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Town Hall
Trinity Road
Bootle
L20 7AE

To: All Members of the Council

Date: 15 April 2022
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Contact: Debbie Campbell
Contact Number: 0151 934 2254
Fax No:
e-mail: debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 21ST APRIL, 2022

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose a revised version of Agenda Item No. 15. The version previously provided should be disregarded.

Agenda No.	Item
15.	Motion Submitted by Councillor Prendergast - Local Authority Publicity (Pages 3 - 6)

Yours faithfully,

D. Johnson

Chief Executive

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COUNCIL MOTION

21 April 2022

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Prendergast

SECONDED BY: Councillor Tony Brough

LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY

This Council adheres to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (31st March 2011 edition) ('the Code'). The public have a legitimate expectation that public money will not be used for party political purposes.

It is therefore, highly regrettable that the Leader of the Council has chosen to disregard the Code and proceed to print and deliver thousands upon thousands of letters and send out many thousands of emails (at the expense of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council) of a clearly political nature which accompanied the recently issued Council Tax Bills.

These letters, a copy of which is attached, may well breach the Code.

Therefore, this council resolves:

- To instruct the Chief Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer to carry out an urgent investigation into whether the attached letter breaches the Code (instructing outside counsel if he feels it appropriate), and
- For the results of the investigation to be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in the form of a report at the earliest opportunity for Members to consider.

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Your Council Tax 2022/23



Dear Sefton resident,

I would like to thank you for continuing to follow the Covid-19 rules and guidance that apply to all of us. I would also like to extend my sincere condolences to you and your family if you have lost any loved ones during the pandemic.

Since 2010, before Coronavirus, Sefton Council had to deal with over 51% cut in funding for the Borough from the Government. And sadly, I am writing to you at the end of another year when the Government has failed to recognise just how hard our Borough has been hit by over a decade of those cuts and the COVID pandemic.

Instead of providing the funding we need to deliver services for local people and businesses and ensure a brighter future for all, the Government is, once again, forcing us to increase Council Tax to pay for vital services instead.

I am glad to see Ministers have come up with a Rebate scheme for some households. But the reason this Rebate is needed is the Government's own mis-management and lack of vision.

If we are going to be able to build back better from the damage done by this Government's policy of austerity and the impact of the pandemic, then we need sustainable, three-year financial settlements that would enable us to plan strategically and support our frontline services.

Finally, I want to thank our incredibly hardworking staff and partners who have and continue to deliver services that keep us all safe and well during incredibly difficult times. They deserve more than claps and badges from this Government.

Ian Maher

Leader of Sefton Council



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