

GENERAL FUND BUDGET CONSULTATION

Trade Unions

Thank you for your email and information sent with it.

I note that the Council have only included a pay award to staff of 1% in their budget and I wondered if they're aware that last week, the LGA put forward a two-year pay offer for council and school support staff worker which would mean a pay rise of 16% for the lowest paid over the two years, and 2% for anyone currently on £19,430 or more a year from 1 April 2018, with a further 2% in April 2019?

Federation of Small Businesses

The FSB fully understand the need to have a balanced budget and having read the budget I have identified a few points I would like to comment on;

- Members in North West Leicestershire and across the UK have raised the issue that there is not adequate, flexible or affordable space for small businesses, even when startups are catered for the lack of provision of move-on space hampers their appetite and ability to grow and take on more staff. I would be keen to know what the planned opportunities are for new space for small businesses.
- I notice you report that Planning budget has been increased to strengthen legal advice and technical support. One of the biggest problems faced by small builders is the lengthy delays and poor service received from planning departments, which more often than not is caused by local lack of resources. If the extra budget is focused on tackling this problem and allowing small builders to compete, we would be supportive of this.
- The issue of car park charges continues to be highlighted as a problem for small firms. In your papers I haven't seen whether parking charges will increase or remain stable (but I may have missed it). Our research shows that seven in 10 small firms think parking is priority for the future of independent shops. We therefore feel that parking charges should be proportionate to what's on offer in the town. We urge the council to consider a long-term strategic parking policy that attracts visitors into retail areas, rather than focusing on short term revenue.
- The FSB would urge that you consider opening household waste and recycling centres to small businesses to dispose of their own waste at no cost.

Parish and Town Councils

No responses received.