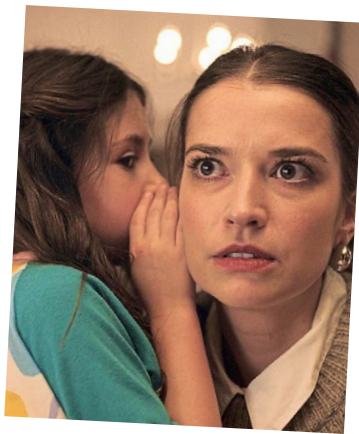


JAN MOIR: The new John Lewis Christmas ad made me weep

SEE PAGE 3



JENNI MURRAY: I'll be first in line for the Ozempic for smokers

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Daily Mail



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After £40bn Budget tax raid, Kemi ambushes Starmer at PMQs and forces Labour to admit new bombshell...

NOW COUNCIL TAX TO RISE BY £110

By **Jason Groves**
Political Editor

COUNCIL tax bills are set to jump by an average of £110 next year after ministers gave the green light to inflation-busting rises.

Downing Street said councils will be allowed to hike bills by up to 5 per cent to help meet rising costs.

The rise is three times the 1.7 per cent inflation rate and will allow councils to increase the average £2,171 Band D bill by almost £110.

It comes just a fortnight after Rachel Reeves raised taxes by £40 billion in the most eye-watering Budget in history, and despite repeated Labour attacks on the Tories over similar council tax rises.

Last year Sir Keir Starmer's party even said it would freeze the hated levy to help ease the cost of living.

Yesterday's admission came after the Prime Minister was skewered over council tax in the Commons by Tory leader Kemi Badenoch.

Sir Keir repeatedly ducked questions about whether he would ditch the annual cap on council tax rises, which was introduced by the Conservatives following double-digit increases under the last Labour government.

Mrs Badenoch said figures pointed to a £2.4 billion 'black hole' in council finances which would have to be plugged by higher taxes,

Turn to Page 6



Over to you: Joe Biden shakes hands with President-elect Donald Trump yesterday SEE PAGES 10-11

Nice to see you, Mr President!