

Dear Kate,

Firstly, Apologies for the late response. I have answered you point bypoint.

1. Three things:

1. I have a record of trying to generate funding from income - £2million in the last budget.
2. Second, I will be trying to get all Council services involved in finding and prioritising ways of delivering service that BOTH protect jobs and maintain services while reducing costs.
3. I will campaign to end the Council tax freeze and raise tax only in the circumstances to protect services. (due to the economic climate)

2. Yes

3. I have demonstrated at the last budget a willingness to increase budget priorities on social care - specifically for the elderly. In the future, I will continue to increase the general proportion where possible and again look at service user, worker generated solutions to protect services.

4. The level of payments are a matter of national resources and local allocation. I would seek benchmark levels and agreement that purchasing power is the the reference point for spending by the LA and continue to lobby for more resources.

5. Yes, I will propose a living wage motion in the new Council.

6. I have moved opposition to the classroom assistant cuts. I have demonstrated how the reversal of those cuts could be paid for.

7. I will do three things.

1. Lobby national politicians
2. Campaign across Parties for social justice and benefits reform.
3. Help and nurture, social and community enterprise in supporting vulnerable and building community self help.

8. No. Social wages and salaries should relate to the job done and increase in line with general wealth.

9. Yes.

5

~Paul~

Cllr Paul Johnston