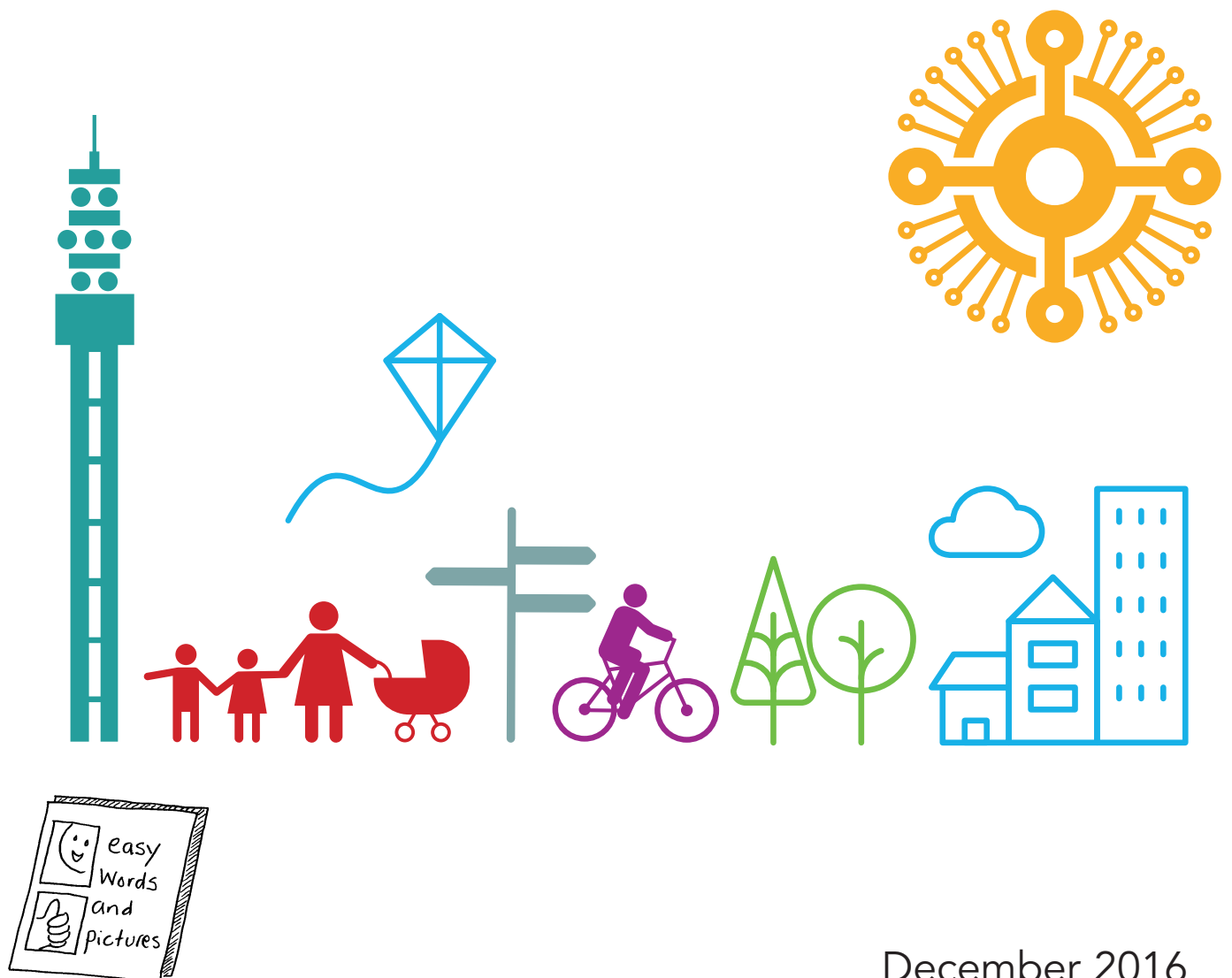


Budget Consultation Summary 2017+

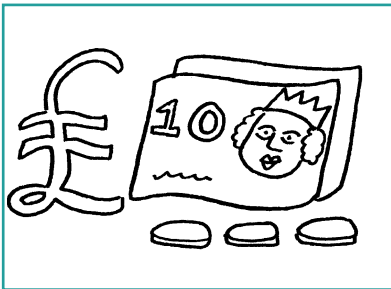
This leaflet is easy to read



What is this document?

