

INITIAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FUTURE FUNDING CUTS

Below is a summary of savings suggestions received from the public in response to the request for suggestions made in the post budget consultation exercise. In total we received over 700 replies, many with multiple suggestions, and the suggestions noted below represent some of the most frequent responses received.

- Expenditure on fireworks, Christmas lights, use of radio roadshows
- Increased charging for leisure activities – including cards for unemployed & pensioners
- Grass cutting, floral displays, tree planting
- Big in Falkirk
- Arts and entertainment
- Library opening hours
- Garden Aid
- Reduce number of free uplifts
- Switch off street lighting overnight/reduce number of streetlights
- Overtime
- Reduce weekend working
- More communal recycling facilities instead of individual bins
- Stop free school meals
- Stop translating documents
- Make more use of technology
- Increased use of second class mail, consolidation of correspondence
- Fewer foreign trips by Councillors
- Charge for homecare packages
- Raise parking charges
- Taxis to school
- Means testing for travel passes
- End abuse of Education Maintenance Allowance

If you have any views, please let us know.

APPENDIX 2

Tough Challenges, Hard Choices...

Earlier this year we asked the local residents for their suggestions for how the Council could make savings. We received over 700 suggestions and these are being considered by Council managers. No decisions have been made as yet and we are seeking your views on what our priorities should be before Councillors make any decisions.

This form can be returned to the Council FREEPOST SC02399 FALKIRK FK1 5WZ or filled in online at www.falkirk.gov.uk/budgets

Please tick one box per question.

- 1 Would you be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect existing services?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 2 Would you prefer it if the Council reduced certain services or stopped them altogether, rather than increasing charges?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 3 In future Councils will have fewer employees. This means they will have to reduce, or in some cases, stop services. Reducing jobs could also have an adverse effect on the local economy. Should the Council try to minimise the reduction in the number of people it employs?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 4 Do you think the Council should look at how savings can be made by better use of its public buildings, for example reviewing opening hours, moving some services or sharing properties with public sector partners?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 5 More people are choosing to contact us by phone or e-mail rather than visit offices in person. Should we review the number of local offices we have to save money?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 6 It is cheaper to provide services online, rather than in person or by phone. Should more services also be available online to reduce costs?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 7a A small number of local schools are less than 50% full. Should these be merged with other local schools to reduce the money spent on school buildings?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 7b Or should it keep them open but share headteachers?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 8 Should the Council consider reducing opening hours for libraries, sports centres and community halls to save money?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 9 The Council spends £5M per year supporting voluntary sector organisations. We value our partnerships with them but should their funding be reduced?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 10 Free school meals are provided for all P1 pupils in 16 schools in areas of greater need. Should this be reviewed?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 11 Birkhill Clay Mine costs £50,000 to run each year. If it stays open it will need significant sums spent on maintenance. Should the Council consider closing it?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 12 Free swimming lessons are provided to all P5 pupils. Should these be discontinued and the money invested elsewhere?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 13 Should the Council reduce the amount it spends on summer play schemes?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 14 Should the Council consider introducing and charging for a factoring system for properties in areas with a mix of Council/private owners?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 15 Should charges be made for the garden aid service? The service is currently part funded by Council Tax and provided free of charge to 6,000 households, 50% of whom are owner occupiers.

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 16 Most Councils charge for all special uplifts. Households in the Falkirk Council area get two free uplifts a year. Should Falkirk Council introduce a charge to bring in additional income?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 17 Should increased charges be made for sport, culture and community learning activities?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 18 Should floral displays and bedding plants be replaced less often to save money?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 19 The Council subsidises less popular bus services that are not commercially viable. This means that these services continue to run. Should this funding be reduced?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 20 Funding is allocated to other organisations, such as Town Centre Management and Falkirk for Business. Should we reduce this and invest the money elsewhere?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

- 21 Should parking charges be increased to bring in funding?
- ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ No opinion

Comments

Please return this form to the Council at:
Falkirk Council Budget
FREEPOST SC02399 FALKIRK FK1 5WZ
It can be completed online at
www.falkirk.gov.uk/budgets or you can
e-mail your views to budget@falkirk.gov.uk

Any other comments