

The Rt. Hon Nadim Zahawi, M.P.
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster
London
SW1A 2HQ

**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

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Dear Mr Zahawi,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire Council to express our grave concerns regarding Britain's cost of living crisis and the impact this will have on our residents and the additional pressures it could create on our services around homelessness prevention and community support as we continue try to support local residents through this challenging time

While the Council recognises that there are global inflationary pressures, specific factors – such as soaring energy prices and tax rises – are exacerbating the situation here in the UK. We are, therefore, requesting that HM Government to take further, urgent, meaningful action to support individuals, households, businesses and other organisations through these challenging times.

In order to help alleviate the worst effects of the crisis, South Oxfordshire believes that HM Government should:

- urgently review the energy cap regime to ensure that it provides much greater protection to consumers.
- immediately reduce VAT.
- increase benefits in line with inflation.
- reinstate the Universal Credit uplift.
- provide immediate financial support for public transport.
- recognise the pressures that high inflation is placing on local government finances and provide additional funding to councils.

The financial pressures being faced by individuals, families and communities across the United Kingdom can only be eased by firm, decisive and bold action. We, therefore, implore HM Government to take the necessary steps to address the cost of living crisis.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

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