford is too infrequent and doesn't always run. We should aim for a "Car Free" Milton Keynes and it's essential that a good tram system be put in place between Bletchley ,MK and Wolverton as soon as possible
15. More traffic calming measures and speed cameras, especially on the "rat race". Offer abandoned vehicles to scrap dealers free of charge if they collect and dispose of them efficiently.
16. To make sure that the rural areas are not financially disadvantaged when deciding on Council Tax levels and where income is to be directed. It is noticeable that the questionnaire makes no mention of the rural areas.