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Submission:

My main objection to the Council's proposal is that it has made no real attempt to rein in overheads. Every effort should be made to contain costs before ratepayers are asked for extra money. Staffing levels have increased dramatically over the last eight years with no obvious improvement in services. It is my view that the Council could comfortably cut 8 FTE positions from its workforce which would more than cover the anticipated yield from the proposed SRV. It should also be noted that charges for water, sewer and domestic waste have increased by more than double CPI over the last 8 years which has diminished the ratepayer's capacity to pay excessive increases in Ordinary Rates. The impact has been particularly harsh on pensioners.