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Camden freezes council tax at 0% for 2 years and prepares for more difficult times ahead

Date:
Feb 25, 2009

We are proposing that your council tax is frozen at 0% for the next two years.



The proposal will be made at our Executive meeting on 25 February. The full Council meeting on 2 March 2009 will vote on whether to give the plans for Camden's part of the council tax and the budget the final the go-ahead.

We will also be putting £6 million over two years into a Camden Recovery Fund. The fund will help to fill the financial gap resulting from the London Development Agency (LDA) review of its spending priorities. This will affect essential services such as our flagship initiative Camden Working which helps out of work residents back into the job market.

The money will also be used to provide:

- More of the practical support that residents will need during the recession such as benefit and debt advice.
- New support for high streets and help to enable local businesses to exploit opportunities such as tourism by promoting Camden as a destination of choice for both UK and European markets.

We will continue to ensure that planned investment stays on track. This includes building a new secondary school and new care homes, refurbishing council homes, keeping the redevelopment of Kentish Town sports centre on track and continuing to address the backlog of housing and street maintenance. This will create jobs and help the local economy.

These plans have been made possible by planned efficiency savings for 2009/11 worth £9.5 million - equivalent to £101 for every home in the borough.

We recognise that in order to keep council tax low and continue to invest in essential services savings will have to be made in other areas. These will include reductions in council wide communications, cutting back on weekend cleaning of residential streets, reducing the support given to union activities and reducing the number of council-run meetings.

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