

**Midlothian Council**

Midlothian House  
Buccleuch Street  
Dalkeith  
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Council Leader  
Councillor Kelly Parry

Midlothian

Thursday 13 March 2025

The Right Honourable Rachel Reeves  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA



Issued by post and email:

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Dear Chancellor,

**Midlothian Council – budget and National Insurance increases**

I write on behalf of Midlothian Council to express our thanks for the additional funding allocated to Scotland in the recent UK Budget. This much-needed investment will undoubtedly support essential public services and help us address key local priorities for our residents. Your recognition of Scotland's needs is very much welcomed.

However, while this additional funding is positive, we must acknowledge the impact of the increase in National Insurance contributions. This has, in turn, led to rising costs for councils, contributing to an increase in Council Tax for our residents at a time when many are already facing financial pressures. Local government is doing everything possible to mitigate these challenges, but we are concerned about the strain this places on households and our local economy, third sector organisations, commissioned services and businesses.

In light of this, I urge the UK Government to consider reversing the National Insurance increase as soon as financial headroom becomes available. A reversal would provide significant relief to both councils and the communities we serve, allowing us to maintain essential services without placing an undue burden on residents.

Once again, thank you for your continued support for Scotland. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Yours sincerely  
Councillor Kelly Parry

Leader of Midlothian Council

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