

Date: 05 January 2016

Rt Hon George Osborne MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Secretary of State
HM Treasury,
1 Horse Guards Road,
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Mr Osborne,

I am writing on behalf of Croydon Council, calling on you to give Croydon a fair deal with respect to our grant funding settlement, a grant settlement that has been cut by 41% since 2010 by your Government.

Croydon residents receive only £300.95 per capita of funding compared to other London Boroughs such as Lambeth, who receive £533.46 per capita, or Westminster who receive twice the level of our funding per capita of £604.47.

To make matters worse, we have also seen significant in-year cuts to our funding that have forced us to close valuable public services like our adult education services in Coulsdon and have given us little choice but to consider charging for popular services like the garden waste collection. This decision, forced upon us by your Government's settlement for Croydon, resulted in a petition of over 10,000 residents unhappy with the consequences of your austerity policies.

You will undoubtedly be familiar with the challenges of a London Borough and Croydon is no exception facing significant financial pressures from population growth, deprivation, homelessness and temporary accommodation, welfare reform, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, people with no recourse to public funds, school place demand and supply, looked after children and inadequate public health funding.

In order to manage these unfunded pressures, the Council has had to implement the following measures:-

- Voluntary Severance Scheme for all Staff;
- Freeze on all recruitment;
- Dismissal of all agency staff over 12 months;
- Maximisation of all fees and charges;
- Stop to all non-essential spend.



These funding cuts that force changes in quality, frequency and provision of services are short-sighted and lead to greater spending in the long run. I would therefore welcome the opportunity, with the Chief Executive of Croydon Council, to meet with you to discuss in particular Croydon's funding but also local Government funding in general.

I believe it would be a good opportunity for you to gain a better understanding of the importance of local government by hearing from professional officers and politicians that work at this level.

I hope you are willing to take up my challenge.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councillor Stuart Collins

Deputy Leader, London Borough of Croydon