

Dear Ms Ramsden

I have attached my reply to your questions. I have answered them as best I can, but as an 'outsider' I don't have detailed knowledge of the intricacies of council finance.

Also from what I've seen of the workings of councillors, from my time in the community council, individuals don't have a lot of power to make changes, but hopefully if enough non-party members get elected they can temper any over-enthusiasm for cost cutting.

Yours sincerely

Bob Michie

1. As I've said elsewhere, I would like to see council tax raised by a small amount each year, to put more into road repairs, keep public toilets open, and to stop relying on volunteers cleaning streets and taking over the running of public buildings.

2. Yes, for the same reasons that I think public utilities shouldn't have been privatised, or the Post Office, as seems to be happening.

3,4,7. To improve funding for all social services I would try to get the same level of Government funding for Aberdeenshire that other local authorities get.

5. Everyone should have a living wage, which makes the huge sums paid to executives and their golden handshakes seem out of proportion.

6. Given that children seem less disciplined nowadays, and with the number needing extra help in class, I think classroom assistants are very important.

8. I don't think anyone earning below a reasonable level should have a pay freeze.

9. I'm all for saving energy, and being as efficient as possible, but I have to say I'm still sceptical of climate change being that much more than natural fluctuations.