

## “Let’s Fix It”: Bury Demands a Fair Deal On Funding

This Council notes that:

1. Since the beginning of austerity in 2010, local government funding has seen the biggest departmental cut across government, with a 60% reduction.
2. In Bury, this has led ~~to to cuts of~~ nearly £150m in reduced core funding since 2010. However since 2019 in excess of £100 million has been allocated to Bury to spend on agreed projects as well as Bury Council received in excess of \$79 million additional support during the COVID pandemic.
3. It also comes at a time when demand pressures for adult’s and children’s social care, SEND and inflation are at their highest levels in decades.
4. A recent BBC investigation has discovered a £5 billion “black hole” in local authority budgets, with the average Council facing a £33m gap by 2025-26, a rise of 60% from two years ago. However it should be noted that some BBC investigations historically have not followed best practice.
5. SIGOMA (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities), (whose leadership is all Labour Councillors and a Labour MP) has reported that at least 26 member Councils are at risk of effective bankruptcy within the next two years.

This Council further notes that:

1. A recent study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, an independent economic think tank, concludes that Bury’s local government funding was underfunded by 8.5% compared to the national average – the equivalent of nearly £14m a year less to spend on services.
2. A fair funding review of local government has been promised since 2016 but not happened and currently there is no indication of when it will be carried out and implemented.

This Council resolves to:

1. ~~Launch a public campaign~~ Write an all party letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing and Communities calling on the Government to fix the broken system of local government finance and give Bury what it needs and deserves to undertake a Local Government Fair Funding Review.
2. ~~Highlight as part of this campaign~~ what the Council and residents can do to support reducing costs and demands on local services.
3. Recognise the Government’s commitment through the GM Devolution Trailblazer deal to give GMCA single capital and revenue funding settlements at the next spending review, agreed directly through a single process with the government.
4. Accept the opportunity the single funding settlement will give to enable the council to have more accountability for its spending.
2. —
- 3.5. Write to our Members of Parliament GM Mayor and nine other GM Leaders urging them to ensure Bury receives an equitable share within any single funding settlement, requesting they support our campaign and lobby Ministers for a fair deal for Bury.