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Cllr Jeremy Heron
Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate
New Forest District Council
Appletree Court
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SO43 7PA

6 November 2026 Sent by email: jeremy.heron@nfdc.gov.uk

Dear Cllr. Heron,

NFDC Budget Consultation 2027/28 – Further Clarification

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter concerning NFDC's budget consultation.

We remain concerned that two principal questions raised in our original letter have not been addressed in your response:

1. **Internal savings:** Please explain what progress has been made with the £1.626 million of previously identified savings, and will the findings of the further reviews you mention be published before the consultation closes?
2. **Unquantified proposals:** How can residents make informed judgements on NFDC's public consultation when the potential savings from three of the six proposals have not been quantified?

We would appreciate a substantive response to both questions before the consultation closes on 10 November. These are matters of wider public concern across the New Forest, particularly given the scale of NFDC's financial challenges and the difficult budget decisions ahead.

We also believe that the relevant financial information should be made publicly available, alongside the consultation findings, financial assessments and alternatives considered, with a clear explanation of how consultation responses have informed the decisions ultimately taken by Cabinet and Council.

Whilst writing, I would also like, with respect, to clarify an apparent conflation of two entirely separate waste collection issues in your response.

Beaulieu's earlier objections concerned the introduction of charges for collecting roadside public litter bins, a service previously provided without charge. We ultimately agreed to contribute over £5,000 annually, effectively doubling our Precept at the time. This was entirely unrelated to the subsequent district-wide changes to domestic waste collections, which we supported, and the additional £1 million cost you refer to. We would appreciate you recognising this distinction.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Hubbard

Nick Hubbard
Chairman

Nicky Deering

Nicky Deering
Clerk

Cc: Sir Julian Lewis MP
Cllr Geoffrey Blunden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability
Cllr. Jill Cleary, Leader of NFDC
Kate Ryan, Chief Executive, NFDC
Cllr Dan Poole