



Message from Councillor Pete Marland Leader of the Council

On your side in tough times

It has been a very special year for Milton Keynes with the announcement in summer that we have, finally, been awarded city status. It is obviously a moment of huge pride for everyone.

However, for many residents, times are very tough right now with rising prices, increasing energy bills, higher inflation and increasing mortgage payments.

Our challenges

Milton Keynes City Council has faced our own challenges for over a decade now, with reduced funding from central government and higher demand for services such as adult social care and child protection meaning we've had to make over £200m in cuts since 2010.

We now also face the problems that you face - such as higher energy costs and inflation.

Support during the cost-of-living crisis

Looking after our finances properly and taking difficult decisions means we will be able to use some funding to ease the pressure on hardworking families and those hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis. We will be supporting those on the lowest incomes with food and energy costs, helping working families by introducing an Emergency Mortgage Interest Relief Scheme and allocating more funding for community-based projects that offer help, advice and support.

Keeping our local economy strong

A strong, innovative and resilient economy that ensures well-paid jobs is vital to the future success of Milton Keynes so as a council we will be providing targeted support to keep our local high streets vibrant, promoting local start-ups and ensuring we help and retrain those who need to find new employment.

Investing in prevention

We want to invest in services that reduce future costs and improve the lives of our residents at the same time, so we will be investing more in preventative services such as early support for our children and young people, better adult social services, and other investments such as improving access to children's mental health support.

Cutting waste not services

We will always make sure that before we look at cutting frontline services, we get value for money from the council tax you pay us. We have reduced the number of managers and staff we employ while using our reserves to invest in new technologies to reduce our running costs.

Unfortunately, the increase in our cost does mean that the Milton Keynes City Council element of your council tax will rise by 4.9%. We understand this is a difficult decision, but it is below inflation and our council tax remains the lowest in the region.

Your council tax also includes charges for other services such as police, fire and rescue and your local parish or town council – which Milton Keynes City Council does not control.

Protecting essential services

Milton Keynes City Council is proud to continue to maintain levels of services that are no longer delivered elsewhere in the country. We will maintain weekly bin collections, roll out wheelie bins and continue to not charge for garden waste.

We will continue to tackle fly-tipping and litter by maintaining our litter warden service and we are not proposing any closures of libraries or children's centres. We are also investing more in fixing our roads and redways, funding more dropped kerbs, upgrading a number of playparks, and in tackling anti-social behaviour and knife crime.

Thank you

Milton Keynes City Council is here to serve you. I know the challenges we will all face in the next few years, but the city council will always be on your side in tough times.

Councillor Pete Marland
Leader of the Council