

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

**Thursday 17th November
Muath Trust, Bordesley Centre**

11 people attended the meeting on Thursday 17th November.
The attendees were from 5 different postcodes across the city.

1.0	Concerns about specific savings proposals.	For the attention of Department/s
1.1	<p>Sports We have no support for the volunteers who want to provide sports to keep young people occupied. For example getting them involved in football teams and running. We need financial support to help run a club for training, balls, kit, league fees etc. Sport clubs keep the youth and the volunteers motivated. These things should not be cut but the Council could redirect its support to people who are volunteering within their communities. The Council should invest in gym facilities. Young people access sports via Youth provision, not via Passport to Leisure.</p> <p>Play Schemes They have already gone. Families already have to pay and it mounts up when there are a number of children.</p> <p>Centre management say – the arduous process of applying for the Council’s play scheme funding makes it not worth the time and effort given the small amount of money that is available. They might as well cut it. Most of the budget must be being used to fund the bureaucracy.</p> <p>Lottery The Muslim Community won’t buy lottery tickets.</p> <p>Golf Courses The proposal is supported. Do the same for Leisure Centres and Baths instead of closing them down eg. Sparkhill Baths and Highgate sports hall.</p> <p>Fly Tipping A problem in our area, so don’t want proposals to make it worse.</p>	Environment & Culture

1.2	<p>Fostering and Children's Homes Fostering is a good idea. Kids don't get so much out of homes. They're expensive and not meeting their purpose. They should be monitored. For example, they will say a meal costs £10 but actually it costs £5.</p> <p>Careers Advice/Connexions It was agreed that advice is needed. They should be delivered in places where education is already being provided – schools, colleges etc. There was a good Connexions adviser at the Muath Trust but she's been cut. Connexions supported the Muath Trust in a number of ways but it has all ended. A number of young people said that they had received good support from Connexions when they'd needed it. Others said they would normally get careers advice from teachers, the internet, parents, friends and various open days.</p>	Children, Young People & Families
1.3	Regarding proposals to increase multiple occupancy licences : landlords will increase rents.	Homes & Neighbourhoods

2.0	Possible Alternative Actions to Make Savings	For the attention of Department/s
2.1	<p>Efficiencies It will be difficult to avoid hitting the front line. Already services reflect the reduction in staff – longer waits and back log.</p> <p>Poor areas get less money because the money gets spent on police surveillance and stopping cars instead of playgrounds.</p>	All departments
2.2	<p>Staff Salaries and Councillors Allowances.</p> <p>Poor Wards need more Councillors. They could stay at 3 for overworked Councillors and reduce elsewhere.</p> <p>They should reduce wages, starting from the top. Cutting the lower end affects communities. People at the top need to take the brunt.</p>	Corporate Resources & Democratic Services
2.3	<p>Contractors Young people who have worked for various companies who are contracted to deliver council services say: There is a lot of waste. They need strong regulation. Their view is 'our job is to get rid of customers as quick as possible'.</p>	All Departments

	They hardly ring the bell or wait for someone to answer before they put a card through the door. Then they have to visit again. It costs double just to do a small repair.	
2.4	They should sell off the buildings that the Council owns to raise money.	Development

3.0	Other Points Made at the Meeting	For the attention of Department/s
3.1	<p>Other . The government should be responsible. The government make cuts so its not the Council's fault. If cuts are needed, they should minimise the effect.</p> <p>Youth Services We support no more reductions. We definitely need them constantly. Kids are getting more and more violent – we need to keep them occupied. 'A Youth Worker is like an idol to the kids – like a mentor or a teacher. A Youth Worker could do all the roles: Connexions, help with homework, everything'. Youth clubs are like second homes. Sessional youth workers have been cut. There's none at all now at this centre.</p> <p>Children's Centres There has been a reduction already so it is good not to hit the front line any more.</p>	