

## Your Money, Your Choice MKC Budget Consultation 2010/11

### The consultation process

The budget consultation was undertaken between 22 December 2009 and 5 February 2010, with the consultation document promoted in the local press (including two advertisements), online and hard copies were circulated and made available in council establishments.

115 responses were received.

### The response

#### ***Part 1 - Council Tax levels***

We asked whether a council tax increase of 2.5% was too little, too much or about right, in the context of last year's increase of 3.6% and a planning assumption made last year for 2.5% in 2010/11.

The largest support was for a 2.5% increase.

47% (54 people) said about right

37.4% (43 people) said too much

15.6% (18 people) said too little

A breakdown of responses by age / gender is available on request. In summary, the overall trend was broadly in support for a 2.5% increase across all ages. Women were more supportive of the figure than men (more men said the figure was too high than about right).

#### ***Part 2 - Investment proposals***

We asked how people would like to see any additional funding spent. The top 10 responses are:

1. Road/potholes (23 responses)
2. Services to older people/vulnerable adults (12)
- 3=. Arts, libraries and public transport (9 each)
6. Education (5)
- 7=. Economic development, voluntary sector, parks/green spaces, childcare, youth services (4)

### ***Part 3 – savings suggestions***

We asked how MKC should consider making savings across service delivery and business operations. The top 10 responses are:

1. Reduce spending on MKC officers and services (44 responses)
2. Cut lighting bills (schools/public buildings) (8)
- 3=. Stop grass cutting for tenants, public transport (5 each)
- 5=. Reduce spending on MKC members expenses, outsource more services (4 each)
- 7=. Economic development, voluntary sector, parks/green spaces, childcare, youth services, less on MK Theatre/arts (4 each)

*Further details of the responses received are available on request, please contact Paul Robinson Tel: 01908 252389; email: paul.robinson@milton-keynes.gov.uk*