

Jane Scott
Leader of the Council

8th April, 2010

The Rt. Hon. John Denham, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Communities
& Local Government
Communities & Local Government,
Eland House,
Bressenden Place,
LONDON, SW1E 5DU.

Cabinet Office
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your ref:
Our ref: jas/lg

Dear

Local Government Funding

My Council has been concerned for some time now about the level of formula grant funding for the new unitary of Wiltshire and I undertook to seek your guidance, and challenge you on the basis of that grant funding level. It would seem that we received a smaller formula grant increase than any new unitary authority, only 1.7%, and much less than our nearer neighbours, as can be seen by the figures here:

Shropshire	3.8% increase
Cornwall	4.5% increase
Northumberland	2.9% increase

In addition neighbouring authorities received even bigger increases.

Dorset	7.1% increase
Somerset	5.5% increase
Bath & North East Somerset	4.0% increase

I am greatly concerned that the small increase received by Wiltshire Council has put pressure on maintaining services whilst keeping council tax increases within inflation.

If Wiltshire Council had received similar increases in funding as other new authorities then we would have been in line to receive an estimated £3m more – equivalent to over 1% rise in council tax for the Wiltshire taxpayer.

We are justifying our increases and efficiencies to the taxpayer and it would be helpful if you could justify the small increase Wiltshire has received in comparison to other councils facing similar budget pressures.

Yours sincerely

Jane Scott
Leader of the Council

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