

10 February 2022
Your reference:
Our reference: JW/TA



Leader of the Council
Town Hall
Lancaster Road
Preston PR1 2RL

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Dear Consultee

THE CITY COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23 - 2025/26

For almost two years now, we have faced the challenges of an ever-changing landscape. Working alongside both new and long-established partners we have supported our residents, communities, and businesses through an extremely difficult situation with significant social, economic and health impact; and it is clearly not over yet.

These past months have required Preston City Council to adapt and evolve like never before, flexibly taking on new work streams to meet the shifting needs of the City. Notably, we have facilitated various iterations of business and support grants, hosted community-testing sites, managed a local test and trace system and supported two dozen food hubs within the community. We have also continued to work with key partners to support the safe and successful reopening of the high street as the restrictions allow.

Despite the extremely challenging circumstances, I am proud to say that we have continued to deliver quality services across the board. This includes essential services which have faced significant impact, such as waste collection, environmental health, parks, Preston Markets, cemetery, and crematorium.

Alongside this, we continue to pursue our ambitious agenda for Preston through large scale projects such as the Harris Quarter Towns Fund Investment Programme, Harris Your Place project and other key areas of work to ensure we regenerate our city centre and beyond for the benefit of our whole community.

Early 2021 we launched our revised Community Wealth Building strategy – Community Wealth Building 2.0 – Leading Resilience and Recovery in Preston – which puts delivery and collaboration at the heart of this extremely important agenda.

Despite the difficult budget decisions that we have had to make in recent years, I believe that we are delivering high-quality frontline services to Preston's residents.

On 24 February 2022 the Council will agree its budget for 2022/23. The Council now wishes to consult on the budget proposals which includes increasing the Council Tax by 1.99% in 2022/23. This will mean an increase by 13p per week for a Band D property which will help to safeguard services.

The greatest challenge for the Council is achieving financial stability, ensuring we have a position where we do not spend more than our income. We must do this because we cannot continue to bridge the gap with reserves which only represent a short term fix and would soon be exhausted.

The summary proposals for 2022/23 to 2025/26 are set out in the Achieving Preston's Priorities report. This document can be found on our website at [Budget Consultation Preston City Council](#).

Our ambitions remain high and we are proud to serve this City and of the work we, alongside partners, continue to achieve.

Comments on these proposals would be welcomed and can be directed to:

via our website

or by email to consultation@preston.gov.uk

or by letter to the Chief Executive
The Town Hall
Lancaster Road
Preston
PR1 2LR

Any responses received by 23 February 2022 will be presented to Members at Budget Council on 24 February 2022. Further consultation will be undertaken when detailed proposals are confirmed.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Matthew Brown
Leader of the Council