

BUDGET VIEWS

Consultation Period Comments

10.12.12 – 16.12.12

Ref		Date	Comment
BVE131026	Internal	10.12.12	<p>Going forward, isn't it time to review what B.C.C holds in it's buildings portfolio. My understanding of each quadrant is that they'll be some flagship office such as Lancaster Circus/Woodcock Street that will house many services, therefore is there the need for a number of satellite offices spread throughout the city adding to the increasing employee overheads. I am aware that we have a facilities management team that may well be undertaking this kind of work, however given the stark reality of the current budget it maybe that they look at all potential wastage as a central ongoing function.</p> <p>Is there a need to have a additional offices/locations spread across the city (excluding N/Os and Local Services) surely it's more cost effective to have all services under one roof, I know this may detract us from our past of having on the doorstep service provision but it's essential that more services are administered from one location, I don't think we can afford that past luxury.</p> <p>B.E.S.T Simply is this another expensive internal quango we can surely do without, given that we should all be able to contribute ideas, savings and efficiency drives through our regular team briefings/meetings, I can't see the financial justification for having this presently, I believe the solution would be to add 1hr to all team meetings so teams can discuss potential ways of saving money, work smarter and raise awareness of the demanding time ahead and increase morale through an existing effective forum.</p>
BVE131027	External	10.12.12	<p>I wish it to be know that I object to any funding cuts with regards to the Events Hire Department based in handsworth. I am chair of Bournville Village Council which is a residents Group in Bournville Birmingham. I along with the rest of the BVC members organise the Bournville Village Festival. We are volunteers who spend a lot of our time helping the local residents. Without the support of the events department hire we would find it very hard to continue supplying tables chairs etc which the events bring onto the ground. They supply a valuable service to other events as well PLEASE do not cut their funding.</p>
BVE131028	Internal	10.12.12	<p>I am employed as a [REDACTED]. A few months ago it was announced that staff in the Central Library were able to apply for voluntary redundancy as part of a restructure, with enhancements of £5000 on offer to those in GR1-3 to make the prospect of VR more enticing.</p>

			<p>As it suited my personal circumstances, I applied to leave on voluntary redundancy but was turned down as I did not score enough points on the business case presented to the moderation panels as part of the process. I have not been given any explanation as to which part of the business case I scored poorly on.</p> <p>The reason I am giving you the details of my circumstances is because of the announcement that Birmingham City Council is looking to shed some 977 FTE posts from its workforce. Why not let those of us who wanted to leave the council go? Surely it would be cheaper and quicker to offer us a voluntary redundancy package now, rather than go through a lengthy consultation process with the unions and end up having to make a larger number of compulsory redundancies.</p> <p>I believe the argument for retaining me in my current post is that all current staff are needed in the Library of Birmingham - but as the council is now very likely to have to reduce the number of staff in community libraries, or close them altogether, why not take the approach of looking across the entire workforce rather than just one building? As a [REDACTED] I have been told by HR that my skills are 'generic and transferable' rather than specialised - presumably this is the same for other [REDACTED] at risk of compulsory redundancy and they could apply for my post?</p>
BVE131029	Internal	10.12.12	<p>I really do not know how this works but have Birmingham City Council appealed against the cuts or has it just been accepted?</p> <p>Plus, do the cuts take into account the size of a council and a councils individual needs?</p>
BVE131030	Internal	10.12.12	<p>I have looked at the proposed budget, which encourages the submission of views and comments.</p> <p>I note that discretionary spending is an area of budgetary concern. I also note that the BEST programme, and its associated budget, has received no mention within the budget consultation. Could I kindly request that the budget for the BEST programme is outlined in any future documents.</p> <p>I recall a newspaper article in the Birmingham Post a few years ago indicating that the budget for this programme was significant. Surely, it would be preferable to cut costs to such programmes rather than consider a reduction in staff.</p> <p>Also, the budget proposals do not outline any budget saving measures that were considered by not pursued. Would a short summary of such savings be worth including in future documents?</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to express my views, and for them to be considered.</p>
BVE131031	External	11.12.12	<p>Hi I wanted to start with saying understanding that grants have been cut and funding streams have been</p>

			<p>moved statutory and vital services should still be delivered. On page 32 its is ludicrous to suggest cutting the Youth Offending Budget in light of previous rioting. In the document it acknowledges that Birmingham will not be as safe. How can you consider cutting any money on prevention work and acknowledge you will be creating a place that is not as safe. In the long run it will cost everyone more money in fixing the problems cutting this budget will create. Morally and ethically this is not right especially in one of the largest populations outside of London. A solution would be for the Council to be cost effective in how it spends money i.e. not using the same expensive companies for contracted jobs to change light bulbs or purchasing systems where a DVD player costs double the price of a super market.</p> <p>Another tip would be to turn the whole city center into a low rate zone for business and have more free parking. attracting more business would turn Birmingham into a mecca for Europe for culture and retail. At the moment people feel pushed out of the city as its difficult to access by cars and as a driver you feel penalized and fined for so much. we need to be sold to the world better as the city to visit. when i speak to people outside of country they seem to know Manchester and London but not know much about Birmingham. more people coming in means Birmingham City Council make more money off tourism in the long run. Doing this may increase the price of assets to fell off.</p> <p>Thank you fro your time.</p>
BVE131032	Internal	11.12.12	<p>The lack of a Day Care contract with providers means we have very little influence on what we are charged for this service. Prices are increased by providers without any input from A&C and we just accept it. A complete review and implementation of a contract would save money.</p>
BVE131033	External	11.12.12	<p>hi im a member of young disabled champions,</p> <p>i think that the cuts that you are doing to youth in birmingham are wrong young disabled people need a voice to be spoken on there behalf but if you cut the rights and participation survice that wont be able to happen. i have been a member of YDC since the bigining in 2010 so if you cut YDC you will be getting rid of one of the best groupes in birmingham and the work we have done on the young peoples behalf will go down the drain and i dnt think thats fare.</p>
BVE131034	External	11.12.12	<p>Hello, I'm a member of the children in care council.</p> <p>I think the cuts should be less that what were planned. I believe that through the support of young people in Birmingham. In addition to this Right and Participation Services are being decreased on the amount of young people that are attending and the groups are being reduced to just the Children in Care Council. However in my opinion all groups have done too much work for them to be cut down as groups have fully been supported through this. All groups present and speak on behalf of young children in care to provide support for every</p>

			<p>young person in care.</p> <p>I have been with this service since 2009 and I am not willing to allow the service to be cut, support and guidance has always been shown towards every person as equally as possible and all young people are proud of the work and support they have recieved.</p> <p>I beilve that if you make cuts to the participation service and up the work load you'll have alot of young people who well fall in the gaps because there wont be enough workers to see everybody because of their work loads , think about what hapenned when social workers had there caseloads doubles children were put in harms way . if you did the same with advocates you'll see alot more young people causing harm to them selfs and otheres because they arent being heard and feel let down and need an outlet . if you make these could you could possibly cause more harm to young people . also if you want charitys to take over the advocacy part of the service , because they are charity based a lot of young people may not get the help they need because charitys assess the need of the young peoples need for support before helping them and they may not get the help they need.</p> <p>Thank you for your appriciation</p>
BVE131035	External	11.12.12	<p>Im a member of UKYP, and i am supported by the Rights and Participation service.</p> <p>I am writing to tell you my views on the budget cut you have proposed, and how i do not support your decision at all as I feel it is not fair. Young people and staff on the RAP service have put so much effort in to where we are today as a parliament. It is not right if all this effort we have put in has gone to waste as we are no longer able to fund for it. Not only is our effort being wasted but the voices of the young people are being taken away from them. The whole point of this service is to get our views and the views of young people in Birmingham out there so we can make a difference, but by cutting the fund so much, we are having this privilege taken away from us.</p> <p>This decision is not just affecting 30 members of the youth parliament and the staff of RAP, but it affects a big percentage of the Young people in Birmingham. Im not proposing that the budget cut should not happen completely, but even a less amount than 300K would make a huge difference. The youth parliament is important to me, we have all worked so hard and it would be a shame that such a build up is bought back down.</p>
BVE131036	External	11.12.12	<p>Given the proposed cuts to the Rights and Participation service of £300,000, I, as a member of Birmingham Children and Young People's Parliament (Voice is Power) feel it is my duty to question how adversely such a cut will impact Participation in the city.</p> <p>As a member of the parliament I feel we perform an important role in amplifying the views of young people around the city to those who have the political power to make changes to their lives. Thus, in turn, making all young people active stakeholders in the governance of the city and more specifically, their own lives. My</p>

			<p>question is, how can young people still be actively involved in the decision making processes which directly influence their very livelihood, in light of this substantial 45% cut?</p> <p>It has been proposed that the tertiary sector could provide mechanisms for participation in the city. However, I would argue that such a move could potentially remove the influence of those young people who participate on behalf of the wider community. How, without the formal council mechanism, could a group of young people gain the adequate clout to make their views heard, and more importantly, acted upon?</p> <p>If these questions could be addressed and considered in the discussion of the budget, and in the consultation which precedes it, I would be very grateful.</p>
BVE131037	External	11.12.12	<p>Hello we are [REDACTED] representing the Young Disabled Champions.</p> <p>We are writing because we are highly concerned by the impact a big budget cut on Voice is and Power and Young Disabled Champions will have.</p> <p>Over the last 3 years the Young Disabled Champions have built a sensory garden with Parks and Rangers which now serves young disabled children across the city from 5 disabled childrens homes. We have launched anti-bullying week , created deaf awareness guidelines for the council , worked with west midlands police on numerous occasions by voicing what it is like for young disabled people , have helped young disabled people from 5 childrens homes in Birmingham have an experience of a radio station and the arts with Kerrang K-Boom and Gallery 37 Rap Arts 2012 Project and this is just a tiny amount of the work we have done.</p> <p>We have given young disabled people a voice in Birmingham , encouraged young people to aspire to overcome barriers and provided an expertise that no degree could provide as we live everyday with disabilities. We very much feel that without Voice is Power young people in Birmingham would have less oppurtunities to aspire and succeed , could even cost more in the long run and you will not be able to get the views of young people in the city so will not be able to make as good quality decisions on services that affect young people.</p> <p>We would love to do more to help young people in the city but this is not possible if you cut Voice is Power down to the bone.Will you keep your promise to commit to every child matters and that you will listen to the young people of Birmingham and provide them with oppurtunities to succeed by putting your support behind Voice is Power that is a fraction of your budget. We are the only group that takes people with disabilities and if we are affected the young disabled people of Birmingham will not be able to succeed as much in the future and it could end up costing you more than what you are trying to save.</p> <p>We look forward to your reply, Young Disabled Champions</p>

