



North West Leicestershire District Council
PO Box 11051
Coalville
LE67 0FW

27 January 2023

Sarah Thirkettle - Finance Manager
North West Leicestershire District Council
PO Box 11051
Coalville
LE67 0FW

Dear Sarah

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2023/24

Thank you for circulating the budget consultation for 2023/2024 and link to the documentation.

We have received no comments from members relating to the detail of the report and proposed spending on leisure facilities improvement and regeneration projects within the district and these are welcomed.

However, comments regarding the freeze on Council Tax raises concerns. We recognise we are in unprecedented times of hardship, and we understand the cost of living is difficult for many people across the country, however we must highlight the concern of not raising council tax for the 14th year in a row. While as you state there are reserves to evidence that it is not necessary to raise council tax this year, we do wonder how the choice to raise council tax even by the minimum amount year on year will affect the district councils' position and delivery of services in future years to come.

There is no doubt that our contractors, service providers and those we enlist to provide vital equipment and supplies to keep the district council running are increasing their prices year on year, but it appears the authority will absorb the cost. While future central government funding is uncertain, services are finding it difficult to recruit on salaries offered, teams being asked to find saving in everything they do, which will ultimately have an effect on the quality and quantity of service the residents of North West Leicestershire receive and should expect.

It is the staff on the frontline who in the long run will be paying the price for potential losses in income generated from a minor increase. In the long term does this mean we won't have the reserves and staff cuts will have to be made because of this consistent decision to not increasing council tax? Is this really in the best interests of the community?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cat Ridgway". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Cat Ridgway
UNISON Branch Secretary