

This is a very important letter about how much <u>second</u> tax you will pay in the future. Please make every effort to read it and let us know what you think. Whilst we are your local councillors in your local area, and the Leader of Merton Council, we are also your neighbours and care passionately about this community. It's where we live

When Labour was elected here in Merton in 2010 we made a promise to freeze your council tax. We have kept our promise and your council tax has been exactly the same now as it was 6 years ago, which is £1,102 per year on a Band 'D' property (most of us live in Band 'D' properties).

Council tax is perhaps the only big item you have over the last 6 years, when all other prices have prices, energy costs, fares, food and so on. We a affordable for you through difficult times, especi Government have hit us so hard. Between 2010 a Merton gets from central Government, forcing u Why is there no mention of disabled people in this list? Are we invisible? **Are we less** important than rubbish collection?

But,

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really matters because most money spent locally – for rubbish collection, street sweeping, schools, looking after the elderly, child protection, roads and libraries – comes from central Government, with only a fraction coming from the Council Tax,

we've managed to keep freezing counce tay even way we operate, something we promis and looked at every penny we spend a things are getting much worse. The ne and now led by Prime Minister There further £35 million cuts by 2020. Tha £1,375 for each home. It's a big prob

Austerity is costing the average home £1,375, but costing disabled people £6,354 per person.

and now led by Prime Minister Theresa May, has told us we will have to make a further £35 million cuts by 2020. That will mean £110m in cuts since 2010 – or £1,375 for each home. It's a big problem.

Some say the easy option is to raise council tax to fe if it was increased by 2% it would only earn us anot remember, the council has faced cuts of £110 millio it is a fantasy to believe the council can eliminate al

Many local families are struggling to get by

children having free school meals increase by

- Local families who rent spend an average of £6 housing, with only £4 left to cover food, bills, c uniforms. Only a minority have had significant v
- Food banks have trebled and last Christmas mail distribute food to 750 local families who could n

It is hard for everyone, but disabled people are more likely to live in poverty than non-disabled people, A **small council tax increase would help protect services for the people who need it most**, including local families

One consequence of putting up the council tax is that when people can't afford to pay, they can get pushed into debt and have to face the courts. Families and the local community suffer and, often, council tax receipts actually go down. It becomes a lose-lose situation.

We are therefore strongly minded no years, especially whilst Brexit is being UK gets through these difficult negot is always the potential that the UK co the exit from the EU. We think it's imp in Merton.

We are writing to you to see if we are or answer our consultation by letting us kn your council tax.

If there is anything you want to discuss in locally please pop in to see us. We will be 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7pm – so

The Council can set its own criteria for Council Tax Relief. The Council can raise Council tax, but also make sure that **the people who can't afford it, don't have to pay it.**

wead on the next is Tuesday 18th October.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Manubister

Cllr Stephen Alambritis

Mary Curtus

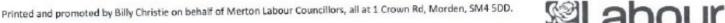
Cllr Mary Curtin

Lardorsa

Sally Kenny

CIIr Stan Anderson

Cllr Sally Kenny



URGENT: Have Your Say – Council Tax

This is an important consultation on council tax on behalf of your local councillors.

Merton Council has kept its promise to freeze council tax since 2010, meaning you pay the agree with this promise, and make sure that you also understand that if we keep council tax frozen, this will mean we have to make some very difficult decisions for this community.

Freezing Council Tax means Council ta nity, so please complete this form today cutting services. It means not and p d on the lines shown. enough support for disabled 1. people to live independent Merto ny other councils are raising theirs. Do lives. "I will end up in my you th hoice for Merton? flat like a hermit, selfharming again" (quote from Healthwatch Merton report) Wł 2. rall council tax? N keep it at the same level it is now YES to an increase of 1.99% of in my council tax YES to an increase of 2% of in my council tax (to be spent on Adult Social Care only) (this would be an extra £44.53 over the next two years on a Band D property) That means an extra £22.27 a YES to an increase of 3.99% of in my council year for the average home, or (this would be an extra £89.71 over t an extra 6p (six pence!) 3. If you voted YES you must answer t I understand that even if Merton vote a day. councillors will still need to make furt balance the books. Please tick here to Your details: For your voice to be heard you MUST complete th following details will not be able to be included: Name: Address:

Postcode: