

Budget Consultation - City News Winter 2011/12

Responses

1. The council can cut back on Resident Association Committee Membership/funding for projects on many estates. As an example, my Residents Association at Robert Lodge Whitehawk Road BN2 5FG are always coming up with impractical, expensive ways to make improvements. Instead of washing the communal area, the Residents Association wants the council to spend thousands of pounds to paint over the marks. While the once landscaped areas remain waste lands that no one wants to tidy up but would prefer paid help coming in. The Residents Association budget can be cut and perhaps this would empower the members to do more for their selves rather than rely upon council funding.

Anonymous

2. In the current environment it is unacceptable to see any increase in council tax. Therefore cuts in costs are needed to be achieved. Rather than cutting small amounts from all departments surely it is better to cut entire functions/team. Areas to cut:

- Communications/marketing (stop newspaper)
- PR
- Internal Technology of council staff
- Salaries of top 300 directors/managers
- More services to be outsourced
- Council Members to volunteer to give back a percentage of their salary

Anonymous

3. Make all of Brighton and Hove a CP2 area without the pay and display or road, pavement alterations. For a fixed fee e.g. £100 issue all home, flat owners or renting occupiers who do not have garages or off road parking with 1- 2 permits (at £100 per permit) and also provision of visitor, voucher permits for all others modelled on London Congestion charge system; Traffic Wardens can monitor all on street parking. Charge entry to Brighton area by tolls for road and rail at perimeter of city e.g. £5 charge. *Mr. C. Paul, 2 Belton Road, Brighton. BN2 3RE Tel. 01273 242780*

4. Do not increase council tax by 3.5%. Accept the Government offer and make more cuts. *Anonymous*

5. Prioritise cleaning the city streets and parks on a very regular basis. Implement a similar regime as Barcelona which is an extremely well run City.

Anonymous

6. I believe that many families on low incomes are being charged too high a rent for the accommodation. Many are exploited by private landlords who provide sub-standard flats and houses and yet charge exorbitant rents. Rents should be capped. I realise that some landlords would then drop out of the market, but who needs these rogues anyway? A decent fair rent for poorer families and basic facilities would improve standards of living. Once this is achieved Housing Benefit could be reduced, thus saving the City's outlay to prop up a rotten scheme. *Anonymous*

7. I enclose a suggestion for generating a new income stream to help the budget situation. This would not only generate income but it would also reduce the frustrations of many residents.

Create a new income stream by introducing reserved space parking for individual households. For an appropriate payment, individual car owners could reserve the space outside their houses for their sole use at certain times. The space (like that for disabled) could be marked on the road. For many residents, finding a parking space near their own home is becoming a daily struggle. There would be many who would be glad to pay for a reserved space, especially at the end of the day (say 5pm. +). This would be an individual option and not a neighbourhood area scheme.

Prof. G.R. Grace, 8 Edburton Avenue, Brighton. BN1 6ES

8. Re: Proposed 3.5% Council Tax increase for the year commencing 1 April 2012 for the next two years thereafter.

We are very concerned indeed about the proposals of your council in regard to the proposed increase of council tax for residential units at 3.5% for the next financial year, and also for the following financial year. Primarily, this letter is written on behalf of all members of staff and their families, and also the residential tenants in this building. In the present economic circumstances, Brighton & Hove City Council should be leading by example. Apart from the current proposals leading to a great feeling of dissension within the community, the proposals are going to place a great strain on the very people in the community who are doing as much as they can in the present economic circumstances. In this business we have done our part. We have not declared any redundancies whatsoever and the residential tenants have had their rents frozen for the last three years. We do expect Brighton & Hove City Council to act responsibly. To reject an offer of £3,000,000.00 from central government so that the Council Tax rate in Brighton & Hove can be frozen is sheer and absolute incompetence. We regret having to write to you about this matter, but there is no alternative in the present circumstances.

Osman Ward & Sons, Solicitors Commissioners for Oaths,, 37 Church Road, Hove. BN3 2BW