This document is about Birmingham City Council having less money to spend on services and what to do about it. This is a short version of the Budget Consultation 2017+ document.

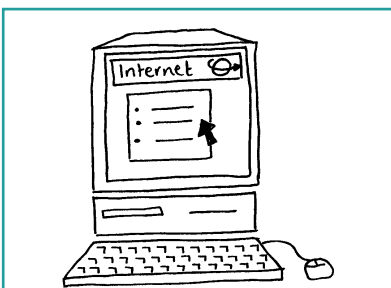
It contains information on:



- What is happening with the money Birmingham City Council gets for the services it provides.
- How Birmingham City Council has saved money so far.

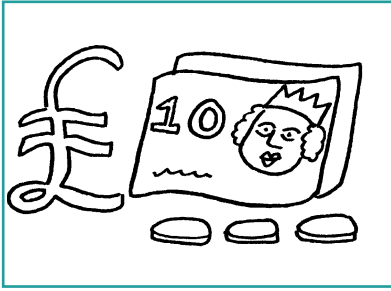


- The ideas Birmingham City Council has on how to spend the money.
- How you can share your ideas with us.



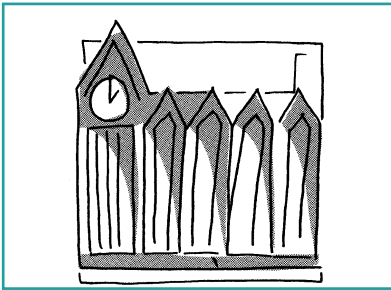
If you would like to read the full document, you can do this by going online at:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/brumbudget17



What is happening with the council's money?

- Birmingham City Council has big money problems.
- It takes a lot of money to run the council.
- Most of this comes from the Government. But the Government is going to give us less money next year (from 1 April 2017).
- This means we will have less to spend.
- Lots of other councils have the same problem.



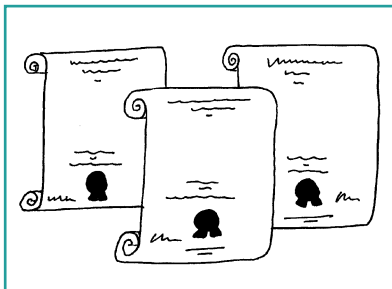


How has the council saved money so far?

We have saved lots of money in the past few years.

- We have fewer staff working for us now.
- We charge for some things we do.
- We have changed the way we do some things to save money.

But we need to save more!



It is against the law for us to spend more money than we have. We also want to protect services for people in need.



Our ideas for saving money

We have thought about how to run services with less money.

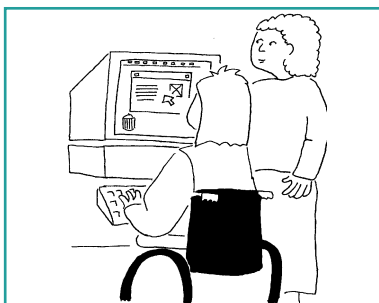
There are lots of ideas. This is because we need to save a lot of money. Below are just a few of our ideas.



You can see all of our ideas in full on this webpage:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/brumbudget17

We want your ideas and thoughts about our ideas for saving money.

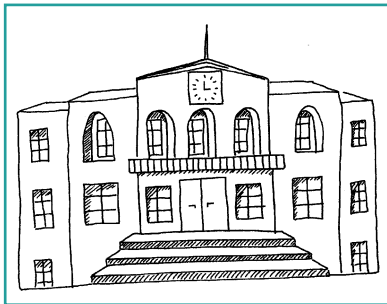


- The council will look at how it uses information technology and how to save money on things like using computers, printing and photocopying.
- It will look at its contract with Service Birmingham for information technology and also about bringing the revenue service back into the council.

Council Tax may be increased.



- The council will look at new ways of doing things they do now, working together with partner agencies.
- It will keep the right staff for the right jobs, and have fewer job layers from the customer to the chief executive.

