

Submission to Cabinet
23rd September 2022



From the Labour Group

Item 4: Medium Term Financial Strategy – Latest Position

As the report says, the risks and uncertainties ahead are significant, but it is the actuality that has to be dealt with urgently to meet our statutory duty to balance the budget.

As the Leader says the county has “lost” £230million since austerity reigned under the 2010 Conservative led Coalition and the Secretary of State at the time, now Lord Pickles, was the most enthusiastic volunteer to cut spending on local services. Whilst the Government have been doing nothing for Local Authorities and the people we serve though the summer, our officers have been trying to uncover a solution to the latest financial challenge to the budget.

With the vanity of that football club proclaiming “No one likes us, we don’t care” our present third-rate Conservative government are setting out to further impoverish local services, as demonstrated in this report. As the Leader says, our financial situation is frightening, worse than the years of austerity.

The Labour Group will do all possible to minimise the effect on vulnerable residents and businesses. We urge the Conservative administration not to “normalise” this continuous erosion of public services by the use of euphemism and fanciful figures.

In that regard the statements from the Leader and the Chief Executive are frank and open. They deserve a hearing by our Members of Parliament who must not be allowed to simply smile sweetly whilst voting through more pain on Leicestershire’s residents.

We thank the officers for bringing forward such a clear report and note that the Council will be called upon to agree a revised budget. In the interim, we note that all new measures will be open to public scrutiny by members in committee.

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