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13th October 2026

Dear Rhun,

RE: Local Government Funding Formula Review

I am writing on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council following the recent adoption of a Notice of Motion regarding the Welsh Government's planned review of the Local Government Funding Formula.

Firstly, I wish to make it clear that the Council fully supports the principle that public funding should be distributed fairly and transparently, addressing need in the most efficient manner. Members further recognise the importance of ensuring that funding arrangements remain robust, evidence-based and reflective of the changing circumstances communities experience across Wales as they continue to evolve.

However, the Council is equally clear that any revision of the formula must not unfairly disadvantage Rhondda Cynon Taf or the communities we serve.

As you will be aware, our County Borough continues to face significant levels of deprivation, poverty and health inequality, and the demands on the services we provide are significant. We acknowledge the consideration of factors such as rurality and sparsity within the announced review, but we are categorically clear that these must not be strengthened at the expense of the recognition given to deprivation, inequality and complex service pressures.

The simplest way of reconciling these competing pressures across Wales is, of course, for a sustained period of proper funding for local government – both in settlements coming down the M4 from Westminster and from continued prioritisation of local government in the budgets of the Welsh Government. I do note that settlements in the last two years in particular have been a substantial improvement on the “era of austerity” that public services have faced since 2010. We understand, however, that you cannot allocate money that is not available and we will therefore continue to make the case at both national and devolved levels of government that resources should be prioritised and allocated accordingly.

As the third largest authority in Wales and one of the County Boroughs where deindustrialisation has been felt keenly, we are particularly concerned that a redistribution of existing resources between authorities, without addressing the wider financial challenges facing local government, would simply transfer pressures from one set of communities to another rather than resolving the underlying issues.

The Council does not believe that fairness should be defined solely as a redistribution of existing resources between authorities. Rather, fairness must mean ensuring that communities facing similar levels of need receive appropriate support and that communities facing greater levels of need continue to receive recognition for the demands placed upon local services.

As part of any review, the Council is requesting that Welsh Government ensures that any changes are supported by clear and compelling evidence of relative need. Indeed, as part of this, we would urge you to ensure that the particular factors of deprivation, poverty, health inequalities, social care demand, Additional Learning Needs and demographic pressures remain central considerations. This will, firstly, help to ensure that the impact on residents and essential local services is fully assessed before any changes are implemented; but it will also guarantee that no authority experiences a reduction in funding that cannot be objectively justified by an evidenced reduction in relative need.

We look forward to engaging constructively throughout the review process and would welcome further opportunities to ensure the needs of Rhondda Cynon Taf residents are fully understood and reflected.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Crimmings

Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Cyllid

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol dros Ward Gorllewin Aberdâr a Llwydcoed

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