BVE131038	External	11.12.12	<p>I am a member of Voice Is Power, Birmingham's Children and Young People's Parliament, and also Chair of the Children In Care Council for Birmingham.</p> <p>Firstly as a young person living and learning in Birmingham I feel that feeling as though I have a voice and an outlet for my opinions on this city, to be included and represented when decisions are being made that will directly effect my life and opportunities within Birmingham is both necessary and majorly important.</p> <p>Secondly as a young representative in the city I am passionate about promoting, amplifying and listening to the views of young people, I take pride in the city's current involvement of children and young people, giving them the chance to shape their city and the world of tomorrow, enabling them to feel empowered and important members of the area.</p> <p>The proposed cuts to this sector are both shocking and appalling, all of the work I and many others are involved with in this sector will be stripped away if the services are expected to function on such a reduction. PARTICIPATION being an outlined area in BCC aims for the CYPF Directorate, it is illogical and badly thought out to expect us to be capable of consulting and involving young people, even to the small amount we can do now, on such limited funds. If we lose the ability to listen and engage our young people, we will not only be making blind decisions for them, but show them what little oportunities there are for their voices.</p>
BVE131039	External	11.12.12	<p>I write with regard to the Children and Young Families Directorate proposals, as a reacher in a maintained school, I find some of the proposals continue to maintain certain 'facilitating' functions do not help support, engage and safeguard young people directly but merely add to a 'meetings' culture which is timely and costly.</p> <p>As a way of illustrating my point I would like to focus on CYPF 20 Education and Skills Infrastructure, compared to CYPF16 Remodelling of Connexions Services (though this could easy be CYPF12 Youth Offending or CYPF7 Disabled Children's Services, and so on).</p> <p>The phrase 'to ensure full participation by facilitating partnerships to secure appropriate education and training pathways for all learners' does not take into account the significant shift in the current education and training landscape whereby Academies, Schools, Colleges, etc. already work closely together and do so without the need for any 'facilitation' (much of which is driven by their own economies of scale), alongside which the need to ensure full participation is a legal requirement (detailed in the Education and Skills Act 2008) which would seem more achievable through those that track, advise and work with young people to ensure that don't drop out or have their barriers to participation overcome – remember the local authorities job is to promote education and training and to track students (under the Department for Education Guidelines on Raising of the Participation Age), not to facilitate.</p> <p>The securing of appropriate education and training is a statutory requirement which the document seems to hold out as a reason for maintaining any relevant posts; however the legislation does not state 'how' this</p>

			<p>function should be carried out. Without direct funding responsibilities, all of which now comes via the Department for Education, and with maintaining quality the preserve of each individual institution with Ofsted (or school improvement CYPF 17), it appears the best solution to this would be to ensure that targeted support of the most disadvantaged groups through the likes of other support services is more likely to fulfil the requirement or through Transport (CYPF 4) policy sighted by most students as a barrier to participation.</p> <p>Put simply most students in the City participate in subjects <i>they</i> choose; <i>their choices</i> and <i>parental choices</i> provides for the majority of residents in the city at <i>no cost.</i>, and there is no requirement for sufficiency to look at the curriculum of what is being delivered.</p> <p>To maintain a standing-army on the basis of 'facilitation' or the pretence of securing appropriate education and training, when this is patently something that education and training professional respond to (if they want to receive future funding) or that front-line support service deliverers can offer, is a misdirection of funds and something Birmingham City Council could learn from Neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to respond, I trust my comments provide some insight how teachers do wish to support young people and how the local authority can help in more practical ways.</p>
BVE131040	External	11.12.12	<p>I would like to make the following comments on the budget consultation:-</p> <p>1... I fear for our parks, libraries, leisure centres and other cultural and environmental buildings/sites. Birmingham has so much going for it through its green flag parks and wonderful open spaces; our library service is brilliant and vital in a time of economic hardship to job seekers and families. It is cultural, sporting and heritage events that bring visitors into the city, to spent money! These places need to be open longer hours and well staffed it is false economy to reduce hours as the saving is very small. Perhaps it is time to have library and leisure centre cafe's to bring in users and provide capital or to charge a nominal 50p per day in country park car parks.</p> <p>2... It is time money earned stayed within the department that worked hard to make it. It should not go to bolster loss makers.</p> <p>3... With jobs under threat and everyone being asked to do more for less it is time to reduce ward councillors to 2 per ward. This would back up the doing more with less ethic and make big savings on allowances.</p>
BVE131041	External	12.12.12	<p>I attended the meeting of 11 Nov in Erdington; I have the following comment. There was a short question on the future of Homestart which queried the specific reference to this charity in the context that it had become a possible target for decommissioning. I wish to underline the point that the expenses involved in Homestart are a) modest and b) current.</p>

