

Hi Kate,

I give answer below to the questions you posed in your letter of 18th April 2012.

Yours,

David S Ross

Standing as an Independent Candidate for Ward 4, Central Buchan in the  
Aberdeenshire Election of 3rd May 2012

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1. We will have to live within the limits of what budgets allow. I feel there will be some voluntary redundancies but I will not support any loss of jobs otherwise. The leading group and the Council as a whole must ask for a review on the funding from National Government which has been set too low for a whole number of erroneous reasons. Negotiations would be best conducted through COSLA .

2. I will not support privatisation of key council services. It does not save money and usually means poorer service.

3. False economies are being made up front which mean that more monies are spent later needlessly instead of having early interventions and providing proper care from the onset.

4. Disabled and elderly people are not getting the help they need in that amount of care is insufficient or supposedly not available. There has been resort to private companies who are not always reliable and cost much more. The Council has as an imperative, a duty of care to the housebound and elderly and I would insist on this.

5. The Living Wage is the very minimum which should be paid to those engaged in Council services.

6. Classroom assistants are an essential feature of education. They help those who are struggling with learning and who otherwise would become disengaged or troublesome in class and that leads to a host of new problems which are harder to deal with later.

7. The welfare reforms have been set at too low a level of income and discourages those who would wish to work, if only part-time and throws them back on dependence of low levels of support. It will lead to greater social divide and make people feel second-class citizens. While it is far better that people be in work and support themselves and heir families entirely, there are just not the jobs to lake this possible as yet.

8. There have been 2 years of pay freezes and that is as much as it should be if ever it can be truly justified. The differentials between rich and poor are at a very high level and there is a reluctance to deal with this in a fair and ethical way. There is high inflation and will be for some time which is eroding families spending capacity which leads to further contraction of the economy.

9. People should be working in an environment which is healthy and as pleasant to work in as possible. It is a spend to save argument which applies and can be most readily done for new builds, but older buildings which are not properly maintained need to be adapted to keep carbon footprints down and give a good working environment. I will support a Green Workplace agreement for these reasons.

David S Ross

Standing as an Independent Candidate for Ward 4, Central Buchan,  
Aberdeenshire Council Elections May 2012.