



# Message from Councillor Pete Marland Leader of the Council.

Please find enclosed your Milton Keynes City Council Tax statement for 2025/26, along with a booklet highlighting some of the key activities undertaken by the council over the past year.

As widely reported, local councils across the country continue to face significant financial challenges. While the new government has provided more funding for local services, the scale of increased demand for services the council needs to provide to keep children safe from harm, for adult social care, and on temporary accommodation, means Milton Keynes City Council still has difficult choices to make.

Across the country hundreds of councils are cutting services and many councils have reached the end of the road and are effectively bankrupt. Despite these challenges, through careful financial control, we still do many things that other places have cut, and we propose keeping them.

We have been able to deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26, without drawing on reserves to fund ongoing services. However, the scale of financial pressures means we must find £13.11 million in savings and additional income next year.

#### **I am pleased to be able to report that:**

- The council has passed a balanced budget
- We are not using any reserves to balance the base budget.

#### **We will continue to deliver on our main priorities including:**

- Support for local people and families impacted by the cost-of-living crisis
- Delivering value for money services such as weekly bin collections
- Support for our most vulnerable residents

#### **We also continue to invest and deliver improved infrastructure for our city, funded through the benefits of housing growth including:**

- Working with partners on the regeneration of Bletchley, Wolverton, Galley Hill, and Woughton
- Investment into our education provisions including additional support for MK College
- Funding to improve roads, fix potholes and support public transport

Unfortunately, some difficult decisions do have to be made. While the government have provided a small increase in funding for some social care services, it expects the majority of funding to be raised by increasing council tax.

#### **The council has therefore agreed:**

- A 2.99% increase in council tax
- A 2% increase in the social care precept
- This totals a 4.99% council tax increase

Milton Keynes City Council is not the only public body that makes up your council tax bill. The Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Service and your local town or parish council also levy a council tax charge and the changes to their precept are outlined on your bill.

The council tax you pay provides the majority of funding we use to deliver the services many people rely on. I understand the difficult times many of us are experiencing and I am proud that during this period the council continues to do all we can to provide value for money in all that we do.



**Councillor Pete Marland**  
**Leader of the Council**