Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Council Plan 2020 to 2024 and budget 2020 to 2021 consultation

Overview of Council Plan

The Council Plan sets out the council’s priorities to ensure the borough continues to be a great place to live, providing opportunities for everyone that lives and works here.

Our current Council Plan 2016 to 2020 is now due for review. We have looked at new evidence and revisited the priorities in the plan to ensure it continues to put residents at the heart of everything we do.

To do this, the draft Council Plan for 2020 to 2024 will focus on these four priorities:

- Strengthening communities
- Protecting and enhancing our environment
- Improving safety
- Planning for the future

This is a key document for the council and the plan will be delivered through the council’s budget for 2020 to 2021.

Overview of budget proposals

The proposed budget sets out how we plan to use our resources to support the priorities of the emerging Council Plan.

Our focus is to lay strong foundations that will shape the way the borough grows over the next 25 to 30 years and deliver opportunities for all communities. We aim to ensure residents and future generations continue to enjoy an excellent quality of life and environment, which good planning can secure.

With a funding gap of £5 million predicted in 2023 to 2024, the context in which we are working to deliver our priorities is challenging:

- Central government is expecting local councils to be more self-sufficient in the way they fund services for residents
- Government funding reductions also affect Hampshire County Council, which has recently identified significant savings measures likely to impact the borough council provision
- Interest rates are at an all-time low, affecting the return achieved on our investments, yet demands for services continue to grow
- Just doing the same costs more.

A balanced budget will ensure we are in a good financial position so we can protect front line services, look after the borough’s assets, give vulnerable people the help they need, invest in shaping the way the future grows and transform our services through the use of new technology to support the borough’s digital future.
To do this, the following options have been considered:

- **Review charges for optional services that the council provides** – the proposed budget for the next year includes an average 3% increase in fees and charges to cover inflation and rising costs. This is a fair way of balancing the cost between those who decide to use these optional services and everyone having to pay;

- **Look at the way we provide our services in the future** – consideration has been given to how we work in the future to ensure our services are run efficiently to benefit local residents;

- **Generate additional income to help fund services** – looking at ways of generating additional income, such as alternative investment opportunities and selling our services to other organisations;

- **Manage our buildings and land more effectively** – how we can manage and use our buildings more effectively and further steps that we could take, such as selling land or buildings we own;

We would like to invite you to comment on the draft Council Plan and the budget proposals as your views are important to us. Your feedback will inform the final proposals for the Council Plan and budget and decision-making at a Cabinet and Full Council in February 2020.

The documents below provide more information on the draft Council Plan and budget proposals, including the options we have considered to balance our budget.

- [Draft Council Plan 2020 to 2024](#)
- [Draft Council Plan priorities on a page](#)
- [Draft budget proposals 2020 to 2021](#)
- [Draft budget proposals 2020 to 2021 – Appendix 1: Cabinet Report](#)
- [Draft budget proposals 2020 to 2021 – Appendix 2: EIAs](#)

The following short videos also illustrate the main points of our proposals:

- Video one - Budget
- Video two – Council Plan

This consultation will be live until 11.59 pm on 1 January 2020.

If you need this information in a different format (for example, Easy Read, Braille), please contact customer services at customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk or call 01256 844844.

**How to provide your comments**

You can have your say by:
- filling in this [online survey](#)
• downloading a paper response form from the consultation webpage;  
  [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/priorities](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/priorities) (please write clearly using black or blue ink) and post it to the address below  
• emailing your response to [corporatesupport@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:corporatesupport@basingstoke.gov.uk).  

Alternatively, if you would like a paper copy of the questionnaire and freepost envelope sent to you, please call us on 01256 844 844 or email [customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk).

You can also write to us at:

Customer Services  
Council Plan and Budget consultation  
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
London Road  
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If you have any queries about how to take part in this consultation, please contact the Customer Services team using the contact details above. Calls from a landline will be charged at the local rate, although mobile phone charges may vary.