

REFORM UK AMENDMENT - ITEM 3 - GENERAL FUND AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2025/26

Putting Residents First: A Council Tax Freeze Budget Amendment

This Council notes that:

1. The Labour Administration's proposed 2026/27 budget includes an increase in Council Tax at a time when many Stevenage residents continue to face significant financial pressures;
2. The Council has discretion within its General Fund to reprioritise expenditure and make operational savings.

This Council therefore resolves to amend the 2026/27 Budget as follows:

1. Council Tax

That the proposed Council Tax increase for 2026/27 be removed and replaced with a **Council Tax Freeze**, at a cost of: **£212,815 in 2026/27**.

2. Funding of the Freeze

That this cost be fully funded through the following savings:

1. Deletion of Climate Change Team post(s) - saving £101,240.
2. Reversion from HVO fuel to diesel for Council fleet operations – saving £132,000

Total Savings: £233,240

Cost of Freeze: £212,815

3. Future Years

That in future financial years the cost of the Council Tax Freeze be met through:

1. Ongoing savings achieved through the redistribution and reprioritisation of funding set out; and
2. Where necessary, support from General Fund balances, which are projected to remain above the Council's minimum recommended reserve levels.