

Please reply to: Cllr Nesil Caliskan

Leader of the Council

Email: cllr.nesil.caliskan@enfield.gov.uk

Date: 18 January 2021

Dear Rt Hon Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Re: Council Tax Hike

I write to you during a time of uncertainty and worry for local government and the communities we serve. Huge pressures and massive funding cuts make it harder and harder to keep our services running, despite the incredible efforts of our heroic staff over the last year.

Since 2010, Enfield Council has been forced to find £193 million of savings because of government funding cuts and increasing pressure on services which are already underfunded for the level of need that exists in the borough. For example, Enfield receives less public health funding than neighbouring boroughs. Enfield receives just £50.01 per head, compared to £71.90 for neighbouring Haringey and £108.14 for Islington. In addition, Enfield Council has only been given just over half of the £30 million cost of coronavirus we anticipate in 2021/2022 – despite the Government promising to cover every penny of our costs.

The Government has not met its promise to fully meet our costs and has implied Enfield's residents should bear the financial burden of the coronavirus crisis. Instead, on the 25 November 2020 in a statement to Parliament, you proposed that Council Tax could increase by 5% to protect our services.

This Council Tax increase will place the burden unfairly on our residents and communities, making it increasingly difficult for families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

At a time when so many have lost their jobs or are earning less as a result of being on furlough this is totally unacceptable. In Enfield, the claimant count has more than doubled since last year and in July 2020, over 30,000 residents were on furlough.

I urge you to reconsider this decision and take action to fund councils fully for the cost incurred during the pandemic. This will ensure Enfield residents are not punished at a time when they need support the most.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Leader of the Council