

Budget Consultation

Building our future: despite the cuts

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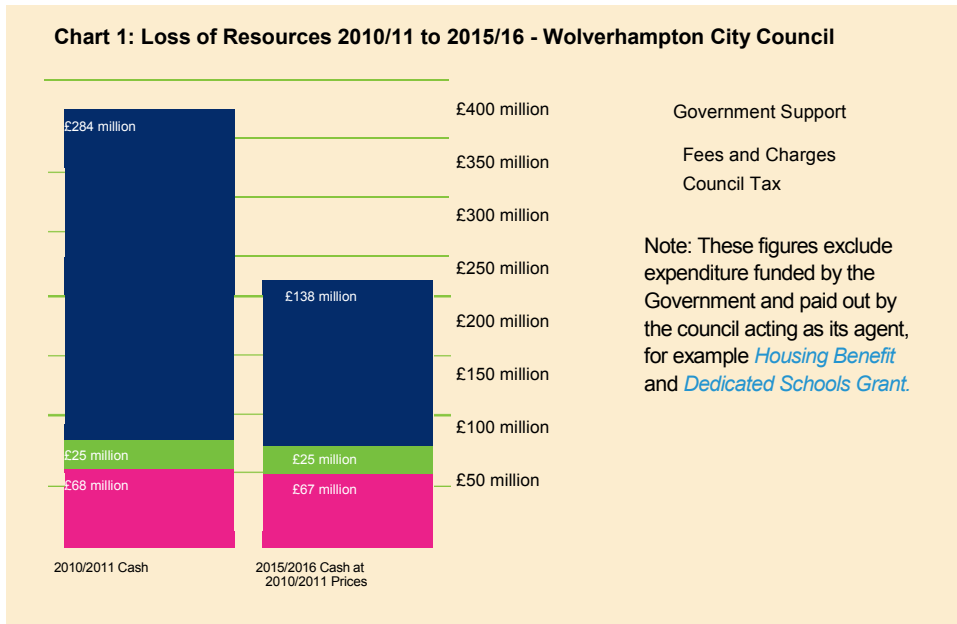
Budget Consultation 2016/17

Building our future: despite the cuts

The facts

- £134 million is the projected deficit by 2018/19
- £88 million savings identified to date
- £46 million of savings remain to be found
- This consultation is about £14 million of proposed savings for 2016/17

Over the last five years, the value of general grants awarded to the City of Wolverhampton Council by Central Government has reduced by over 50% in real terms leaving the council with over £147 million less to spend in 2015/16 than in 2010/11 in cash terms. The bar chart below starkly illustrates what has happened:



At the same time, the City of Wolverhampton's population is on the increase, in particular an increase in the numbers of both younger and older people will mean increased demand for services to support families and individuals. As a result, it is likely that the council's expenditure on these services will increase.

Our latest consultation plans build upon the successful engagement exercises that we have conducted in recent years. We continue to listen and are focusing our resources on early intervention for troubled families, improved educational

attainment and encouraging enterprise, all of which you have identified as priorities for our City. Our constructive approach to managing the budget problem is working, for example putting extra resources into early intervention in troubled families is safely bringing down the number of children in care, which is a far better outcome for them.

Everyone that completes the survey will be entered into the draw to receive a family ticket for the Grand Theatre's festive pantomime – Peter Pan - which runs from 12 December to 24 January (ticket courtesy of the Grand Theatre).

Details of the latest budget report and savings proposals can be found here: www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/7778/The-Councils-budget-setting-documents-as-of-21-October-2015

Thank you for your interest in our 2016/17 budget and savings proposals.

For more information please contact:

Michelle Howell on michelle.howell@wolverhampton.gov.uk

1. To help balance the books it is proposed to redesign services to deliver savings by:

<i>Please tick your response</i>	In favour	Not in favour	Undecided
Changing the way a range of council services are run to be even more efficient			
Replacing ageing streetlights with new more efficient streetlights			
Managing parking problems across the wider New Cross area by extending residential parking scheme			
Closing underused/ poor quality play grounds where there is another higher quality play ground near-by			
Removing crossing patrols deemed low priority unless schools wish to pay for them to continue			
Extending the trial whereby a private company manage enforcement of environmental offences (e.g. littering)			
Introducing charges of 20p for use of all public toilets and conducting a review of opening hours			
Reviewing council tax scheme and discounts including single person discount and discretionary council tax discount for empty properties			
Extend bus lane enforcement across new areas of the city to enhance road safety			
Charging businesses if they don't pay the Council on time therefore avoiding costs to the Council for chasing late payments			

