

**Recommendations that emerged during the
public consultation on
“BBMP’s Budget: Expectations of Citizens” in
July 2011 for BBMP’s budget 2011-12
(These are still relevant)**

Policy level recommendations:

1. The State government should take effective initiatives to strengthen the local urban bodies in line with the 74th Amendment to ensure participation of citizens in planning the budget by forming Area Sabha and ward committees as stated in the Model Nagararaj Bill that has been circulated by the Ministry of Urban Development.
2. BBMP handing over the functions in relation to education and health back to the State government is against the 74th Amendment. Rather the local administration should be given enough power and independence to provide these services efficiently at local level.
3. Rules should be framed for the Karnataka Local Fund Authorities’ Fiscal Responsibilities Act (KLFAFRA)-2003 to bring sanctity to the budget which provides a framework for managing expenditure consistent with revenue by formulating the budget realistically and minimising deviations.
4. To make the whole process of budget preparation and implementation transparent, BBMP should hold at least two meetings annually with civil society organisations and residents’ welfare associations on annual budget preparation and should involve them in reviewing and evaluating it through social audit as per the KLFAFRA-2003 Act.
5. A Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) should be prepared along with the budget for a period of five years which ensures proper procedure for preparation, submission and audit of the accounts as well as proper scrutiny and adherence to the audit reports and publication of a financial document and annual report.
6. MTFP should be the source document for annual budget preparation and BBMP should not deviate from it as and when it likes.
7. A Budget Control Cell should be set up as per the recommendation of MTFP to check the formulation of programmes and schemes that give false hopes to the citizens.
8. BBMP should adhere to its responsibility as recognised by the MTFP to provide Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) for 325 slums in its jurisdiction and to provide decent livelihood to the urban poor.
9. Adopting the ‘whole city’ and ‘whole slum’ approach, BBMP should earmark and provide seven services, namely, security of tenure, housing at affordable prices, water and sanitation and the universal services of the government – health, education and social security to all the slums as per the MoU of JNNURM.
10. Amendments need to be made to the policies and laws to allow BBMP or the councillors to have their say in framing policies and programmes for the city.
11. PPP is a part of the globalisation process and under this regime there is a stress on the need to cut public expenditure. Cost recovery for all services becomes a principle so a fee is charged for every service rendered. Discussions are being held regarding public-private partnership for vehicle

parking, hospitals, corporation schools, etc. There is a need to look at issues affecting the common people due to privatisation in an integrated way and question the policies of the government.

12. Budget becomes more effective when it is transparent. An Open Budget Index is being followed in other countries.

AT BBMP Policy Level

13. BBMP should be allowed to frame programmes independently as stated in the 74th Amendment and should not function merely as a post office. It would then be able to do development work.
14. Internal and external audit of the BBMP Budget should be conducted every year to check the discrepancies in work allocation and in inviting tenders for work.
15. Strict action should be taken against the officers who approve work without the approval of the Commissioner or sanction of the Council or allot works either through secret tendering or without calling for tenders.
16. A pre-budget paper should be prepared by analysing short and long-term needs, to set out priorities, estimate costs and highlight fiscal and expenditure reforms.
17. The Chairman of the Standing Committee, Taxation & Finance, should take care to avoid the over-estimation of revenues, happening to the extent of 40%, and make a more realistic estimation.
18. An Expenditure Management Committee should be set up to review the status of expenditure from time to time and to look at the proposals and ensure the sources of funds for it.
19. BBMP should do only social development as they do not have the technical and financial capability to do infrastructure development. Many flyovers built are not viable.
20. A share for BBMP in the transportation tax is mandated by law but this is being violated and BBMP is not getting the money.

At the BBMP budget preparation Level

21. The MTFP has projected the revenue for the year 2011-12 as Rs. 4704.04 crore and BBMP should abide by it.
22. Assumed cash transfers and grants from the State government should not be the basis for budget-making and such a budget will only serve as an eye-wash.
23. In the absence of adequate revenues to carry out its programmes, BBMP takes loans. The MTFP states that the revenues of 26 revenue circles are already escrowed for clearing debts. The KLFAFR Act and MTFP guidelines should be adhered to while formulating the budget to avoid BBMP getting into a debt trap. There is a need for an alternate budget that looks at the public interest and not the private interest of the 5% people who have cars.
24. BBMP should prepare its budget for every ward in a participatory manner by involving citizens to plan and prioritise the work, to allocate the budget as per the basic and felt needs of the people of that locality.
25. Elected representatives and concerned government officials should attend such meetings and provide a platform for citizens to raise their concerns and needs.

