



**CHIPPENHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**

Improving the quality of town life

Michelle Donelan MP
61 New Road
Chippenham
SN15 1ES

Ref: MS/SW/HB

20 April 2020

Dear Michelle,

RE: Local Government Funding

As you will be aware an additional £1.6B of government funding was announced in the Government briefing on Saturday 18th April by Robert Jenrick the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. However, it would seem that parish councils do not fit within the government's flexible definition of 'councils' on this occasion and that funding shall not percolate down to the parish sector.

Chippenham Town Council is one of the largest parish council in the country, within a sector of circa 10,000 councils. As we are sure you will agree, at Chippenham Town Council we fulfil a vital role within the community in a county unitary setting with no district or borough councils.

The town council's finances are derived from the parish precept which this year is £3.2M, we also rely on income from various activities to supplement the income from precept, such as; commercial income from property leases, income from Stanley Park Sports Ground facility and the Neeld Community & Arts Centre. We have done some early financial modelling, which indicates that we could be short of income to the order of £375,000 if the impact lasts all financial year.

Therefore, we request that you lobby your colleague Robert Jenrick the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to give consideration to the provision of ancillary relief to those large parish council who will lose significant income but are continuing to provide essential frontline services such as maintaining parks, cemeteries, public buildings and carrying out essential street scene operations.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

CLlr Sandie Webb
Leader of the Council

Mark Smith MBA LLB(Hons) C.Mgr FCMI FSLCC
Chief Executive