



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel +442072192056

manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP

Secretary of State

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

10 September 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Deep Funding Cuts to Stratford-on-Avon District Council

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the inclusion of Stratford-on-Avon District Council in the group of 41 councils facing significant funding reductions. It is estimated that this will result in a cut of approximately 7% of the Council's spending power. I am extremely worried about the impact this will have on the essential local services upon which my constituents depend.

At present, the Government has not provided any detailed modelling or worked examples to illustrate how these reductions might impact individual districts. Consequently, the Council is unable to fully assess the implications until the publication of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in the Autumn.

I would be grateful if your department could clarify whether these reductions are intended to be phased in over a three-year period. If so, this would mean they may not be fully implemented until after the proposed abolition of the Council, due to the concurrent local government reorganisation. In such a case, this would leave the new unitary authority to manage the financial legacy.

The proposed abolition of the New Homes Bonus and a full reset of Business Rates will further undermine the financial sustainability of Stratford-on-Avon District Council. This is particularly troubling in light of the Government's ongoing emphasis on accelerating housebuilding and promoting economic growth. According to the District Councils Network, those councils that have delivered the most housing in recent years are now facing the most severe funding reductions.

I am also concerned by the Government's intention to end both the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in March 2026. These funds have brought over £4.5 million to this district over the past three years and have supported vital initiatives—from developing skills and supporting local businesses to strengthening community infrastructure.

I have seen first-hand the tangible benefits these investments have delivered in our area.

Furthermore, the question of future funding for flood prevention and resilience remains pressing. I represent communities that are particularly vulnerable to both fluvial and pluvial flooding. It is essential that central government commits to continued investment in flood defence and resilience measures, including the maintenance of existing infrastructure, the promotion of sustainable drainage systems, and the expansion of natural flood management and property-level protection schemes in my constituency.



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I urge you to reconsider these proposals and engage with Stratford on Avon District Council to ensure a fair and sustainable future for my constituents.

Further, the leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council Cllr Susan Juned and I would like to request a meeting with you and your team.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manuela".

Dr Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon

Cc. Cllr Susan Juned, Leader Stratford-on-Avon District Council