

Dear [Cllr name]

Enough is Enough

I want to express my concern about Oxfordshire County Council's Budget Options for reduced funding of public services. We regard them as unacceptable and economically perverse. If agreed they will be hugely damaging to local communities and the long-term health of NHS provision.

The 95 Budget Options will affect local vulnerable and elderly people in a cumulative and wide-ranging way from the wider impact of the removal of funding for subsidised buses to the specific halting of funding for exceptionally high-quality and effective voluntary sector service providers, without whom it is simply not possible to provide social care locally.

Demand for care services is higher than ever; yet public spending is being cut sharply. Local councils and residents are being asked to choose, amongst other things, between filling holes in our roads and plugging gaps in our social care and housing services.

Anyone who has been in hospital recently, or had a relative admitted, will appreciate the importance of decent housing and social care provision and the voluntary sector support, which, together, enable people to leave hospital and stay at home as long as possible. These changes will multiply taxpayer costs and human misery.

Care services are already struggling to cope, with contract prices frozen year on year; continuing funding pressures will force many out of business. Vital community and housing-related services will disappear. Oxfordshire's poor record of getting people out of hospital will get even worse.

We fear that the County will lose its ability to call itself caring and civilised, and that vulnerable people will be left to fend for themselves if they cannot pay for their own care, or have substantial family help. We see no sign of a coherent joined up national / local long-term strategy to take us forward.

As my Local Councillor, I ask you to, not only oppose the budget cuts locally, but to lobby national government for a better settlement for local government that supports local care services.

Enough is enough.

Yours sincerely,

Supported by

