

13th November 2023

Christian Wakeford MP
Letter sent by email

Dear Christian Wakeford MP,

I am writing to you ahead of the Autumn Statement and in response to a council motion calling for your support and a campaign for fairer funding for Bury.

The funding disparity for Bury has always been unfair but is becoming unsustainable as we are being hit by a 'triple whammy' of inadequate funding, huge increases in costs, and ever-increasing demand for services – particularly in adults' and children's social care, which accounts for three quarters of our budget.

This has left us having to find £150m of savings as a whole since 2010. In real terms our core spending power has been reduced by 29% during this time. While careful planning means we are still in a position to set a balanced budget for 2024/25 this is simply not sustainable for the future.

That is why we're calling on government to complete the long-awaited review of council funding and for residents to do their bit to keep our borough and its communities flourishing.

Our context is that:

- Bury's funding for services, which are not social care, has been cut in real terms by 60% over the last 13 years.
- Independent figures show that Bury receives 8.5% less funding than similar councils in England – which puts Bury in the bottom 20%. We receive £792 per resident to spend, compared to the £1,331 Camden receives.
- If Bury was funded at the national average, we would have an extra £14m to spend on services.

The council's Let's Fix It Together campaign calls on the Government to carry out its promised review of council funding. We also need multi year funding to give us the certainty to be able to plan our budgets and minimise service disruption. Finally, a strategic budget is needed to support our ambition to boost economic growth, reduce deprivation and help residents through the cost of living crisis.

I am hoping you will be able to support our campaign raising this matter in Parliament where possible, and writing to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Ridsdale

Chief Executive, Bury Council



Cllr Eamonn O'Brien

Leader of Bury Council