

EXECUTIVE – 1 FEBRUARY 2024

## QUESTIONS

### Executive Summary

The following question regarding Council Tax has been received under Section 3 of the Executive Procedure Rules. The reply by the Leader of the Council is set out below.

1. Question from Ramona Thevenet

“Would Woking Council reconsider their intention of raising Woking Council Tax from 10% to 7%? I believe this to be fair as it is more in line with the average wage increase last year of 6.8%. I have obtained 116 signatures on a petition on the change.org website where Woking residents are also unhappy with an intended 10% increase. Link below.

[Petition · Demand Fair Increase in Council Tax by Woking Council · Change.org](#)”

Reply by Councillor Ann-Marie Barker

“Local Government Minister, Simon Hoare, has said he feels a 10% increase would be 'appropriate and proportionate' for Woking Council. Woking needs to make this increase as part of putting its own house in order. This is part of a package, which includes Government support to get us to a balanced budget.

We did put forward a lower, benchmarked figure, which took Woking to a comparable level with the highest charging boroughs in Surrey. It was clear that this would not be acceptable.

Most of the Council Tax paid by Woking residents goes to Surrey County Council (74%). Woking gets just 12%. The Police and Crime Commissioner gets 14%. A 10% increase in Woking's share of Council Tax is a 1% increase on the total Council Tax bill. The extra amount payable to Woking Council will be 50p a week from the baseline Band D property.

We recognise that any increase will add to cost of living struggles so will use some of the increase for a hardship fund for those who find it difficult to pay.”

<b>Background Papers:</b>	None.
<b>Reporting Person:</b>	Eugene Walker, Interim Finance Director & Section 151 Officer Email: eugene.walker@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3070
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Eugene Walker, Interim Finance Director & Section 151 Officer Email: eugene.walker@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3070
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Dale Roberts Email: clrdaledale@woking.gov.uk
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