

David J. Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
CF99 1NA (BY EMAIL)

Dear Chair,

Petition P-05-840 Fair Funding for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and all other Local Authorities

Thank you for your letter of 9 November enclosing the NPT Trade Unions Fair Funding petition and seeking further views on it.

It will come as no surprise to you to learn that this Council is fully and actively behind the petition, reflecting as it does the strong social partnership between this Council and its Trade Unions.

Elected Members and staff have been fully engaged in the campaign and by way of further background, I enclose a copy of a letter sent recently by the Leader of the Council to local constituency and regional Assembly Members. This outlines the very serious consequences of not addressing the issues highlighted in the petition in the Welsh Government's final budget and local government settlement due to issue shortly before Christmas. I cannot improve upon the analysis.

The Council welcomes the further action taken by the Committee on the petition as outlined in your letter. We are also well aware that a number of other local authorities across Wales are formulating their own budget cuts

Chief Executive's Office
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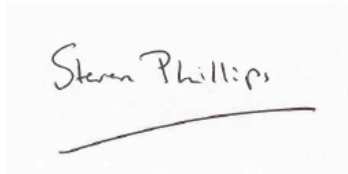
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proposals for public consultation which identify many of the same issues. The Welsh Local Government Association has also clearly set out the perspective of local authorities in its evidence to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee on 25 October.

We would contend that time is now very short to address these serious issues and the potential adverse consequences for the delivery of vital public services across Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Phillips". Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly curved line.

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