



## Message from Councillor Pete Marland Leader of the Council

The past two years have been very difficult for everyone. We have all felt the impact of the pandemic, and alongside this, the cost of living and energy bills are rising.

More people are turning to their council for help, and we've stepped up to provide it. As well as keeping essential services running, we've helped to save jobs, secure new investment, and get people back into work through our economic recovery programme. Milton Keynes is now one of the fastest growing economies in Britain.

Over the next 12 months, your council tax will allow us to provide the services that so many local people rely on. In fact, it's more important than ever. The funding we used to receive from central government has been significantly reduced. The cost of providing services such as adult social care and protection for children has risen as demand has increased.

### The year ahead

To deliver council services in the face of these issues, we've taken the very difficult decision to:

- Increase council tax by 3.75%
- Reduce spending by £2m
- Use £3m of council reserves

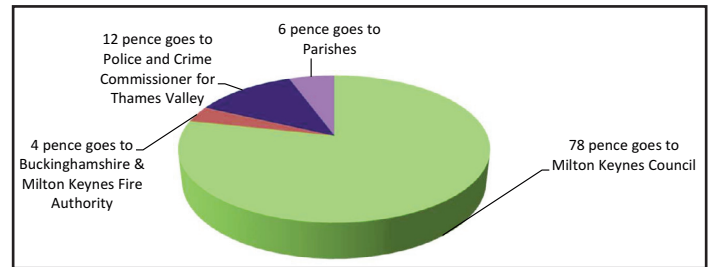
Any increase in council tax is difficult. However, Milton Keynes council tax will still remain the lowest in the region.

For the second year running we'll be using council reserves to balance the budget. This is money we've put aside to use in an emergency, and dealing with the impact of the pandemic, cost of living rises and inflation is exactly the purpose for which it's intended.

Work also continues on new efficiencies to give local people better value for money, and this year we will be reducing spending without making cuts to services.

### Council tax explained

Milton Keynes Council does not receive all the council tax you pay. A breakdown of each pound we collect from you:



The 3.75% increase applies only to the council. The other precepting bodies will set their own council tax charge.

### Priorities for 2022/23

Our goal is to continue providing some of the best, and most value for money services in the country. We're putting extra money into:

- Supporting vulnerable people and keeping people safe.
- Emergency accommodation for homeless families and rough sleepers.
- Keeping weekly waste collections, boosting recycling and rolling out wheelie bins.
- Continuing to get the basics right such as landscaping, road maintenance, fly-tipping, litter, and pest and rodent control.
- Flood prevention work that tackles the impact of climate change.

The booklet that accompanies this letter explains some of the ways we've made a real difference over the last year.

Councillor Pete Marland  
Leader of the Council