

## ALTERED MOTION: BACKING THE LGA CALL TO END AUSTERITY

This Council notes:

- the policy suite known as 'austerity' has meant successive years of unprecedented financial challenges for Local Government, with Local Government shouldering a significant burden of associated budgetary cuts;
- this has led to the cross-party Local Government Association to highlight the funding gap of £5.8billion in Local Government finance by 2020, including a shortfall of £2.6billion in Adult Social Care funding, and £2.0billion in Children's Services;
- in consequence, Stockport has had to find £100m since 2010 through savings and income generation, and faces a further £51million of budget reductions expected by 2020/21, placing severe strain upon services the Council provides;
- that much of this funding shortfall burden has fallen, and will continue to fall upon Council Taxpayers, through a regressive and unfair form of taxation;
- that despite reducing the national debt burden being the central aim of austerity policy, this has not been achieved- national debt having risen from £1.01trillion in 2008 to £1.9trillion in 2017 (76% of GDP to 89% of GDP);
- this Council has previously passed two motions calling for the public sector pay cap to be lifted in relation to Local Government in consequence.

Given this context, this Council believes:

- as Lord Porter, Chair of the LGA has stated, Local Government services behalf of the most vulnerable in society are now at 'breaking point', and in consequence;
- there is urgent need for significant, **recurrent** and 'genuinely new additional Government funding' to be made available for Local Government, free from additional responsibilities **and based around need**, as called for by LGA Chair Lord Porter;
- **the recent Autumn Budget Statement, as Lord Porter has since noted, was 'hugely disappointing' given it 'offered nothing to ease the financial crisis facing local services' across local government, particularly in relation to Adult Social Care and Children's services; and**
- further to this, there is an urgent need for Government to resume **significant**, wide-scale investment across the economy, from vital infrastructure projects (including for badly needed public transport investment in this region for projects including HS3 and Metrolink), to housing and the NHS, in order to build the resilient UK economy needed to compete in the global marketplace of the future.

In light of the above, this Council therefore resolves to:

- Request that the Chief Executive prepare a letter, to be addressed to Chancellor of the Exchequer, in support of Lord Porter's calls for 'genuinely new additional Government funding' for Local Government as part of a wider end to 'austerity', a failed policy suite which should have been reappraised years ago, and the commencement of a programme of economic investment which can address regional iniquity and render our economy competitive ~~in the global marketplace~~.

Moved by: Councillor Andy Sorton

Seconded by: Councillor Dickie Davies