

David Draffan MBE  
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Ballard House  
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Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

## **REF PCC BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Dear David,

Further to our meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December I write to thank you for consulting with the business community and offer the full support of the Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.

It is a real testament to you and your team that you have managed to provide a net income for the Council while delivering so many innovative projects and exciting developments. The City's economy will not be secure or grow without bold plans and investments.

As you struggle to balance the books, we hope that you will maintain the ambition you have shown and retain the capacity to exploit the opportunities that arise.

As we enter a further tough period for business that are already reeling from Brexit and Covid, our members report business confidence at an all-time low. They are facing exponential increases in costs, inflation, and a critical shortage of labour. It is vital that we all support business at this difficult time and continue to be bold in our aspirations. We stand shoulder to shoulder with you in this.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank you and your team for the excellent working relationship we have, which is highly valued and truly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



**Stuart Elford, CEO**