



Local consultation by Dan Norris MP

VAT cash windfall – your views

How do you want the money spent to make life better for North East Somerset?

Dear constituent

As you probably know, last November the government cut VAT from 17.5 to 15 per cent as part of a package to help people and business through challenging economic times.

As you may also be aware, VAT is payable on car parking charges. But local people are puzzled that **B&NES does not appear to be reducing car park charges in line with the VAT cut**. Neither does it seem to have publicised any other plans to pass the benefits of the VAT rate cut on to hard-pressed residents of North East Somerset.

Figures show that **B&NES will gain at least £100,000 from the VAT rate cut** from the money it receives from its car parks.

The Prime Minister and Chancellor urged the business community to pass the benefit of the 2.5 per cent VAT rate cut to shoppers. Most shops immediately did. But people are asking: Why should B&NES be any different?

I am therefore asking people to have their say by letting me know how they want this unexpected government cash windfall to be used to make life better for North East Somerset people. Any failure to properly use the windfall for the true benefit of council tax payers cannot be a realistic option for B&NES.

The survey overleaf makes some suggestions about how this money should be spent. For example, the Council recently decided to reject a government plan to make it free for under-16s to swim in local pools, but this VAT cut might be used to help extend a free swimming scheme, for example. But it is very much open to local people to come forward with their own suggestions, which is why the survey also includes space for you to write your ideas.

I'd like to thank you in advance for taking the time to answer the questions. Please return the form to me as shown overleaf. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes



Dan Norris MP

1 Do you think the Council should pass on the money saved from the government's VAT cut to make life better for local council tax payers?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please turn over.....

2 If the Council chooses not to reduce all parking charges to reflect the VAT cut, do you think it should use money it is saving to help fund free short-term parking of two hours in Keynsham car parks?

Yes

No

Don't know

3 Below are some more possible ways the cash might be used to make life better for local people. Please tick those that you think the Council should consider. *(Tick as many as apply)*

Help fund a part-time youth worker for your local area

Make it free to get on the internet from your local library for the rest of 2009

Make swimming free for North East Somerset youngsters for a set period

Other (please use the space in 4 below to give your ideas)

4 Please use the space below to give your own ideas about how this unexpected cash windfall might be used to help North East Somerset people.

First name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Mobile (or landline) _____ Email address _____

Now please send your completed form to **Dan Norris MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA** or email your views to dan@dannorris.org.uk

Thank you very much for your time.

I may contact you with further information on this and other issues. If you would prefer not to receive these updates please write to me at the address above.