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13th October 2026

Dear Sian,

RE: Review of the Local Government Funding Formula

I am writing to you in line with a resolution of a Notice of Motion agreed by Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council concerning the review of the Local Government Funding Formula.

May I begin by reaffirming that the Council remains fully supportive of the principle that public funding should be allocated according to relative need. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining confidence in the formula and ensuring it remains fit for purpose.

However, we wish to place on record our concern that any revisions must accurately reflect the realities facing communities across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

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

The challenges associated with deprivation, health inequalities, social care demand, Additional Learning Needs and wider demographic pressures remain significant across many of our communities. These factors drive demand for services and must continue to be recognised appropriately within any revised methodology.

We acknowledge the concerns that have been raised by more rural authorities, but we believe that increased recognition of rurality should not come at the expense of recognising deprivation and complex demand elsewhere in Wales.

We therefore ask that the practical consequences for residents and local services remain at the forefront of the review process and that no changes are introduced which unfairly disadvantage Rhondda Cynon Taf as a local authority area.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to engaging positively as the review develops.

Yours sincerely,

A. Crimmings

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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