			<p>The benefits accruing from the activities of Homestart are a) very significant and b) long lasting. The concept of deploying hard won skills in parenting and organisation existing within a sector of the population both hard working and well meaning must be worth preserving. The volunteers give generously. They devote time, resource, affection to invest selflessly in the futures of mothers and children less fortunate than themselves.</p> <p>It would be a tragic subversion of the ambitions of the City to squander such a valuable institution.</p>
BVE131042	External	12.12.12	<p>I think the whole subject of setting a budget is a very complex one and should have has its focal point the notion of fairness.</p> <p>But what is “fair” is open to interpretation. ONE SIZE just doesn’t fit all.</p> <p>A major question often posed is - Is it fair to ask a person to work for less than they could receive from available benefits?</p> <p>My answer is YES – on the maxim that each should contribute according to their ability. There is no such thing as a free lunch – someone somewhere has to pay for it.</p> <p>As an example - with streets filthy from carelessly discarded waste, and potholes now appearing in virtually every road there is a need to remedy the situation</p> <p>This could be accomplished partly by able bodied benefit receivers working under an adequately trained supervisor.</p> <p>This would bring back a work ethic into our society and the notion that with rights comes responsibilities. Both ideas are highly needed in a growing culture of something for nothing.</p> <p>But the cry goes up – that is taking work from others – My answer is rubbish! If the others were coping then fair enough but they aren’t just look around...</p> <p>Parents need to be held more accountable firstly by setting a good example themselves thus modelling behaviour and by upholding those in responsible positions who are seeking for a better society – e.g. teachers, police – instead of these people being openly maligned by the media and parents.</p> <p>Where such figures in responsible positions are misusing their powers and authority they should be removed with all speed and replaced by others to whom the principles of a fair and just society outweigh their ambitions for money or position.</p> <p>Some people in society are being treated as though they are to blame in some way for the misfortunes that have come their way. I think particularly of those parents/carers of disabled children who through no fault of their own are selflessly struggling to support their unfortunate offspring often as a lifelong commitment. They do a wonderful job (how could the country cope without them) but are now going to have their resources even more squeezed. I would like to see the comparison figures between the monies given to such families as compared with the cost of providing for these disabled children and adults by the local authority.</p>

			<p>Will we get to a stage where such families will have to be broken apart simply because the financial situation of parents/carers has been stretched too far? I have heard rumours of this actually beginning to occur and this would be a tragic outcome.</p> <p>Where is the social housing and job prospects for such young people as they progress through life? We are gradually going back to the era of Charles Dickens and his stories based on the conditions of his time. We cannot cope with the job situation even for the brightest in our society let alone those who in ever increasing numbers of both those with physical and mental handicaps are facing a bleak future of total deprivation.</p> <p>Our budget planning should reflect not the now but the future – like President Roosevelt after the depression we need to work our way out of the present situation by actively creating a vibrant and sustainable economy. This is accomplished by recognising the needs of each individual (rather than their wants) and planning to mobilise every able bodied person according to their abilities and potential to realise the necessary aims</p> <p>I have seen the plans for transition from Primary to Secondary Education followed by transition 16-19 years then followed by present SEN plans to reach to 25 years. We then add the high'ring of the school leaving age to 17 and soon to 18 but what is this accomplishing?</p> <p>My answer is that all this is doing is extending the length of the plank on the pirate ship – but the end result is a plunge into the seas of chaos where only the most able will be able to survive.</p> <p>We need a plan for life not just a putting off of the problem so that the next administration can pick up the problem.</p> <p>I cannot see how your present budget plans will remotely tackle these problems</p>
BVE131043	External	12.12.12	<p>I simply cannot see a bright future for the children of tomorrow with the proposed cuts to services, there is already little or nothing for them to do. I expect crimes in anti-social behavior to increase as our young become bored, frustrated and more demoralised than they already are.</p>
BVE131044	External	12.12.12	<p>If i were to lose the travel allowance in the form of petrol costs,it would have a devastating impact,not just on ██████ who suffers with Aspergers Syndrome,A.S.D and Dysbraxia but on our family as a whole. If i were to lose the petrol allowance for ██████,he would no longer be able to travel to the school he is happy and settled. I urge you to seriously consider making cuts in this area because they will cause a great deal of harm,not just short term but in the case of my son,long term,because my son has already threatened suicide even at the mention of changing schools (this was recorded to the Dept head last year). I urge you to not make cuts in the area,</p>
BVE131045	External	12.12.12	<p>I am writing with regards to the current proposals to end or cut funding for the Stepping Stones Spurgeons</p>

			<p>support services in Birmingham. James Brindley School has worked with families who have received valuable support from Stepping Stones in terms of parental advice and support in dealing with children with special needs such as autism and those with anger management issues. This support has come in the way of home visits, attendance and in some cases leading of CAF (common assessment framework) meetings involving a number of multi agencies including school to ensure the right services and needs of the child and the whole family are met. At a time when support and services for adults and parents is limited I feel it would have a detrimental impact on families in Birmingham to stop this provision.</p> <p>The referrals received have been made by medical professionals working for CAMHS. Once the referral is made by the GP or Doctor the school then liaises with Spurgeons as part of a holistic approach to support the child and family.</p>
BVE131046	Internal	12.12.12	<p>I think council tax may have to be increased but we should do this to an amount that would not require a referendum.</p> <p>i think we need to look at cuts from Grade 7 and 8</p> <p>Stop utilising external consultants and develop the workforce- be innovative pay for a proposal and we implement</p> <p>There are many retired police officers with great skills how can we deploy their input on a contractual basis and their ideas. We can have a pool of expert compiled from business, private vol and statutory orgs almost like an executive panel - bit like what LGIU have set up for critical services only.</p> <p>we spend a billion on procurment have we reviewed these contracts</p> <p>consult bottom up- too top down</p> <p>REVIEW SEVICES- can we do better should be a slogan we use and each service should have 2 meetings a year to look at this- what can we do better, more efficiently what do we need, not need and can change</p> <p>reduce beauracratc paperwork - simplify things to create efficiency- get best from workers</p> <p>leaders to make better decisions re planning, what projects they spend money on and what they invest in.</p> <p>involve business communities to advise re investments</p> <p>need better joining up of services internally that is not so good or as efficient joint conferences bitesize from each directorate to happen yearly</p>

