

**Question 1: Do you agree with the government's proposed methodology for the distribution of Revenue Support Grant in 2022/23, including the rolling in of two New Burdens grants?**

The current distribution methodology for Revenue Support Grant does not reflect the local demands and costs of the Borough and therefore means local taxpayers are required to fund a far greater percentage of costs than any other unitary authority. It remains critical that authorities are funded for the basic cost of providing local authority services regardless of the perceived level of deprivation or other awarding factors.

More generally we must strongly demand that Local Authorities are given surety of the longer-term grant and funding arrangements. Without that understanding it is impossible to effectively plan its future financial strategy, service approach/impacts and to invest key resources appropriately.

**Question 2: Do you agree with the proposed package of council tax referendum principles for 2022/23?**

The centrally controlled ceiling on council tax does not allow for local circumstances and limits the options for the management of expected challenges such as inflation, social care demand or continuing impacts from the pandemic.

**Question 3: Do you agree with the government's proposals for the Social Care Grant in 2022/23?**

Wokingham are extremely concerned about the overall impact of social care funding and the grant proposals. It does not come close to meeting the expected increase in demand and costs for what is the council's largest area of expenditure. There is also a consequence for those local authorities with a larger than average level of self-funders within their council areas who will have to take on new levels of responsibilities for residents that we have to date not had any interaction with. This must be recognised, in full, in future year settlements and there should be grant funding that reflects that a significant proportion of the lead in work for this will be during 2022/23 in preparation for arrangements in 2023/24 onwards.

**Question 4: Do you agree with the government's proposals for iBCF in 2022/23?**

Its important that any allocation recognises the basic costs of providing adult social care services and that funding is not disproportionately skewed to areas of perceived deprivation

**Question 5: Do you agree with the government's proposals for distributing the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund in 2022/23?**

The distribution should better reflect local pressures in the social care market and recognise that places like Wokingham are being disproportionately affected as a result of high private sector charges

**Question 6: Do you agree with the government's proposals for a one-off 2022/23 Services Grant distributed using 2013/14 shares of the Settlement Funding Assessment?**

We are concerned that the Services grant is considered to be one-off and also will be excluded from any future calculations around transitional protections. Given this grant is supposed to cover many issues that are not one-off in nature including NIC rises, inflation etc. our concern is that by not forming part of transitional protections in future years, local authorities may be unfairly treated and penalised in future financial years with a deflated baseline.

**Question 7: Do you agree with the government's proposals for New Homes Bonus in 2022/23?**

We strongly feel that the new homes bonus scheme should continue as an incentive for housing delivery as originally intended.

**Question 8: Do you agree with the government's proposals for Rural Services Delivery Grant in 2022/23?**

We are neutral on the proposals for Rural services delivery grant.

**Question 9: Do you agree with the government's proposal for the Lower Tier Services Grant, with a new minimum funding floor in**

**2022/23 so that no authority sees an annual reduction in Core Spending Power?**

We are pleased that there is a new minimum funding floor so no authority sees an annual reduction in Core spending power.

**Question 10: Do you have any comments on the impact of the proposals for the 2022/23 settlement outlined in this consultation document on persons who share a protected characteristic, and on the draft policy impact statement published alongside the consultation document? Please provide evidence to support your comments.**

We have no specific comments.

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