



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**Councillor Jason Kitcat
Cabinet Member for Finances
& Central Services**

Kings House, Grand Avenue,
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Date: 26 January 2012
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Dear Jack, Isla, Sue and Frances

Thank you for your letter on 20th January, I very much appreciate your joint submission and your comments.

In relation to community meals we are working closely with the scrutiny panel on this issue to implement their recommendations for the service.

We sought savings from public toilets with a heavy heart, and as part of our desire to seek as many savings from 'place' budgets versus 'people' ones, however the division is not always clear cut. In response to feedback we will be putting £25,000 recurring funding back into toilets, preventing a number from closure. We are also looking to engage in a more long-term way with key interest groups to see how we can more strategically address this issue. It's also worth noting that, whilst not in the budget papers, we are creating a number of new public toilet facilities in the city as conditions of new leases we are letting for kiosks and cafes in the city.

In relation to bus subsidies, our aim is to re-evaluate bus routes as the routes they take have not been challenged and reviewed for many years. In that time the population and needs of our city have changed - we think the routes might need to also. We also believe there are better contractual practices we could be adopting to help reduce our costs.

We are continuing to review the budget, and as new information about grants and any underspend come in we will seek to modify proposals in response to feedback. We agree services should be user-led, not driven by cost savings, and that is an ethos we are seeking to champion.

Thank you again for your feedback and don't hesitate to respond with any further questions or queries.

Best wishes,

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Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services
Green Member for Regency Ward

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