

# The cost of living and local government

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Local Government Association

LGcomms  
Academy 2022

**Crisis – the new normal for  
public service communications?**

**30 November 2022**

# Cost pressures on councils

LGA survey shows councils are experiencing additional financial pressure or risk from:

- pay pressures (94 per cent)
- energy price increases (96 per cent)
- uplifts in contract prices or re-negotiations (90 per cent)

LGA analysis shows inflation, estimated increases to the National Living Wage and increasing demand will lead to a **£3.4 billion** funding gap in 2023/24 rising to **£4.5 billion** in 2024/25.

Climate change is a global emergency that requires cooperation between all nations. That's why today the Guardian has joined with more than 30 newspapers and media organisations in more than 20 countries to present a common view about what needs to be done to stop the planet hurtling towards the point of no return - where climate chaos becomes irreversible.

# It's time to act

The Guardian view on the climate crisis  
Journal, Page 2

# The Guardian

Thursday  
15 November 2023  
£2.50  
7 from £1.65 for subscribers

## Tory councils warn Sunak on stark risk of bankruptcy

Patrick Butler  
Financial Editor

Two of England's largest Tory-run local authorities have warned that Sunak's plan to raise council tax by 10% will be forcing them to declare bankruptcy within a matter of months because of the impact on the local economy.

Council leaders have expressed a mixture of concern and scepticism about the plan, which would mean a 10% increase in council tax for many households, and a 15% increase for some. The plan would also mean a 10% increase in council tax for some businesses.

In a strongly worded letter to the prime minister, the two councils said that while they recognised the need to raise council tax, they also recognised the need to protect the local economy. They said that a 10% increase in council tax would be a "catastrophic" blow to the local economy, and that it would force them to cut services and to declare bankruptcy.

The letter also said that the councils were "committed to the principle of localism" and that they were "committed to the principle of local democracy". They said that they were "committed to the principle of localism" and that they were "committed to the principle of local democracy".



Exclusive  
Raab warned  
behaviour

A leading civil  
spoke to Boris  
on several occa  
about his beha  
towards Foreign  
officials, Guard  
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Revealed  
The num  
that shal  
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# Save local services



Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt are finalising Thursday Autumn Statement (Image: PA)

NEWS POLITICS FOOTBALL CELEBS TV MONEY ROYALS

## Council tax would need to rise TWENTY PER CENT to plug huge funding hole, Rishi Sunak told

The Local Government Association has warned that even if all spending is cut on services such as libraries, swimming pools and waste collection, councils would still face a shortfall

By Ashley Cowburn, Political Correspondent

00:01, 16 Nov 2022

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# The Autumn Statement: does it help?

- Local government specifically mentioned / recognised
- Funding gap has closed – more details needed to say by how much
- Some new government grants, protects business rates income to CPI and permits a higher increase in council tax and adult social care precept
- Focus on social care means that many of the announcements do not meet some of the pressures councils, particularly districts, are facing
- Not all councils will be taking advantage of the option to raise council tax to the maximum allowable
- Policy announcements – early December; provisional LGFS – 21 Dec (tbc)?

# Our residents

There are populations in our society who are likely to be disproportionately affected by the increased living costs:

- Low-income households with children
- People with long-term health conditions
- People living in deprived areas
- People from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities
- People with a disability
- Older adults
- People who are just about managing
- Students





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# SCROUNGERS ON £85,000 A YEAR BENEFITS

**Madness of Britain's handout culture**

**WORKSHY** households raked in the equivalent of £85,000 a year during Britain's benefits bonanza. The worst scroungers were paid three times the average working wage by taxpayers. Payers revolted in an answer

by **Giles Whitham** and caused outrage among hard-working families. The Pacific showed some claimants received £1,197 a week, or £51,564 a year. A working person would find a salary of £15,000 to take that amount.



**CLAUDIA LAWRENCE**  
**Man, 59 quizzed over chef's 'murder'**  
SEE PAGE 5

TURN TO PAGE 4

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**BRANAGH AS BORIS IN COVID TV SERIES**  
OSCAR WINNER SPITTING IMAGE OF PM. **Page 3**

Beyond our film  
Actor Sir Kenneth  
Branagh is transformed into  
Boris Johnson while  
Cynthia Liddell  
presents the PM's wife  
Caroline in 18th-century  
This England scene

# COST OF LIVING CRISIS INFLATION HITS HOME

■ **CHILDREN LEFT HUNGRY AND GOING TO SCHOOL GRUBBY** ■ **SOME SUFFER FOOD POISONING AS FRIDGE FREEZERS TURNED OFF** ■ **FAMILIES USING JUST ONE LIGHT BULB TO SAVE ON ENERGY BILL** ■ **BUT EMERGENCY BUDGET RULED OUT AS INFLATION SOARS**

by **DOMINIC YEATMAN**  
World has an energy crisis  
everywhere, meaning £200  
bill of energy to be paid. And  
chancellor Rishi Sunak  
promised tax cuts that  
will be a disaster for the  
country. Sunak's government  
and energy jobs  
leaving energy jobs



have seen inflation in a 40-year high  
of nine per cent. But that's not  
what is the worst. It's the fact that  
the poorest families are  
not able to afford to buy  
the food and fuel.  
The cost of living crisis is  
a disaster for the country.  
The cost of living crisis is  
a disaster for the country.  
The cost of living crisis is  
a disaster for the country.

Continued on Page 2

City of Westminster

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Things to do inside this winter  
**Winter in the city**

**Cost of living support and advice**

Home / Neighbourhood and streets / Community advice / Cost of living support and advice

Information about all the different sources of help, benefits, grants and money-saving discounts the council has on offer.

**Help for Households**

Benefits and help with bills

Your money and finance advice

Saving fuel and energy

Families and childcare

How you can help

If you need to speak to someone urgently, please call the contact centre on 020 8825 7170.

- Increasing knowledge of what's available – nationally and locally
- Making services and processes easy, accessible and inclusive
- Choosing words, tone and visuals carefully
- Thinking about mental health as well as physical/financial health
- Remembering there is help and there is hope

# Further information

[LGA Autumn Statement Briefing](#)

[LGA Cost of Living Hub](#)

[Hertfordshire County Council behavioural insights](#)

LGA Parliamentary briefing on the [impact of the cost of living on public wellbeing](#)

[ONS hub](#) for cost of living analysis

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