



What Birmingham City Council found out from the Business Plan and Budget 2012+ Public Consultation

Easy Read Feedback



Birmingham City Council is responsible for lots of different services in Birmingham.

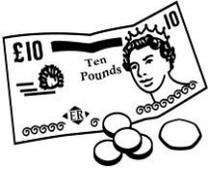


Birmingham City Council gets the money that it needs to run services from council tax, business rates and from central government in London.

Because of the recession central government has got less money to give councils to run services. This means that Birmingham City Council has got less money to run services in Birmingham.

The amount of money that Birmingham City Council has got to run all of its services is called a budget. Because Birmingham has got less money in its budget for 2012 – 2013 Birmingham needs to save a lot of money.

In 2011 and early 2012 Birmingham City Council ran a consultation. A consultation means that people, businesses, council staff and organisations in Birmingham could have their say about how Birmingham's money should be spent.





People First Birmingham is an organisation run by learning disabled people for learning disabled people.



People First Birmingham stands up for the rights of learning disabled people in Birmingham.



Because of the work that we do at People First Birmingham we know that Birmingham City Council services are really important to learning disabled people and carers. This means that changes to services could have a really big effect on their lives.



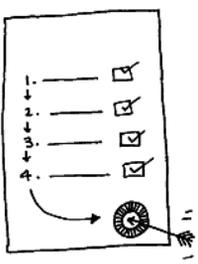
On January 4th 2012 People First Birmingham worked with Birmingham City Council to run a more accessible consultation meeting. This meeting was to support learning disabled people to have their say about how the council's budget should be spent.



The Business Plan and Budget 2012+ Public Consultation finished on January 8th 2012.



This leaflet is to support you to understand what the Council found out from the consultation and what will happen next.



At the meeting in January we told people about four things that Birmingham City Council think it's important to spend money on. The council calls these important things 'service priorities'.



Most people who had their say through the consultation said that they think that the council's four service priorities are really important too. The four service priorities are:



1. Protecting vulnerable people – children and adults.



2. Encouraging investment to create jobs and helping people into work.



3. Improving education and skills.



4. Making Birmingham a clean, safe and green city.



At January's meeting we decided to talk about 3 areas of the consultation that we thought would be most important to learning disabled people. These were Supporting People, Adults and Communities and employment support for disabled people.



At the meeting we told people that the Supporting People Programme may get less money for 2012 - 2013. Supporting people provides support to a wide range of vulnerable people to help them live more independently.



Vulnerable people can be anyone over the age of 18 who needs extra support. This could be because they have a learning disability, physical disability, mental health needs or because of accident or illness.



After listening to what people have said through the consultation, the council now thinks that less savings overall will have to be made through Supporting People's money.

£3.8 million The council wanted Supporting People to save £3.8 million. The Council now thinks it will ask Supporting

£1.9 million People to save £1.9 million.



The council will do more consultation about the money that it wants Supporting People to save. The services that Supporting People run will also be looked at carefully, this is called a review.

At the meeting in January we also talked about the Adults and Communities department of Birmingham City Council. There were lots of ideas about how Adults and Communities could make savings.



We supported people to think about how people could remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible. This is called enablement.



Enablement and preventative services might be things like physiotherapy after a stay in hospital, electronic equipment such as emergency alarms or supporting people to re-learn skills like washing, dressing or cooking.



From the consultation the council found out that service users and carers were really confused about how changes to social care services might affect them.



The council has now decided that it won't make any changes to social care services in 2012 – 2013. The council will do more consultation in the summer and then try and make a new plan about how to make savings by April 1st 2013.



At January's consultation meeting we also talked to people about employment support for disabled people.

Sheltered employment means a job or a project that is run specially for disabled people to work at, but where people without disabilities might work too. Shelforce is a supported business in Birmingham that supports disabled people who are looking to enter employment.





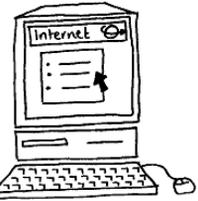
Because budget savings have to be made the council thought that changing the way that disabled people are supported with regard to work and training could make savings. These changes would affect Shelforce and the disabled people who work there.



After the consultation the council thinks it would be a good idea to do another, really detailed consultation with all of the people who have an interest in the future of Shelforce. People with disabilities will be supported to have their say so the council can get their ideas and opinions about what should happen.



If you want to know more about what people said in the consultation there is lots more information on Birmingham City Council's website:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/budgetviews



The budget information on Birmingham City Council is not in easy words and pictures.

