

Town & Parish Council Conference

5th October 2011



Welcome

Councillor James Jamieson
Leader of the Council



Budget Process

Councillor Maurice Jones
Deputy Leader of the Council

Central
Bedfordshire

budget 2012

Making your money count

October 2011

National deficit, local challenge

- At least 28% less Government grant over 4 years
- Increased demand for services
- Need to continue to reduce spending in 2012/13



A track record of efficiency

- £10m saving in first year of existence
- £12m savings in 2010/11
- On track to save £19m this year with a 0% council tax rise



The 2012/13 budget process

- Listening to our stakeholders
- Proposing a draft budget for 2012/13
- Consulting on the proposals
- Full Council sets the budget



Listening

- Residents survey
- Focus groups
- All household survey (News Central & online)



Consulting

- Proactive communication of draft budget options to residents
- Direct communication of draft budget options to all stakeholders
- Consultation with users directly affected by our proposals



Communicating

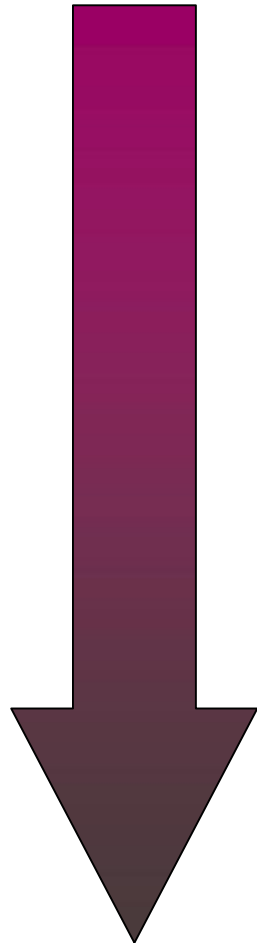


Your help needed

- Help communicate the survey now and the consultation in December
- Give us your feedback as a key stakeholder
- Work with us to enhance your role



Budget timeline



Sept/ Oct

Listening

15th Nov

Executive to consider market research feedback

6th Dec

Executive agree draft budget options

Dec/Jan

Consulting

Dec

Overview and Scrutiny Committees consider budget options and public feedback

25th Jan

Town & Parish Council Conference

14th Feb
final budget

Executive to consider public feedback & decide

23rd Feb

Full Council to agree final budget

Feb/ March

Communicating

Open Public Services

- Enhancing the Role of Town and Parish Councils

Councillor James Jamieson, Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council

5th October 2011

The big picture

- The Prime Minister has been clear that the government has three priorities

Generating Growth



Creating the Big Society



Implementing reforms



**Voluntary and
philanthropic
action**

**Community
empowerment**

**Public service
reform**

What Do We Mean?

Localism

Philosophy

Decentralisation

Process ...

Big Society

Vision ...

Localism Bill – community empowerment

- Right to challenge
- Right to veto excessive Council Tax rises
- Right to buy
- Local referendums
- Right to build
- Neighbourhood Planning



What Does this Mean in Practice?

How Do We Engage Successfully?

- Ability to inform and influence decisions
- Ward Councillors as community leaders
- Building the capacity
- Coordinated
- Leverage Town and Parish Councils



➔ Enhancing the Role of Town and Parish Councils

Open Public Services White Paper

5 principles for modernising public services

- **Choice** –personal budgets and access to information
- **Decentralisation** – to the lowest appropriate level
- **Diversity** – enabling charities, businesses and voluntary and community groups to run public services (outcome focussed)
- **Fairness** – fair access for all
- **Accountability** – choice, transparency and voice



Open Public Services White Paper - Personal

Individual services

- Personal budgets for individual services
 - Choice of licensed / registered provider
 - Right to data / information - informed choices
 - Minimum standards
 - Accountability

