



## Councillor Danny Hackett

Independent Councillor for Thamesmead East Ward



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## PRESS RELEASE

*3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 – For immediate release*

### BEXLEY COUNCILLORS REFUSE TO RULE OUT PAY INCREASE

TONIGHT Bexley's Conservative and Labour Councillors refused to rule out a potential 3% pay increase that could be awarded as soon as May 2021.

Bexley's sole independent Councillor, Danny Hackett (Independent, Thamesmead East) submitted an amendment that would stop all elected councillors accepting a pay rise later this year. Councillor Hackett also wanted to force Councillors to formalise a non-binding agreement that they would not accept the 2.75% increase that was agreed in May 2020.

Councillor Hackett's proposed amendment that was moved to adjust the Financial Plans for 2021/22 at tonight's budget meeting was not seconded by any Conservative or Labour member so was not able to be debated or voted upon.

Councillor Hackett said: "It comes as no surprise that Conservative, and Labour Councillors have once again joined forces to frustrate the democratic process.

Hard working members of Bexley Council staff who have been made redundant and residents across the borough will be shocked that whilst politicians say 'we have difficult decisions to make', their actions just don't stack up".

#### Notes:

1. Councillor Hackett was first elected to the Council in 2014, securing re-election in 2018. He was a General Election candidate in Old Bexley and Sidcup in 2017, standing against Secretary of State James Brokenshire.
2. The webcast from tonight's council meeting can be found here:<https://bexley.publici.tv/core/portal/home>

3. The full amendment proposed by Councillor Hackett and rejected by Conservative and Labour members was as follows:

*This Council notes the annual meeting of the Council in 2020 agreed a 2.75% increase in members allowances, a total of £20,059. Given the financial situation the Council finds itself in, no member has accepted the previously agreed increase in members allowances.*

*This Council further notes that ahead of the annual meeting of the Council in May 2021, an additional £22,484 has been set aside for a potential 3% increase in members allowances.*

*This Council agrees that no elected member of this authority shall accept the previously agreed increase in members allowances for the year 20/2021 or any proposed increase for the year 21/2022.*

*This Council resolves to redirect the £42,542 saving into the Economic Development Service to allow the authority to support businesses across Bexley and to better understand the medium and long-term impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.*