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Councillor Kay Cutts, Leader
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Friday, 13 May 2011

Dear Cllr Cutts,

IMPACT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICE CUTS ON FUTURE COUNCIL TAX RATES

You will recall that earlier this year UNISON questioned with you how the scale of service cuts and privatisations planned by your administration would impact on council tax charges the County would levy in the next few years.

Specifically, we have a fear that the Conservative group plans to implement cuts to such an extent that will allow them to manufacture a 'slush fund' situation so that council tax charges are reduced ahead of the 2013 County Council elections.

I posed the question again at a public meeting where Cllr Cottee was a guest speaker this week. His response was along the lines of "the election is some time away, and nothing has been decided yet". Given that your Administration determined well in advance to freeze council taxes during the last two years, this rather undermines the stance that "you haven't yet decided" a policy direction on where you plan to be with council tax charges over the next two years.

We intend to keep asking the question of Cabinet members at public meetings until we get a simple "yes" or "no" response to our question. In the hope that we can resolve our concerns more speedily in this age of greater efficiency I therefore pose the question direct to you in this letter: Does the Conservative administration plan to reduce council tax charges ahead of or at the time of the 2013 County Council elections, or not?

I feel sure council employees, faced with being sacked, would expect the basic courtesy of a direct answer and unambiguous reply. I look forward to your answer, preferably before the Council AGM taking place on Thursday 19 May 2011.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Sleath, Branch Secretary