			The vision under current leadership is clearer and focused.....
BVE131047	External	12.12.12	<p>Being a resident for 15 years in Birmingham and paying Council Tax all of them years I was glad that the tax was frozen for the previous years. These are basic ideas from a resident who sees things from the front line and trying to get on with life and would like to see a difference to the city.</p> <p>I would like to know if the cost of having a referendum would be more costly than what it deserves and it should only be used for people who already paying the full council tax. I mean of course if we had to vote for the increase I would expect voters who pay little council tax would agree to the increase of council tax because it would only affect a certain percentage to them. It is the hard workers that are trying to struggle in this climate world that is going to affect more strain to their pocket.</p> <p>Their should be a tax band increase.</p> <p>Tax bands A-D should have a rise by 1 - 1.45% Tax Bands E onwards should be risen 1.45 - 1.64%</p> <p>Now I feel that it is time to help the unemployed people by giving them work experience with the council. The work scheme can help savings in the services. e.g. unemployed people can litter pick, rubbish collect, plant flowers, office work etc...If the unemployed people are claiming and looking for work in Birmingham they should contribute their services to the council.</p>
BVE131048	External	12.12.12	<p>I received a letter today re home to school transport and proposed budget savings. My son has special needs and uses the home bus to get to and from special needs school.</p> <p>I've just looked at the council website and all I can find is the following:</p> <p>It is proposed to review the terms and conditions for pupil guides and to apply new policies to students receiving home to school transport that are currently being consulted upon.</p> <p>What does this mean? Sorry, I haven't any other information and have no idea how this will effect my son. I am unable to get to any of the public consultation events as in addition to caring for my son, I also have a 24 month old and an 11 month old and I also attend to my 61year old mother with Alzheimer's.</p> <p>All I can say is that if its proposed that the home school transport is the be reduced or limited in any way, it will massively effect those most in need. We rely upon this service, not just to get our son to school but to keep</p>

			our family working and keeping our head above water.
BVE131049	Text Message	12.12.12	we rea lie on the transport for [REDACTED] because of his need, [REDACTED] will find it very hard without the transport, has he does not like crowds on buses so it means he would have to get taxies, which it will cost us a lot of money, so I hope transport will. Still carry on for him.
BVE131050	External	12.12.12	<p>Birmingham has the largest youth population in Europe. Having said that, it is not a disadvantage. However, this provides the need for young voices to be held.</p> <p>Even though the participants of last years riots have been heavily scrutinised many young people of a low social - economic background feel their views are being suppressed. It is a fact that not all the participants are of a low social-economic background but those that were did so out of frustration!</p> <p>The Youth Parliament welcomes all young people without a regard to their background. We are the soul channel to have a formal format that leads directly to the local authorities. Without us you can only expect an increase in criminal offences as a supplement voice. The parliament empowers young people and their voices. Allowing young people to express their voices permitting them to influence decisions for the better.</p> <p>On the 23rd of November Birmingham's UKYP reps travelled down to London to participate in the National Televised Youth parliament debate hosted in the house of Commons. Once they arrived, they joined the 20 other west Midlands representatives (approximately). Out of these twenty five representatives, four young people were chosen to speak. Two out of these were from Birmingham. They represented their constituents as well in their points. Birmingham should be proud off their youth for this!</p>
BVE131051	Internal	12.12.12	<p>I am in agreement with increasing the council tax , im not in agreement with all pensioners getting help with council tax , there are a lot of well off pensioners and ones who are still in full time employment, It depens how much taking a referendum would cost , but i personally would see a rise of up to 10% ok if it would save peoples jobs and help services not to be cut.</p> <p>.Also the age as to when pensioners get a free bus pass should be increased in line with the new pension age , and if someone is still working full time they shouldnt get one until retirement.</p> <p>The most important part of the council for me is Children Young people and Families , not only because i work in that directorate but because if we dont invest in young people now we may suffer more in the future.</p> <p>I dont know if the council gives money towards volutary organisations , but if it does they need looking into further , i have come across really good voluntary organisations but also some really bad ones that are a complete waste of money , and others that just repeat the work that someone else does anyway.</p>

			<p>On a small note the Council should make sure that all council staff know how to use the phone systems , i come across a lot of staff who dont know that using 3 or 4 instead of the whole code saves money.Easy to raise awareness of this via e mail.</p> <p>With regards to staff , the Council could make it easier for staff to take a sabbatical. Savings could be made by staff taking unpaid leave , or by staff agreeing to reduce their hours to save someone elses job.</p>
BVE131052	External	12.12.12	<p>With ref to letter asking my views on home to school transport. I can only answer from a personal perspective but for us it is a crucial service which allows my son to attend his specialised school.</p> <p>My son did a trial at this school before starting, for this trail we needed to transport him. I myself dropped him off and picked up, I work full time my hours are 9-5.30 when I dropped my son off I did not manage to get into work until between 10.15 and 10.30 and I had to leave by 3pm. Obviously this was only for a short time but if I had to do this every day it would make my employment impossible.</p> <p>I would not feel comfortable with my son using public transport as I would be concerned about him finding his way, being distracted (one of his problems) and forgetting to get off. Also his school day ends at 5.00pm so to use public transport he would not be home until approx 6.30 which in the winter when it is dark I would not be happy with at all.</p> <p>The difference that going to this specialised school has made to my son has been incredible and I would hate for anything to happen that would make his attendance of it difficult.</p>
BVE131053	External	13.12.12	<p>My specialist area is ADHD. We try and work to NICE guidance. School accommodations, medication and behaviour management are the three arms of management. Chaos and misery in families are frequent.</p> <p>Question: Where would I be without the Stepping Stone Service? Answer: without a powerful tool to assist the treatment of these patients</p> <p>Hardly a week goes by without my referring to this service. I rely so much on them to try and deliver a positive outcome to the child and family.</p> <p>Their interventions are more acceptable to families, and more efficacious than attendance at parenting classes. Sadly the take up and outcomes of parenting classes in this group of families seems dismal.</p> <p>Stepping stones is a thoroughly professional, and effective service. I hope their future will be assured.</p>
BVE131054	External	13.12.12	<p>During the last two years my team worked very hard to provide an Olympics inspired event in our community, Sutton Coldfield, providing a free opportunity to try out and watch 54 different sports and cultural activities.</p>

