

Majority Group Motion for Debate

The Council notes that:

- Ealing Council has had its budget cut by nearly 56% in real terms since 2010 by successive Conservative Governments.
- It was a Conservative Government that crashed our economy yet Ealing's residents are paying the price.
- Local services are facing significant budgetary pressures after 13 years of Tory cuts, yet Councils like Ealing are still being forced to confront ever-rising demand for costly services with shrinking budgets.
- Tory Prime Minister Rishi Sunak boasted about taking money from urban areas to fund more prosperous rural councils, so it's no surprise that areas like Wokingham have only seen 3% reductions compared to Ealing's 56% cut.
- While Ealing Council has managed to balance the budget by making the difficult decisions necessary, local authorities up and down the country are not faring so well. An ever-growing number of councils have already been forced to issue Section 114 notices due to the sustained and systematic underfunding of local government, with many more set to follow suit.

The Council believes that:

- Ealing residents deserve a fair deal, and the Government must step up to appropriately resource the Council to deliver the services residents rely on.
- Vital provisions, including housing, children's services and adult social care require urgent fiscal preservation in order to continue protecting some of the most vulnerable in our borough.
- In order to plan for the long term, local government must have adequate, sustainable and secure funding. It simply isn't tenable to continue forcing councils to cut crucial services and increase council tax after nearly 14 years of austerity.
- Ealing residents must not be forced to pay for the crisis made in Downing Street.

The Council resolves that:

- The Chancellor should reverse the damaging Tory budget cuts to local Government and commit to sustainable and sufficient funding of local services.
- The Tory Government must deliver a fair deal for Ealing and other councils or call a General Election so the country can vote for a ~~Labour~~ Government that will.
- It will continue to press the Chancellor to appropriately resource local government finances so that quality services can be delivered for Ealing residents.
- Councils must have a three-year settlement from central government (rather than one year) aligned with the Comprehensive Spending Review of Central Government to enable longer term planning.