



# Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

## QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 25.

ORDINARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2024

### QUESTION NO 1

FROM: DAVID SIMPSON

TO REPLY: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL,  
COUNCILOR STEVE PITT

Local authorities around the country are facing a volatile financial situation, which Portsmouth is not immune to. This economic and social policy has resulted in £15bn worth of assets sold off, and a sharp rise in levels of child poverty.

Portsmouth City Council has opted in their annual budget an increase in council tax to raise funds for social care. However, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) have criticised this approach fails to address the budget shortfalls as a result of austerity measures.<sup>1</sup>

Isn't it time the City Council seriously considers introducing a Participatory Budgeting approach with 1% of central government funding to help protect public services and the Council from potentially falling into bankruptcy as proposed in the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) report,<sup>2</sup> and as recognised by the Local Government Association (LGA)<sup>3</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cles.org.uk/blog/raising-council-tax-wont-fix-local-government/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ippr.org/articles/parallel-lives>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/devolution-online-hub/public-service-reform-tools/engaging-citizens-devolution-5>