			<p>It was a huge success with an attendance of 6000 people.</p> <p>During the two year build up too the event we had a large team of people helping to advise and support us, and in that team I would most definitely include the Events Depot team based in Handsworth</p> <p>██████████ and his team were genuinely extremely helpful and the service provided was excellent</p> <p>We will be running our event every two years, the next being July 2014 and I fully intend to use the events depot team again for equipment, advice and support</p> <p>I understand prudence is required in these times but hope there budgets remain in place as the work they do is greatly valued by many</p> <p>I am very happy to discuss these comments if necessary</p>
BVE131055	Internal	13.12.12	<p>It seems ironic that in this time of monitory constraints that we still have to pay expensive prices for services and peripherals such as papers,inks and stationary.</p> <p>These items being of a necessary nature should be sourced from the most competitive companies.</p> <p>We pay more for our laptops, printers,and standard stationary than most private companies do</p> <p>We tie ourselves down to long contract periods instead of having the option to move freely between organisations to get the best prices available.</p> <p>IF it is deemed that we have to go through our own purchasing department then the buyers should prove that every business unit is getting the best price in the market for every day consumables.</p> <p>We also introduce management structures such as management companies IE Acivico that take money from us to perform actions that we can do cheaper in house or we use organisations such as service Birmingham who fail in their duties yet we are still tied to them not only for items incorporated within their tender but also for items that do not form part of their original tender and then end up paying more for the privilege.</p> <p>If we are to use these companies then their tenders and agreements should be to our benefit must be concise and get out clauses should be clearly identified and easy to manage.</p> <p>When it comes to housing repairs are we getting the best price possible are the rates lets say for a replacement bath competitive with external markets and how much of the actual allowance per property for repairs is actually spent as a whole on repairs ?</p> <p>Should we not be applying for HIA status which would enable us to bid for work outside the Birmingham area</p>

			<p>Only so many staff can be lost before the systems fall down surely we should be looking at items such as the above which would make a huge impact on our spending before we entertain job losses or the loss of services.</p> <p>It also seems false economy with todays reductions in capital that we save on officers by stopping in house agencies that provide people with other options (such as aiding with self funding) before we as a local authority have to deal with them.. If these officers were funded then we would save by not having to do more expensive works when we have no choice but to deal with them.ie Homeworks and HouseProud</p> <p>In Education the number of teaching assistants has risen sharply, why ? Teaching a class of 30 has not changed during the years yet teachers deem it necessary to have assistants and schools deem it necessary to have more of them. And again are their consumables purchased at the best price possible.</p> <p>It is usually the smaller items that are used a lot that costs companies money that they can ill afford in my opinion our buyers should be "on the ball" when sourcing such items and we as an organisation should not be tied down to one organisation/company for any length of time for these items.</p>
BVE131056	Internal	13.12.12	<p>I really feel if the Councils sickness policy was reviewed and changed to similiar policies in the private sector then less redundancies would need to be made. I still witness staff abusing the sickness policy and this impacts on all other staff. I cannot comprehend in this time of austerity that BCC and other councils in the UK can afford to pay any employee 6 months full pay for sick leave, it is unjust when there are so many people desperate to be in employment.</p> <p>Additionally, considering countries like Greece & Spain are unable to pay public sector staff their full wages/pensions. In this country public sector employees should consider themselves privileged by comparison.</p>
BVE131057	External	13.12.12	<p>I am very much in FAVOUR of a referendum , if the Government requires it and we are able to ensure that those with a larger incomes owning larger houses pay a more equal share of rates.</p> <p>My 3 bed semi in Sutton Coldfield, i am a pensioner and do not I am told qualify for any discount or eebate, I pay 31200 pa, a short distance a way a footballer earling £100000 / week lives in a mansion valued close to £2million yet he pays around £2000 pa rates.</p> <p>I would strongly support the following</p> <p>Tax bands</p>

