



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
Government and Building Safety*

***Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
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Mr Harry Catherall
Oldham Council
Level 3, Civic Centre
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13 April 2023

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP regarding funding and council tax in Oldham. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area; please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I note the motion passed by the Council and that Councillors take a particular view to spending choices and where funds should be raised from. It is absolutely the case that the last thirteen years have been difficult, caused by the need to repair the public finances post-2010 and then a series of exogenous large shocks which have meant significant additional taxpayer subsidy has been needed in times of challenge. That has inevitably meant difficult choices have to be made regarding where taxpayer subsidy can be apportioned.

As the Council will no doubt be aware, the settlement for 2023 / 2024 has now come forward and makes available substantial additional taxpayer subsidy for local Councils. Taken together with continuing efficiency and transformation savings which all Councils should continue to do every year, we hope that provides a solid basis upon which to progress in the coming twelve months.

Thank you for writing in on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP