

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

21 FEBRUARY 2017

ITEM NO 9 - FAIR FUNDING FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

This Council notes with concern the secret nature of the agreement between the Government and Surrey County Council which has resulted in Surrey CC abandoning their local referendum on their proposed 15% Council Tax rise.

This Council further notes that this "deal" seems to be connected to a "pilot" on the retention of business rates in Surrey in 2018, which would give Surrey C.C. additional funding not available to other Councils, including Reading.

This Council also notes that in Reading 75% of the business rates have to be returned to the Government, meaning that over £90million is lost annually to Reading, in addition to the £57million which will be removed from the Council's government grant each year by 2019.

This Council therefore instructs the Managing Director to write to the Government at the DCLG stating that, in the interests of transparency and equality of treatment, the Government must publish details of the "Surrey deal" so that Reading and other Councils can consider participating in this "pilot scheme" in 2018/19.

This Council further resolves to request the Managing Director to write to both Reading's M.P.s, as a matter of urgency, to request their support on this matter which is so important for Reading's residents.