			<p>Bands A-E increased at 1.5% pa for the next 5 years the RPI +2%</p> <p>F increase in 2013-14 £100, 14-15 £150 15-16 £150 then for the next 5 years RPI+1%</p> <p>G Increase by 13-14 £1200, 14-15 £1000, 15-16 £1200 for the next 5 years RPI + 2%</p> <p>H increase by 13-14 £5000, 14-15 £3500, 15-16 £1000 the for the next 5 years RPI = 4%</p> <p>This proposal transferred into hard cash income for the city would I believe get the support fo people living in MODEST homes and ensure that those with the deepest pockets pay the most and certainly more than they have been doing.</p>
BVE131058	External	13.12.12	<p>I am writing to you, to give my view on home to school transport.. My name ██████████,I am the mother of ██████████ who attends ██████████.The transport for home to school is so important to ██████████. ██████████ uses a kayne walker(walking frame).. He also wears pedro boots,without transport from you, ██████████ will find it extremely difficult to walk to school, because he can not walk far without been in a lot of pain.. He can't control his walking frame by him self and often falls in to the road if not assisted by an adult.. There is no bus route from where we live, plus he can't stand and wait for bus because of the pain in his legs and will most definitely fall over on the bus without a adult.without transport from you ██████████ has no other way to get to school safely. If you need any further information from me please do not hesitate to contact me</p>
BVE131059	External	13.12.12	<p>The following are my suggestions of saving council monies.</p> <p>First of all i would stop printing the obsolete forward newspaper.</p> <p>Next i would print All council documents only in English.</p> <p>All grants and handouts no matter how worthy to be suspended until the cash problems have eased.</p> <p>The 62 union officals who do not carry out any council duties must be made redundant.</p> <p>The equalities department must be closed down employers in the private sector give these duties to their H.R. staff.</p> <p>The housing department in its present setup should be turned into a trust ,it could be then be accountable for its own finances it would not be subsidised by the council.</p> <p>Councillors who have more than one public Paid job should forego their councilors remunerations</p> <p>All outside consultants should be removed surely the council are paying huge salaries to directors and managers what are they doing?</p>
BVE131060	Text Message	13.12.12	<p>i received concernng my child ██████████ school transport i requeust that please allow her to stay on the transport as she is speacial needs child and is very venrable for her saftey please keep her on transport thank you</p>

BVE131061	Internal	13.12.12	<p>The Benefit Advice Team is currently part of Benefits in the City Council. We visit some of the most vulnerable people in the city including hospice cases, pensioners, disabled people, mentally and physically disabled people and their carers. We identify any benefits they may be entitled to and then assist with the claims procedure completing forms and representing at appeals if necessary. Every year we as a team raise several million pounds which is then spent back in the City. Part of our funding is from the benefits team and part from service level agreements with other agencies both in and out of the local authority. All the partner organisations and the vulnerable public we assist praise the service.</p> <p>Under the proposals to save the city money this team is placed at risk and may cease to exist; all of the staff are very specialised and have an expertise in dealing with the most vulnerable people in Birmingham and dealing with them in their own homes. Please take this into consideration; many of the outside agencies who did this type of work are no longer there so it would appear that if the proposals go through there will be no provision to help those least able to help themselves.</p>
BVE131062	External	14.12.12	<p>I would like to suggest that a way of making budget cuts would be to end the contract with Capita and dissolve Service Birmingham, bringing IT support back with BCC.</p> <p>Not only would this safeguard jobs for local people which was one of the objectives for the new Labour council.</p> <p>It would also provide significant savings by :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing wastage on expensive consultants and Capita staff - Reduce oncosts on projects - Bring projects in ontime and to requirements
BVE131063	External	14.12.12	<p>As someone who works for an arts organisation in Birmingham, I am responding to your consultation regarding the financial cuts.</p> <p>I believe that it is important for the council to maintain its support of arts and culture recognising the impact they have on the profile of the city (both for living in and leisure visits), its economy and the well-being of its residents.</p> <p>The arts and culture help to create a real sense of belonging, providing the opportunity for people to express themselves and communicate with those around them. This is particularly important to maintain for children and for a city rich in diversity.</p> <p>The city is well known both nationally and internationally for its strong arts organisations and I really hope that, like in the recent round of cuts, the arts and culture are protected and valued.</p>
BVE131064	External	14.12.12	<p>I have been reading and responding to the budget views doc. It would have been easier to judge the questions if , as well as the money saved being indicated per proposal, it was clear how much of a percentage of the budget in this area it was.</p>

BVE131065	External	14.12.12	<p>I am writing a response to the budget consultation that is currently underway.</p> <p>Our organisation is a leading provider of 'short breaks' for children and young people with autism in the City and as such I would like to particularly look at this area of work. Like you, we are committed to tackling inequality and to safeguarding our children. I hope that the comments below will help you to see how we do this and why we are a cost effective option to continue to do so.</p> <p>As a voluntary sector provider I believe we offer huge value for money. We have a tiny core central team and bring funding from a range of other funders as well as the local authority, which complements the commissioned services we provide.</p> <p>We have a highly trained staff group and are proud to have never turned a child or young person away because of their behaviour or challenges. Many of our families find it very difficult if not impossible to find respite that is accepting and understanding of their children.</p> <p>For families with autism the risk of breakdown is far above the national average. Some of our families come from cultures where there is not even a word for autism and it is often translated as 'madness'. Many of our families live in some of the poorest areas in the City and struggle with the additional costs of a child or young person with autism.</p> <p>We work holistically with the child and their families. Our services are all specialist and include weekend play for children aged 4 – 8 , 8 – 12 and 12 - 16, evening youth clubs for 16 – 18 year olds, holiday play schemes and home support for the entire age range. We have additional provision for the over 18's funded by the Big Lottery.</p> <p>Our approach means that we can support parents and schools in understanding and modelling good autism practice to prevent school exclusion and work with schools where children have been excluded or have excluded themselves, to enable children back into school; we work with families to help safeguard a group of children who by their very lack of communication linked to what can be seen as extremely difficult behaviour and lack of sleep are very vulnerable to abuse; we are purely practical, helping put strategies in place and supporting families to understand that they can cope if they are given just a little support and encouragement.</p> <p>We do not have a magic wand but the staff we employ are the very best, we train them and pay them properly. The result is staff who stay with us and give consistent support to families and children. We are accessible and responsive sometimes visiting families, where there is serious concern, on the same day a referral is made.</p> <p>The down side is we are very popular. We have long waiting lists and because we have so many</p>
-----------	-----------------	----------	--

