

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Decision taken by individual Cabinet member

(All sections must be completed (mark "N/A" as applicable))

DECISION MAKER *(Name and designation)*

Councillor Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

The decision is to submit the attached response to the government's consultation on The Fair Funding Review 2.0. This Council:

- Supports the core principle of the Fair Funding review that funding should be distributed to where it is most needed.
- Welcomes the increase in local government core spending power announced in the Spending Review, including rolling in other government grants to end wasteful competitive bidding and unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Believes that meaningful transitional arrangements will promote long term financial sustainability of local public services.
- States that the distribution of funding to councils should enable the Council to make meaningful and timely progress against the Local Government Outcomes Framework.
- Supports the comprehensive and detailed consultation response provided on its behalf by the District Councils Network.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

15 August 2025

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

(Those examined by officers and generated by consultation, etc)

The Leader consulted with senior officers and relevant portfolio holders in making this decision. The only alternative option would be to not respond to the consultation. However, given the potential impact on council finances, this was not considered appropriate.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

N/A

Signed _____
(Decision maker)

Designation: Leader of the Council

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government
Local Government Finance
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Contact: policy@rushmoor.gov.uk
Date: 15 August 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing on behalf of Rushmoor Borough Council in response to the Government's consultation on its proposed approach to local authority funding reform through the Local Government Finance Settlement from 2026 to 2027.

This Council supports the core principle of the Fair Funding review that funding should be distributed to where it is most needed. It welcomes the increase in local government core spending power announced in the Spending Review, including rolling in other government grants to end wasteful competitive bidding and unnecessary administrative burdens.

It further believes that meaningful transitional arrangements will promote long term financial sustainability of local public services. Well-designed arrangements will maintain the ability of local authorities to set a balanced budget for next year. In our view, any transitional arrangements should support the early years of unitary local government.

You recently launched the Local Government Outcomes Framework setting out how the Government expect to work with local authorities to deliver key national priorities for local people and communities. The distribution of funding to councils should enable the Council to make meaningful and timely progress against these outcomes.

The Council supports the comprehensive and detailed consultation response provided on its behalf by the District Councils Network. It would like to highlight some particularly relevant points, namely:

- The collection rate assumption should be based on actual collection rates, not on full collection.
- To retain the New Homes Bonus as an incentive to support the delivery of the Government's housebuilding mission.
- To provide additional freedoms and flexibilities for councils to raise and retain income locally, including greater flexibility to set fees and charges, and to recover the full cost of providing services.
- To extend transitional arrangements given that most district councils will lose from the funding reforms and that this may endanger the successful implementation of unitary local government.

We look forward to your response to our feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Williams
Leader
Rushmoor Borough Council

Ian Harrison - **Managing Director**

Karen Edwards - **Executive Director**