

Parish Funding Consultation Results Summary

About the Consultation

The parish funding consultation was held from 28 July 2015 to 12 October 2015.

Milton Keynes Council sought feedback on a new funding allocation which would provide individual parish and town councils their funding levels each year from 2016/17 to 2019/20.

Two options were proposed:

Option 1: To fix the loss of precept income due to LCTR at 2015/16 level and then each year apply the annual funding reduction to the grant amounts on an equal percentage loss of income. This would mean estimated grant levels could be provided to parish and town councils for the medium term. This method will be less accurate in terms of reflecting losses as it will be based on historic data, but will give greater certainty and predictability.

Option 2: To retain the current distribution method where grants need to be recalculated every year, once an estimate of the Tax Base has been completed in late October. Grant distribution is based on estimated losses, calculated from prior year precepts and the October estimated Tax Base. This method will more accurately reflect losses but grant levels can only be set on an annual basis.

The consultation was publicised through the following:

- Email correspondence to all parish clerks.
- Consultation published on the Council website.
- Consultation published in 'Members Weekly' publication.

Responses are detailed below:

Q1. Do you prefer the grant distribution method proposed in option 1 or option 2?

Twenty one responses were received. **Thirteen** respondents supported **option 2**, which proposed to continue with the current grant distribution methodology.

Option	Preference	%
Option 1	8	38
Option 2	13	62
Total	21	100

Of these respondents, a small number of comments were made to support their chosen option, which are summarised over the page.

Comment to support option 1

- This option supports medium-term financial planning as provides clarity on future years funding

Comments to support option 2

- This option is more precise
- We believe this option is fairer to parishes as the Tax Base increase each year will be taken into account as new homes come into use

General Comment

- We would like to see the introduction of formula funding (similar to that in schools) where levels of deprivation are accounted for using recognised measures of deprivation.