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18 January 2023

To: Chair – Councillor Stephen Drew  
Vice-Chair – Councillor Graham Cone  
Members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee – Councillors  
Anna Bradnam, Tom Bygott, Libby Earle, Sue Ellington, Peter Fane,  
Sally Ann Hart, James Hobro, Helene Leeming, Judith Rippeth,  
Richard Stobart and Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer

Quorum: 4

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| Substitutes: | Councillors Dr. Richard Williams, Bunty Waters, Mark Howell, Lina Nieto, Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya, Heather Williams, Annika Osborne, Paul Bearpark, Carla Hofman, Dr Lisa Redrup and William Jackson-Wood |
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**There is a pre-meeting session at 5pm the day before the meeting, for members of the Committee only, to plan their lines of enquiry.**

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Scrutiny and Overview Committee**, which will be held in the **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** on **Thursday, 19 January 2023 at 5.20 p.m.**

Members are respectfully reminded that when substituting on committees, subcommittees, and outside or joint bodies, Democratic Services must be advised of the substitution ***in advance*** of the meeting. It is not possible to accept a substitute once the meeting has started. Council Standing Order 4.3 refers.

Yours faithfully  
**Liz Watts**  
Chief Executive

**The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. If you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you.**

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## Agenda Supplement

**7 (b) Conservative Group Budget Proposal for 2023-24**

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3 - 4**



# Agenda Item 7b

## Conservative Group Budget Proposal for 2023/2024

### **1. Freeze the council tax**

It has been a difficult couple of years for residents dealing with the pandemic and on top of what feels like ever increasing household bills particularly in relation to heating and fuel costs which have hit people hard. It is proposed to freeze the council tax at 2022/23 levels to assist residents struggling to meet their living costs. The income forgone in 2023/24 as a result will be around £336,650.

### **2. Additional funding for fraud prevention and investigation**

Local Authorities have in recent years seen increasing amounts of attempted fraud against them and if anything the Pandemic and cost of living crisis has seen this sort of activity increase further. It is proposed to invest £50,000 on further fraud prevention and raising fraud awareness in the community and in schools in line with what some other Council's are doing.

### **3. Additional planning enforcement (compliance) officer**

There is a need to bolster resources in the planning enforcement team and it is proposed to add an additional officer at a cost of £45,300 to provide for the growing demand to investigate breaches of planning conditions and consent.

### **4. Funding**

It is proposed that the amount required of £431,950 be funded in part from a saving by discontinuing the current policy that allows councillors to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, this will save around £14,000. Also Reducing the number of South Cambs Magazines from 4 to 2 which will save around £26,000 with the remaining difference (£391,950) to be met from the transformation reserve.

**Heather Williams**

**Conservative Member for The Mordens Ward**

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