



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
Government and Building Safety*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

6 November 2023

Dear Councillors,

I am writing today to remind you of your personal duties, as a Councillor, to ensure that the Authority upon which you serve fulfils its Best Value duties.

Under the Local Government Act 1999, all Authorities must make arrangements to “secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.” (Section 3).

As elected Councillors, you are all responsible for ensuring the Council delivers against its Best Value Duty.

On 26 October 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued guidance which clearly outlines its expectation that councils will not adopt the operation of part time work for full time pay (otherwise known as the ‘4-day working week’). That expectation applies to South Cambrdge District Council.

I have attempted to engage the Leader of your Council on several occasions over recent months to highlight our concerns about this ideological experiment. That has now resulted in South Cambridgeshire District Council being only one of a small number of councils in the entire country served with a Best Value Notice because of our concern about your actions. To date, this policy has not yet been changed. It is important that the Department is clear with your Council, as a corporate body, and with you all, as elected representatives of that body, that we will take all necessary action to protect taxpayer value for money in South Cambridgeshire. I would urge you to review this policy with urgency and to immediately end an approach which is now clearly contrary to the expectations of the Department.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP
Minister for Local Government & Building Safety