Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

My Ref: MG/AB/4258
Your Ref:

Dunedin House
Columbia Drive
Stockton on Tees
TS17 6BJ

Tel: 01642 527000
Email: mike.greene@stockton.gov.uk

Date: 14 October 2026

Dear Chancellor

Council Motion – Protecting Stockton Residents from Further Tax Rises

I have been instructed to write to you on behalf of Stockton Council, in respect of a motion that was approved at the 23 September 2026 meeting of Full Council. The motion relates to protecting Stockton residents from further tax rises and states:

"Council notes that:

People across the borough of Stockton-on-Tees continue to face significant pressure on their household finances.

Inflation (Consumer Prices Index) rose by 2.9 per cent in the twelve months to July 2026, with housing and household services making one of the largest contributions to rising costs.

Since April 2025, the rate of employer National Insurance contributions has increased from 13.8 per cent to 15 per cent, while the threshold at which employers begin paying these contributions has fallen from £9,100 to £5,000. These additional employment costs affect local businesses, charities and other employers and can ultimately place pressure on wages, prices and employment.

Residents in the borough have also faced a 4.95 per cent increase in Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's element of Council Tax for 2026/27, in addition to other household bills and taxation.

Council believes that:

Hard-working people, pensioners, families and businesses across Stockton-on-Tees should not be asked to carry an even greater financial burden.
Sound public finances are essential, but further increases in taxation would risk reducing household disposable income, weakening business confidence and placing additional pressure on local jobs and the borough's economy.

The Rt Hon John Healey MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Sent by email to: john.healey.mp@parliament.uk

National fiscal decisions should take proper account of their cumulative impact on communities such as Stockton-on-Tees, where many households and businesses are already managing significant increases in their costs.

Council resolves that:

The Chief Executive write on behalf of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

Setting out the cumulative pressures currently facing residents and businesses across the borough.

Requesting that the forthcoming Budget does not introduce further increases in the overall tax burden on working people, pensioners or local businesses.

Asking the Chancellor to prioritise responsible control of public expenditure, economic growth and measures that allow people across Stockton-on-Tees to keep more of the money they earn."

I am therefore writing to you in accordance with the Council motion.

Any response that you send to this letter will be shared with all Members of the Council and made available to view with the relevant minutes from the meeting of Council (23 September 2026) on the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council website.

Thank you in anticipation for your consideration of the above.

Yours sincerely

Mike Greene
Chief Executive