



MY council what matters to ME

Maidstone council's budget consultation 2012-2015

More savings must be found!

This year Maidstone will spend £20 million on services such as refuse collection, street sweeping and planning. Over the next five years the Council estimates it will need to find substantial savings to support the provision of priority services.

Why does the council have to find the savings?

Last year the Government announced its plans to reduce public spending by 25% and to reduce the national deficit. As a result the council receives less money in grants from the government. Added to this - demands for our services have increased and income has fallen because of the recession.

How much must be found

Next year, 2012-13, the Council will need to save £1.8 million to balance the budget. With help from residents during last year's consultation, we have already identified savings of £1.1 million. We still need to find £700,000 this year and even more in future years.

The cabinet's proposals

The council has to save £2.9m over the next three years. Cabinet members are considering a number of efficiency and other savings including:

Service	Proposal	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Change & Scrutiny	Business Improvement		£30,300	
Communications	Business Improvement	£96,980		
Democratic Services	Business Improvement	£23,400		
Environment & Regulatory	Income Generation & Shared Services	£249,700	£340,000	£500,000
Finance & Customer	Shared Services & Business Improvement	£428,600	£187,700	£80,000
Housing & Community Safety	Contractual Arrangements	£93,000	£25,000	
Human Resources	Shared Services & Staffing Terms & Conditions	£25,000	£5,000	
Information Technology	Shared Service	£61,700	£84,800	
Planning	Business Improvement	£93,000	£7,000	
Senior Management	Restructure	£50,000	£128,000	
Total		£1,121,380	£807,800	£580,000

1. The cabinet's proposals

Please use the space below to tell us what you think about the cabinet's proposals and any ways you think the council could save money:

2. Which of these services matter to YOU?

Last year we asked residents to say which discretionary services mattered most to them. The feedback helped the council find the savings it needed to make.

This year we would like to know which of these statutory services matter most to you. We have to provide them but we could reduce the level of service we provide.

Please tick the four which matter most to you.

Service	Tick 4
Food Hygiene. Monitoring and enforcement of food safety.	
Pollution Control. Monitoring and enforcement of pollution.	
Noise Control. Monitoring and enforcement of noise pollution.	
Licensing. Issuing of statutory and local licenses such as licensed premises and street trading.	
Building Control. Inspections and compliance with building regulations.	
Social Inclusion. Positive action to support disadvantaged groups.	
Community Safety. Safer Maidstone Partnership and other community safety initiatives.	

3. What level of customer service suits YOU?

We could save money by reducing the level service we give in the areas below. Please tell us if any of these are acceptable to you.

Customer Service Levels	Yes	No
Don't open the Maidstone Gateway on Saturday mornings (9:00 - 13:00)		
Don't open the Maidstone Gateway on Thursday evenings (17:30 - 19:00)		
Introduce an automated telephone switchboard on our main contact number 01622 602000 – instead of a personal answer.		
Take longer to answer letters (current target is to reply by 10 days)		
Take longer to answer emails (current target is to reply within 48 hours)		
Other suggestions:		

Name

Address

Postcode

E-mail

Signed

Would you like to be recontacted about this survey to find out the results?

Yes by e-mail / Yes by letter / No

Thank you, please hand in this form at the road show or at one of our receptions or return it to us Freepost to the address below:

FREEPOST RRXT-HRHX-LKAS

Communications, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Kent ME15 6JQ