

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL  
2012+ BUDGET CONSULTATION  
With Young People**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November  
Summerfield Centre**

14 people attended the meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November.  
The attendees were from 8 different postcodes across the city.

1.0	<b>Concerns about specific savings proposals.</b>	For the attention of Department/s
1.1	<p><b>Events</b> The young people felt there should be more events and sports, not less. 'Maybe you'd get more people into the Olympics if there was more' Events bring everyone together. Stop isolation. Then people won't fight. 'Events can make you feel a real sense of community' Businesses should sponsor events.</p> <p><b>Lottery</b> People were not in favour of a Birmingham Lottery. They felt that the National Lottery will always give more money, so most people would buy their tickets and not Birmingham's. They wanted to know what percentage of the cost of running a lottery would go back to the people of Birmingham, and didn't feel the percentage would be high enough. 'They could just apply to National Lottery for funding'</p> <p><b>Golf Courses</b> Everyone was in favour of the proposals for golf courses. 'Why has the Council got golf courses? Sell them off and make sport available to ordinary folks.'</p> <p><b>Community Development</b> As with events, young people felt that the city is mixed. People are segregated so community development is important for networking and becoming aware.</p> <p><b>Fly Tipping</b> If charges are made fly tipping will happen. Could there be a project or system where companies swap new for old eg. you buy a new settee and take away the old one.</p>	Environment & Culture
1.2	<p><b>Fostering and Children's Homes</b> Participants wanted to know whether it is really cheaper to foster. They felt that a lot of people become foster parents just for the money and wanted to know how these people are checked. How strict is the Council? They should be strict but,</p>	Children, Young People & Families

	<p>they shouldn't reject people who'd be good except for something they did in the past. 'The children are more important than the money'</p> <p>It was felt that 'staff in homes are horrible' and the facilities are poor. It was suggested that maybe if they improved the places and trained the people, it would be better.</p> <p><b>Prevention</b> They agreed with prevention, to avoid problems later on eg. sex education.</p> <p><b>Careers Advice/Connexions</b> It was agreed that advice is needed. People gave examples of this need eg. not being told about BTECs rather than A levels; lack of expectations/being encouraged into a route that 'downgrades you'. When asked where they would go for careers advice the group (most of whom had left school and been to college/university) gave a lot of options: Job centre – 'my personal adviser is experienced' Internet Mentors in School eg. Uni students – 'they should encourage university students to become mentors' College/University Adviser Work Directions Employment Agency Dad/family Youth Worker Jobs Fairs Job Clubs</p> <p>One person remembered being given good advice by Connexions. Others who had a view about Connexions were not positive. The feeling of the meeting was 'they'd be better off scrapping them'.</p>	
1.3	<p>Regarding proposals to increase multiple occupancy <b>licences</b>: landlords won't pay, or they'll put the rents up.</p> <p>It was agreed that advice is needed. People gave examples of this need eg. not being told about BTECs rather than A levels; lack of expectations/being encouraged into a route that 'downgrades you'. When asked where they would go for careers advice the group (most of whom had left school and been to college/university) gave a lot of options: Job centre – 'my personal adviser is experienced' Internet Mentors in School eg. Uni students – 'they should encourage</p>	Homes & Neighbourhoods

	<p>university students to become mentors'  College/University Adviser  Work Directions  Employment Agency  Dad/family  Youth Worker  Jobs Fairs  Job Clubs</p> <p>One person remembered being given good advice by Connexions.  Others who had a view about Connexions were not positive.  The feeling of the meeting was 'they'd be better off scrapping them'.</p>	
1.4	<p><b>Buses</b> are too expensive – why do they get such a big subsidy?  Need a subsidy for people to get access.</p>	Development
1.5	<p><b>Vulnerable Adults</b>  'Substantial' is still a big need.</p>	Adult & Communities

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Possible Alternative Actions to Make Savings</b>	<b>For the attention of Department/s</b>
2.1	<p><b>Staff Salaries and Councillors Allowances.</b>  A lot of people have had to take pay cuts. Councillors' pay isn't bad for what they do, especially if they have other income too.  Staff and Councillors that are higher up should get cut more.</p>	Corporate Resources & Democratic Services
2.2	<p>The Council/Council projects should be allowed to carry money forward from one year to the next. In the past people have bought rubbish just to get the money spent.</p>	Corporate Resources & Democratic Services
2.3	<p>They shouldn't let the EDL march here. They make too much mess for us to clear up.</p>	Environment & Culture

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Other Points Made at the Meeting</b>	<b>For the attention of Department/s</b>
3.1	<p><b>Council Tax</b>  Everyone was in favour of a freeze.  But maybe it should be tied to earnings - some wouldn't notice.</p>	Corporate Resources & Democratic Services

3.2	<p><b>Other</b> . They shouldn't spend on defence or wars. Wars make money.</p> <p>Basically the city will deteriorate and the country will too. As society deteriorates, it will get worse. Some areas are already bad – loss at Solihull vs here. Then crime rate will go up. The far right will be on the rise –it always happens in a recession.</p> <p><b>Youth Services</b> – The young people definitely don't want it cut. 'They're the only reason the kids aren't going absolutely wild.' It's a break from school, family, socialising. Need more. Council could reach out to encourage cinemas to do a free day for kids. Like Orange Wed. But it can't replace the Youth Service. Need free swimming, gyms etc – these things should be free for children.</p>	