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Dear Mr Lock

**Consultation – Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16**

It is welcoming to see that the Government recognises the need to aid stability and certainty for authorities, therefore supporting planning for the transformation of services over the medium term. Consequently the proposal to publish illustrative financial allocations for 2015/16 at the same time as the 2014/15 settlement information, in December 2013, is very much appreciated.

This Authority recognises the continuing economic pressures that the Government continue to face and therefore understands the need to apply the proposed funding reductions set out in the 2013 Budget announcement. Whilst this Authority's response does not address each question individually it does agree with the overall principles set out in the proposals, most notably the fact that those authorities who chose to freeze council tax increases in 2011/12 and 2013/14 will benefit from the freeze grants being rolled into the Revenue Support Grant for 2015/16.

The Authority has appreciated the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Ann Millington**  
*Chief Executive*

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*'Reducing our impact on the environment'*

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*Chief Executive*  
**Ann Millington**