

Dear [MPs name]

Enough is Enough

I want to express my concern at the continued pressure on local government resulting in Oxfordshire County Council's 95 Budget Options to further reduce funding of public services. I 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.

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 exacerbate human misery.

Many more will tip over into crisis, turn up at Accident or Emergency, or go prematurely into a nursing home. 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.

Due to the ongoing pressures on local government 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.

We call on you as our local MP and national representative to listen to your constituents, to the quietest voices in the County, to enable those voices to ring out loud and clear in Westminster. Our elected Members of Parliament should understand, and speak up for, the needs of vulnerable people in their wards.

Enough is enough.

Yours sincerely,

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