		<p>'emergencies' presented by social care and education, families who are not in crisis may have to wait longer. That said we manage to offer around 150 children and young people a weekly group experience in term times, nearly 250 children a holiday play scheme, approximately 100 families home support for a few hours a week for up to 6 months and very importantly and often forgotten, 2 siblings groups that meet monthly to give support to the siblings of some of our youngsters who themselves are very vulnerable to mental health breakdowns.</p> <p>To truly measure the social impact of what we do is very difficult. How can you measure the impact on a family of three hours a week every week when you know your 15 year old will not be attacking his sister or when you know your incontinent, non-verbal 18 year old is somewhere where he can play his music as loud as he likes or where a child who has been stuck in his room for 2 years is finally able to go out having been worked with at home by a key worker for several months and finally persuaded, by the strength of that relationship, to leave the house for the first time.</p> <p>Social impact is made up of many apparently tiny and relatively cheap actions that help build family resilience and give the most disabled and vulnerable children a few hours of joy.</p> <p>I understand that it is no longer of use for us to talk of future savings to the state. It is all about cuts now (and I recognise these are not of your making but the government's choice of priorities) but I urge you to think about the short term costs to you and to families when they see the very little respite they have disappear and the thread that enables them to hang on breaks.</p> <p>I have focused on our activities but I would also put in a plea for CAMHS. Children whose mental health is so fragile that they need the support of the CAMHS teams deserve our unstinting support as adults. It may be that this provision needs remodelling and simplifying but it must be there in some form.</p> <p>How would I make savings? I would certainly simplify many of the processes for accessing services. I would use the voluntary sector to its full capacity. I would emphasise prevention and accessibility (small and local and lots of it!) We should not be a cheap option but we are certainly a best value option. RfA uses 50 volunteers, we build support networks for families, our staff believe passionately in what they do and do far more than should be expected of anyone, we have minimal bureaucracy, borrow space to work and have the smallest of infrastructures. Much of our funding goes back to the City Council in the form of rent, something I find a complete mystery. We receive commissioned income and then pay it back as we have to pay rent (and not cheap rent) to the council for the spaces we use. Of course, if we close, then that rental income will also disappear.</p> <p>I believe we could do more with the City Council and our working relationship with your commissioners had been excellent. I am more than happy to expand on this and to support anything you might consider to ensure that families with an autistic child or young adult receive the help they need, when they need it.</p>
--	--	---

BVE131066	External	14.12.12	How about asking agile working staff if there prepared to use their own mobile IT equipment with appropriate software installed, rather than extra expense of funding laptops, blackberrys etc, a small concession could be made to those employee's willing to participate, might be cheaper than having to buy extra equipment, most personal IT equipment never gets used to max potential anyway, and would be more than capable of storing council based packages, for use away from office base
BVE131067	Internal	14.12.12	I am writing to support the continued funding of Stepping Stones Spurgeons project which includes the ARCH, CAMHS family support and 4 KIDS Who Care services. I have accessed the Stepping Stones Project on a number of occasions and felt the service offers great support for local families. I would urge the council to continue funding this programme.
BVE131068	External	14.12.12	<p><u>Natural High School Programme - Birmingham Summary</u></p> <p>Since visiting Birmingham for the first time 1999 the Natural High Schools Programme has become a well established part of PHSE & Citizenship in schools having visited all of the Birmingham Secondary Schools, annually touring over 70 secondary schools in the area. Seeing approximately 12,500 students in Year 7 (11-12 year old) the valuable input is the only organization directly working in so many of the Birmingham Secondary Schools.</p> <p>In the 13 years, well over 100,000 Birmingham students have taken part in the programme with a presentation that at today's costs is under £2.50 per child. With the time and money in which it costs the NHS annually to support drugs addicts, it is in comparison a small amount to support the preventative messages within our Birmingham schools.</p> <p>Every year the presentation is evaluated by each school after the session and last year (2011/12) 100% of the teachers evaluated marked the presentation as EXCELLENT in all respects, with all asking for it's return along with comments mentioning how valuable the schools see this presentation in terms of Drug, Alcohol and Smoking preventative messages as well as promoting self esteem, motivation, health and citizenship.</p> <p>After finding out last weekend that Natural High was listed as one of the organisations to be effected by the potential decommission or reduction in budget savings, I emailed out to the schools to advise and was inundated with responses from very busy teachers many of whom took the time to express their concerns with those who emailed support for the tour I have attached.</p> <p>'Birmingham is proud of our young people', and long it will remain by supporting them with what is deemed as one of the most successful presentations of it's type for preventative drug education. The NATURAL HIGH SCHOOLS PROGRAMME is an invaluable tool and is held in such high regard by the teachers who has seen the show as well as so many of the students who have previously been involved from Year 8 to Year 13.</p>

			<p>With such amazing comments from every visitor who attends a session from Chief Superintendants to Birmingham Health Education Advisors and from Birmingham City Councillors to Local MPs. This presentation has been and could be another way generate future funding as well as to promote such valuable sources of help and advise through BDAAT.</p> <p>The full 2011/12 evaluation will be handed in at the Provider Meeting on Monday 17th December 2012 along with a hard copy of the attached.</p>
--	--	--	--