

Amendment to Cllr. Malyon's motion to Council 4 Dec 2024

"The Chancellor in her budget in one swoop has changed farming as we know it, farmers may be land rich, but they are not all rich in real terms. Farming is the oldest industry in England and farming families are the backbone of it, especially here in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The Chancellor has proposed changes which will affect the ability of family farms to be passed down from generation to generation. The new thresholds to inheritance tax, whether the exemption figure is £1m or even £3m, could result in increasing the financial concerns of farmers at a time when the number of farmers is already reducing.

We should also acknowledge that farmers serve their community by looking after the landscape 24/7 every day of the year; in the absence of active farming there could be a drastic change for the worse to our local environment.

This motion calls upon the Council to write to the government inviting it to give further consideration to the budget proposals affecting the farming community in view of the public interest in having a viable and sustainable farming industry to ensure the supply of quality food."

Proposer Cllr. Gledhill Seconder Cllr. Price