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Jon Triggs
Director of Resources and Deputy Chief
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Date: 19th October 2022

Dear Jon

North Devon District Council - Working Age Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24

Thank you for your e-mail of 13th October in which you provided financial analysis of the proposed changes to your Working Age Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the year 2023/24. Your financial analysis estimates that the overall cost will be "*roughly £841,500*," of which the County Council's share would be £605,880.

You have identified that the overall cost would be offset by improved collection rates. You mention an improvement of 0.5% to 97.5% (which was what the budgeted collection rate was up to 2020/21 – before COVID). You estimate that this would offset half of the cost of the scheme.

Council tax is its largest source of income for the County Council and is essential to help finance the provision of services to vulnerable people in Devon. The increasing demand on services – particularly on social care – are placing huge pressures on the County Council's budget. Consequently, this proposed reduction to the council tax base (setting the council tax base lower than it would have been without these changes) will reduce the resources available to deliver key services.

Due to the likely, significant adverse impact on Council Tax income for Devon County Council, we would be forced to implement additional cuts to vital services to the people of Devon overall including the people of North Devon.

Therefore, we have no alternative but to formally object to these proposals at this time, and we urge you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Sinclair".

Angie Sinclair
Director of Finance and Public Value