2. To help balance the books it is proposed to generate income by:

<i>Please tick your response</i>	In favour	Not in favour	Undecided
Archives, Art Gallery & Bantock House increasing the range of events and offer to members of the public			
Moving permanent collections from Bilston Craft Gallery to the Central Art Gallery which will provide more space for hire and events. Craft play and externally funded one off events will still continue to take place at Bilston Craft Gallery.			
Being paid to manage the Urban Traffic Control services on behalf of Walsall Borough Council			
Increasing the range of activities on offer to the public at WV Active leisure facilities			
Charge owners full cost for kennelling of stray dogs			
Reviewing allotment charges			

3. To help balance the books it is proposed to reduce funding for:

<i>Please tick your response</i>	In favour	Not in favour	Undecided
The Grand Theatre & Lighthouse Media Centre			
Grounds maintenance, for example by ceasing annual bedding outside the City centre in 2016/17			
Vehicle Replacement Programme by keeping existing vehicles for a longer period of time			
Outdoor Events (seek external funding)			
West Park Conservatory (view by appointment while seeking alternative ways to maintain)			
Staff training			

4. *Would you support the following ideas to maintain an existing service?*

<i>Please tick your response</i>	In favour	Not in favour	Undecided
Refocus resources on early intervention to support troubled families and vulnerable adults and children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteers to run West Park Conservatory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteers to check on an elderly neighbour?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you be prepared to volunteer to check on an elderly neighbour?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. *The Council is proposing a 1.99% rise in Council Tax for 2016/17; this would be an extra £21.20 per year for the average property value in Wolverhampton (Valuation Band B).*

Each additional 1% increase would be £10.65 per year based on the average property value (Band B)

Would you be prepared to pay more Council Tax to reduce the level of cuts to services?

Yes No

6. *If yes, how much more:*

- 1% taking the total to 2.99%
- 2% taking the total to 3.99%
- 3%+ taking the total to 4.99%+

7. *Would you be willing to volunteer to maintain an existing service?*

Yes No

8. *If yes, what are your contact details:*

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

9. *If yes, are there any particular areas in which you would be willing to volunteer?*

10. *Would you support the following income generation ideas?*

<i>Please tick your response</i>	In favour	Not in favour	Undecided
Develop a council energy company to provide low cost energy to local people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council to purchase industrial units/premises to generate revenue receipts through the rental stream?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council to sell advertising space on its assets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. How else could the council generate income?

12. Do you support the Council's general approach to delivering the budget:

<i>Please tick your response</i>	Yes	No	Undecided
Given the cut in Government grant do you think the Council is broadly right to make the recommendations listed in the draft budget papers?			
Do you think the Council should increase charges to keep services open?			
Do you support the idea of the Council, where it is feasible, running services jointly with neighbouring Councils to save money?			

Budget proposals regarding the Restructuring of the Library Service, Children's Services Redesign and Reshaping of Older People Services are being reported to Cabinet separately and are subject to full consultation.

13. If you would like to be entered into the draw, please provide contact details below:

Name: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email: _____

Postcode: _____

Please note: Your details will not be used for any other purpose other than the Grand Theatre prize draw.

If you would like to hear more from the City of Wolverhampton Council, why not join our mailing list by visiting:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWCC/subscriber/newto> **sign up**

About You

To help us assess how our Equal Opportunities policy is working, we would like to ask a few questions about you. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did.

The information provided will be used to ensure that our policies and services do no unfairly discriminate specific characteristics and for statistical purposes only.

Your responses will be kept confidential and any information published will be made anonymous. No information that can identify you, your home or your household will be passed to any other organisation.

14. Please indicate how old you are:

15. What gender are you?

- Female Male
 Gender Neutral / None Gender Prefer not to say

16. Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

- Yes No
 Prefer not to say

17. What is your postcode

(please give at least the first five digits - e.g. WV11 2 or WV1 1S)

18. What is your sexual orientation?

- Lesbian / gay woman Gayman
 Bisexual Heterosexual / Straight
 Unsure Prefer not to say

19. What is your ethnic origin?

- Asian or Asian British - Indian Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
 Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi Chinese Other Asian or Asian British
 White and Black African White and Black Caribbean
 White and Asian Other Mixed Background
 Black or Black British - African Black or Black British - Caribbean
 Other Black or Black British White - British
 White - Irish White Gypsy / Irish Traveller
 White - Other European Other White
 Arab Any Other
 Prefer not to say

20. What religion are you?

- Buddhist Christian
 Hindu Jewish
 Muslim Sikh
 No Religion Any Other Religion
 Prefer not to say

21. Do you have a disability which affects your day to day activities, which has lasted, or you expect to last, at least a year

- Yes No
 Not Sure Prefer not to say

Your responses are very important to us.

Thank you for your time in completing this survey