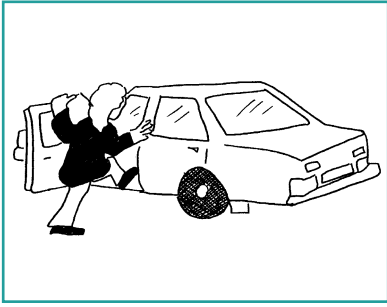


- The Museum and Heritage service is delivered through a contract with the Birmingham Museums Trust which covers nine sites. The council is thinking about reducing the contract by £500,000 a year.

- Birmingham City Council will look at a new model for Marketing Birmingham and advertising.



- The council thinks it could not have so many park keepers or rangers in parks and can cut the grass less.
- The council is looking at the flowers and hanging baskets across the city: do we need these or can we do this differently in the future?



- The council has off-street car parking across the city, this could be a way of getting some money by charging for parking on weekends and evenings where now lots of car parks are free during these hours. The council may also increase charges for parking.



- The council will look at day centres to see if they are being well used and are working for people who use them. Some day services are run by the council, and there are some external services that the council pays for.



- The council is looking at different ideas for how to run services – maybe in communities or ‘hubs’. The council is asking people for their ideas on how to do things differently.

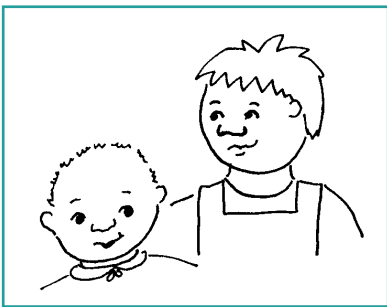


- The council wants to review the amount of money spent on the Supporting People services that help people with things like finances, hospital appointments, health and wellbeing, and linking to community groups. They will look at funding these services together with health partners.

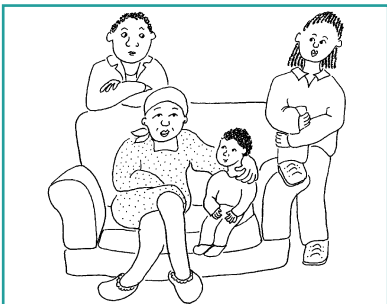


- The city council is looking at a grant of £250 which carers can apply for every 18 months for respite care or equipment. The city is looking at how to support carers now and in the future and at re-modelling these services.

- It is looking at homes that children with a disability live in, or use for respite, and may put the two together if they are not used all the time. The council is also looking at introducing foster carers for respite.



- Short breaks for children with disabilities could be reduced.
- The council will review the role of staff who support children in care at contact centres and see if they can do this differently.



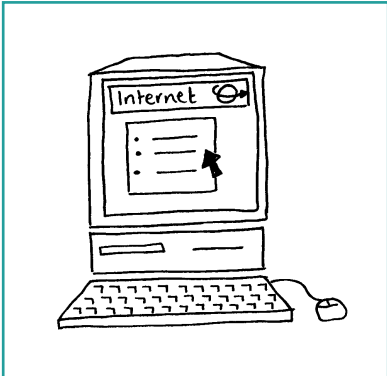
- Short breaks for children in the community will be reviewed. The council has to make sure children are safe and supported, but needs to look at different ways of offering them – maybe using other partners agencies.



What do you think?

We want to know what people living in Birmingham think of our ideas for saving money.

This is how you can tell us what you think.



- Go to the webpage **www.birmingham.gov.uk/brumbudget17** and click on the highlighted words 'filling in a short survey' where you can answer a few questions.

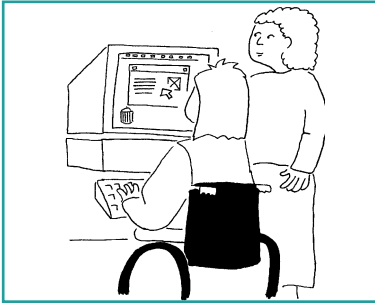
- You can also send us an email to: **budget.views@birmingham.gov.uk**



- You can write to us at:

**Budget Views
Room M49
Council House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B1 1BB**

- You could tell someone else what you think. Then ask them to tell us.



More information

This is a short version of the Budget Consultation document. You can read the full document at this webpage:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/brumbudget17

We follow the Data Protection Act 1998.

For more information –

Phone: **0121 303 4876**

Email: **DP.Contacts@birmingham.gov.uk**

Webpage:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20154/foi_and_data_protection

Pictures from CHANGE
www.changepeople.co.uk

