



# Message from Councillor Pete Marland Leader of the Council

**Please find enclosed your Milton Keynes City Council Tax statement for 2024/25 and a booklet containing information on some of the activities of the city council over the past year.**

As you may have seen or read in the news, local councils are currently facing an extremely challenging financial situation.

Inflation, demand for adult social care, large increases in the cost of children's social care placements and in providing temporary accommodation, alongside reduced government funding have left many councils needing to make deep cuts to services and reducing levels of support to those in need. A number of local authorities have had to issue a 'Section 114 Notice', which is effectively bankruptcy, or have said they may have to do so in the next few months.

Through tough financial controls and prudent management, Milton Keynes City Council has ensured only a small overspend against our budget for 2023/24 and we will deliver 94% of the savings proposals we made last year.

The council has also delivered a number of improvements to services, including a successful roll out of our new wheelie bin refuse collection service which has increased recycling levels by a third.

However, due to increasing pressures the council must find more than £7m in financial savings in 2024/25.

**I am pleased to be able to report that:**

- The council has passed a balanced budget;
- There are no proposed cuts to frontline services;
- We are not using any reserves to balance the base budget.

**We will continue to deliver on our main priorities including:**

- Cost of Living Crisis support for local families;
- Delivering value for money services such as filling more potholes;
- Supporting our local economy, jobs and high streets.

**The council also continues to invest and deliver improved infrastructure that is funded through the benefits of housing growth including:**

- Funding several new schools and a new health centre on MK East;
- Providing funding to open a new MK Hospital Renal Service in the also council-funded Whitehouse Health Centre;
- Investing in critical infrastructure for growth such as new grid roads.

We also continue work with our partners on regeneration projects in Wolverton, Galley Hill, Woughton and in Bletchley, improving access to NHS GP and mental health services, reducing knife crime, and tackling climate change.

**Unfortunately, some difficult decisions do have to be made.** While the government have provided a small increase in funding for some social care services, it expects the majority of funding to be raised by increasing council tax. The council has therefore agreed:

- A council tax increase of 2.99%.
- A social care precept increase of 2%.
- This totals a 4.99% council tax increase.

Milton Keynes City Council is not the only public body that makes up your council tax bill. The Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Service and your local town or parish council also levy a council tax charge and the changes to their precept are outlined on your bill.

The council tax you pay provides the majority of funding we use to deliver the services many people rely on. I understand the difficult times many of us are experiencing and I am proud that during this period the council continues to do all we can to provide value for money in all that we do.

Councillor Pete Marland  
Leader of the Council