

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Switchboard (0115) 901 3901
Fax: (0115) 9013920
Minicom: (0115) 901 3935
Email: cldr.michael.payne@gedling.gov.uk
Our Ref: 15-29 MP/TC
Your Ref:

Date: 12 November 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Number 10 Policy Unit dialogue re budget reductions

I noted with interest your letter (Monday 15 September) to Cllr. Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council regarding Oxfordshire County Council's Budget Briefing to you as constituency MP for Witney. I also note references you made in the letter to the wider issue of significant reductions to the settlement for local government made by the Coalition government you led between 2010-2015 and the Conservative administration you now preside over.

I welcome your concern about the impact of Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne's cuts on frontline services in communities across the country. I trust you will be raising the strong views you expressed about the impact on frontline services in Oxfordshire with the Chancellor, Treasury ministers and officials in advance of your Government's Comprehensive Spending Review planned for 25 November 2015.

We share your view that 'every part of the public sector needs to continue to play their bit to help pay off the deficit.' We also share the clear view you expressed to the Local Government Association in July 2009 that 'Local Government is officially the most efficient part of the public sector - with councils achieving well in excess of the sector's spending review targets, beating central government savings by a country mile.

In your letter to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, you offered to 'initiate a further dialogue with advisers in the No10 Policy Unit' - an offer I'm sure Cllr. Hudspeth will be keen to take up.

As we're all in this together, I presume your offer extends to every council leader in the country. The Leader of Gedling, Cllr. John Clarke and I would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with your No10 Policy Unit to discuss how to deal with the £3,901,495 (44.1%) cash reduction we've received in our settlement from your Government between 2010/11 and 2015/16.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible so that we can benefit from any helpful insight the No10 Policy Unit can offer in advance of the Comprehensive Spending Review in less than two weeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Payne'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'M' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Councillor Michael Payne
Deputy Leader of the Council