26. BBMP's budget should be prepared realistically based on the available revenue instead of presenting a huge budget and giving false promises to the citizens.
27. More budget should be allocated for providing basic services for urban poor rather than allocating more budget for road widening.
28. Bangalore should do an infrastructure and economic survey to get detailed data on the number of schools, hospitals, roads, etc., which provides information on doctor-patient ratio, teacher-student ratio, road length, number of physically disabled, etc, within its jurisdiction and use this data for budget preparation.
29. There is a need to divert money from road infrastructure to social infrastructure such as schools, clinics, vocational training centres etc. and to give priority for slum-dwellers.
30. The low utilisation of Rs. 477.05 crore allocated under the SC/ST Sub-Plan needs to be looked into to identify the reasons for the low utilisation and initiate correctives.
31. Buildings are constructed for hospitals but without doctors, there is a need to recruit doctors and fill up the existing vacancies
32. No fines are collected for littering, though Rs. 500/ has been specified in the rules. There is a need to implement the rules strictly for the improvement of the city.
33. In the present year budget they are including almost Rs 320 crores towards garbage collection. If waste is recycled locally, the revenue earned could be used for social services.
34. The mayor has been given Rs.150 crore as individual discretionary fund. One needs to question whether this is needed as there is already a contingency fund.

35. **Demands of slum-dwellers in the current BBMP Budget**

Demands of slum-dwellers that were proposed by KKNSS for the 2011-12 budget of BBMP:

a. Land (including hawking zones)	Rs. 700.00
b. Housing	Rs. 180.00
c. Health infrastructure	Rs. 12.50
d. Education	Rs. 18.00
e. Credit	Rs. 10.00
f. Social security for construction workers	Rs. 23.00
g. Social security for domestic workers	Rs. 10.00
h. Insurances for pourakarmikas	Rs. 10.00
i. Total for BSUP (in crores)	Rs. 963.50

36. **Demands of the homeless**

There is no policy and no department to take care of the needs of the homeless people. There is a need for a policy for them and BBMP should keep aside an amount in the BBMP budget for them.

- As per the Supreme Court order, all State governments should build one shelter home for every population of five lakh people. There is a

need for 95 shelter homes in BBMP area and an estimate of 13 crore has been made for the same.

- According to the budget worked out by IGSSS, Rs. 15 lakh is needed annually to maintain a shelter home for 100 persons.
- There is a need to create awareness among the BBMP and government officials about the status of these homeless persons, for which they could keep aside Rs. 10 lakh.
- Rs. 50 crore should be kept totally in the BBMP budget for providing shelter, with facilities of drinking water and toilets, and welfare of the homeless.

37. Demands of the physically challenged

BBMP should earmark 3% in its budget for the welfare of disabled persons and this amount should be utilised as per their needs and demands. APD insists that BBMP should focus on the following:

- To provide free check-ups, treatment and essential medicines to the disabled children in the age-group of 0-18 years annually
- To provide the necessary quality equipment for disabled persons and treatment for persons with mental illness
- To create awareness among parents regarding required nourishment for disabled children
- To establish zone-wise therapy and rehabilitation centres
- To establish community learning centres for the children with severe disability and to provide mid-day meals and learning materials
- Training centres to be opened to give short- and long-term vocational trainings for disabled persons including interested parents
- Awareness programmes to be conducted at the community level regarding disability and its causes
- Self-help groups for disabled persons to be formed
- To establish resource centres and to create disabled-friendly atmosphere – ramps in schools, parks, etc.
- To conduct camps to create awareness about trainings and job opportunities, availability of scholarships and hostels, etc.
- To provide the fees / free education for those disabled students taking up higher education as well as to provide their transportation costs
- To support the establishment of small enterprises or self-employment
- To provide interest-free group loans for those with severe disability and for their parents/caretakers
- To provide loans for the purchase of two-wheelers for those disabled persons working or studying

36 Children's needs

BBMP should earmark adequate money to provide sufficient infrastructure to its schools, to provide drinking water, toilets along with a cleaner, to avoid children doing the cleaning, provide computer education with equipment and teacher, libraries and science laboratories.

- SDMCs of BBMP schools should be provided with funds as per the GO on SDMCs and they should be strengthened similar to the SDMCs of schools under the State Education Department.

- BBMP should earmark funds in the budget for providing safe pathways for school children while crossing roads.
- Children's libraries should be opened in every ward.
Also ramps should be installed in schools and hospitals to help disabled children.