

Mr ,

Increasing Council Tax is not a decision that the Council makes lightly. However as a result of significant cuts in Government funding in recent years, the Council has had to become much more reliant on local taxation in the form of both Council Tax and Business Rates in order to fund the rising costs and demand for services.

Sound financial management alongside an ongoing drive for efficiency and value for money, means that we can sustain and increase the extra funding this council is putting into the services people have told us matter most, such as care for the elderly, more homes and jobs for local people, and keeping Cornwall's roads in good repair.

Whilst Council Tax bills need to rise to fund services – including the Government's social care precept to provide additional funding for Adult Social Care services - Cornish taxpayers still pay well below the England average, with one of the lowest Council tax levels in the South West. At the same time we are maintaining council tax support for the most vulnerable residents.

Over the last ten years, the Council has changed the way it works to make over £380 million of savings. Even with the planned increase in Council Tax, the Council still needs to make further savings of £59m over the next four years.

Regards,

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