

## **We Asked, You Said, We Did**

### **Council Tax:**

**We asked:** We asked respondents whether the Council should apply the 3% maximum increase in Council Tax.

**You said:** 42% of respondents thought Council Tax should be increased by the maximum 3%; 27% thought it should be increased by less than 3%; and 31% thought there should be no increase at all.

**We did:** For 2019/20, we will raise Council Tax will by 3%.

### **Mothballing schools**

**We asked:** We told respondents that a number of local schools – Avonbridge Primary, Bothkennar Primary, Drumbowie Primary and Limerigg Primary – are less than 50% full. We asked respondents whether these schools should be merged with other local schools to reduce money spent on school buildings.

**You said:** 74% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that these schools should be merged.

**We did:** We will review schools with less than 10 catchment pupils on school roll.

### **Music Tuition**

**We asked:** We asked respondents if they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect music tuition. We also asked whether we should reduce or stop providing music tuition.

**You said:** 37% respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect the provision of music tuition. 46% said no changes should be made to music tuition.

**We did:** There will be a reduction in staffing and the number of instrument tuition choices available.

### **Pest Control:**

**We asked:** We asked respondents if they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect pest control. We also asked whether we should reduce or stop providing pest control.

**You said:** 35% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect pest control. 46% said no changes should be made to pest control and 39% said it should be reduced.

**We did:** We still stop providing pest control services. We will direct service users to use private companies.

## Special Uplifts:

**We asked:** We asked respondents if they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect special uplifts. We also asked whether we should reduce or stop providing special uplifts.

**You said:** 36% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect special uplifts. 47% said no changes should be made to special uplifts and 40% said the service should be reduced.

**We did:** We will end the current service arrangement of one free uplift. Service reverts to chargeable service for all uplifts based on fees and charges policy.

## Bus Subsidies:

**We asked:** We told respondents that the Council subsidises less popular bus services that are not commercially viable. We asked respondents whether this funding should be reduced or removed.

**You said:** 50% of respondents wanted this funding to be protected; 33% thought it should be reduced and just 12% thought funding should be removed completely.

**We did:** We will reduce the expenditure on subsidised bus services in 2019/20. The savings would be delivered by a reduction of £352,000 on local bus service contracts, including those supplying Local School Bus Services to Children's Services, and would involve reducing service frequencies and/or days of operation. This might result in withdrawal of all bus subsidies.

## Crematorium & Burials

**We asked:** We asked respondents if they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect the burial and cremations service.

**You said:** 40% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect burials and cremations.

**We did:** As part of the Services for the Bereaved project, burial fees have been increased by around 12-13% to align Falkirk to the Scottish average and an inflationary increase of 3% applied to cremation charges.

## Garden Waste:

**We asked:** We asked respondents if they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect garden waste collections. We also asked whether we should reduce or stop providing garden waste collections.

**You said:** 35% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be prepared to pay new or increased charges to maintain and protect garden waste collections. 54% said no changes should be made to garden waste collections and 38% said the service should be reduced.

**We did:** Brown bin collections will revert back to original collection frequency of 4 weekly and on demand in the winter months.