

Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

11th October 2024

Dear Chancellor,

Carmarthenshire County Council wishes to congratulate you on becoming the first woman to be appointed as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the UK Government.

We can empathise with you on taking on this challenging role. As local councils we've had to cope with a disproportionate share of spending cuts during 14 years of ruthless Conservative Government austerity. Due to chronic under-funding, our council is now £120m worse off, in real terms, than we were a decade ago.

You'll be aware that this is an extremely worrying time for all councils and their staff. We note that UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea has warned that "countless essential services and very many vital jobs are at risk, with terrible consequences for communities across Britain."

At our Full Council meeting on Wednesday, October 9th, members accepted a notice of motion urging you to put local government funding back on a sustainable foundation in your forthcoming budget. Reference was made to the £10b we understand may be available due to the Bank of England slowing down the pace of its quantitative tightening programme, and the Institute for Public Policy Research report outlining a different approach which could release about £57b for borrowing to invest.

Our council believes that urgent extra revenue funding (via the Barnett Formula for Wales) is needed for such essential front-line services as adult and children's care, schools and highways. We also kindly urge you to provide for inflationary pressures on local government budgets, and to ensure that pay settlements which are set centrally should be fully funded by central government.

Sincerely,



Cynghorydd | Councillor

Alun Lenny

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