

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 26 JULY 2018**

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE  
Leader of the Council**

**By Kyle Robinson**

---

**Question**

A letter dated 22nd June 2018 from the Minister for Local Government, Rishi Sunak MP to Staffordshire MPs clearly states that over the next three years there is to be an increase in spending power of almost £19 million for Staffordshire County Council. Does the Leader agree with the Governments' response to MPs and will the Leader of the council now commit funding to help support the Kidsgrove community in their bid to re-open Kidsgrove Leisure Centre?

---

**Reply**

The government includes all funding streams and makes assumptions about an authority's council tax levels and business rates income when it calculates the 'core spending power' of an authority.

The government calculated Staffordshire's core spending power as increasing by £18.9 million from 2017/18 to 2019/20, however this increase is reliant upon increases in council tax and business rates income whilst funding from government reduces. The amounts included in the core spending power calculation are also included in the budget gap of £35.4 million in 2019/20.

The provision of leisure services is the remit of district and borough councils and in Kidsgrove, the Community Interest Organisation is working with Newcastle Borough Council, the county council and other partners to see whether the re-provision of some leisure facilities is feasible. Any commitments around the site will not be made until the full business case and costings are finalised.