

Administration Amendment - Lib Dem Motion

Moved by: Cllr Abdul Jabbar

Seconded by: Cllr Arooj Shah

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This Council Notes:

- Local councils across England face unprecedented financial pressures after more than a decade of real-terms funding cuts from central government.
- Demand for key services such as adult social care, children's services, and housing support has risen sharply during this period.
- ~~The Liberal Democrats have~~ **This Council has** consistently campaigned for fair funding for local government, recognising that councils are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities, including in July 2025 when this council responded to the Fair Funding Review 2.0 in July, after a motion from the administration calling for:
 1. **The proposed changes to improve funding for councils like Oldham who have a lower tax base, a lower Business Rates base and a higher level of demand for their services.**
 2. **A three-year funding settlement that will support long term planning**
 3. **A level of funding that will ensure Oldham Council can provide the level of essential services needed by Oldham residents.**
- ~~The government's ongoing failure to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system has led to significant inequalities between different areas, undermining local accountability and the ability of councils to plan for the long term.~~
- **The previous Government failed to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system. However, the current Labour Government has now committed to delivering a new Fair Funding Formula that reflects deprivation, low council tax base and local need, ensuring greater stability and fairness for councils like Oldham.**

This Council Believes:

- Local government is essential to delivering strong, healthy, and prosperous communities.
- Councils should be properly funded to meet the needs of their residents, and funding should reflect need, deprivation, and local circumstances, not political favouritism or outdated formulas.
- ~~Local authorities should have greater financial autonomy, including the ability to raise and retain more of their own revenue.~~
- **Local authorities benefit from stability, certainty and fair distribution of resources, supported by the Labour Government's move towards multi-year settlements and a funding system rooted firmly in need and deprivation.**
- Investment in prevention and local services saves money in the long term, reduces demand on the NHS and emergency services, and supports local economic growth.

This Council Resolves to:

1. **Call on Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to welcome action taken by the Government to urgently reform local government funding by including:**

- a. ~~Introducing a fair funding formula that reflects actual local need and deprivation levels.~~ **The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases.**
 - b. ~~Restoring revenue support grant and other core funding streams to sustainable levels.~~ **A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts.**
 - c. ~~Providing multi-year settlements to allow councils to plan ahead with confidence.~~ **The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning.**
 - d. ~~Giving local authorities greater freedom to raise and retain local revenue, including through reform of council tax and business rates.~~ **A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.**
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to local MPs, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government. **and thanking them for their work in resolving this, especially the work of the MP for Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton, who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.**
3. **Continue to** work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.
4. ~~Publicise this motion to residents and local media to raise awareness of the impact of government underfunding on local services.~~

Amended Motion to read:

This Council Notes:

- Local councils across England face unprecedented financial pressures after more than a decade of real-terms funding cuts from central government.
- Demand for key services such as adult social care, children's services, and housing support has risen sharply during this period.
- This Council has consistently campaigned for fair funding for local government, recognising that councils are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities, including in July 2025 when this council responded to the Fair Funding Review 2.0 in July, after a motion from the administration calling for:
 1. The proposed changes to improve funding for councils like Oldham who have a lower tax base, a lower Business Rates base and a higher level of demand for their services.
 2. A three-year funding settlement that will support long term planning
 3. A level of funding that will ensure Oldham Council can provide the level of essential services needed by Oldham residents.
- The previous Government failed to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system. However, the current Labour Government has now committed to delivering a new Fair Funding Formula that reflects deprivation, low council tax base and local need, ensuring greater stability and fairness for councils like Oldham.

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1. Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to welcome action taken by the Government to urgently reform local government funding including:
 - a. The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases.
 - b. A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts.
 - c. The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning.
 - d. A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to local MPs, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government and thanking them for their work in resolving this, especially the work of the MP for Oldham West,

Chadderton and Royton, who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.

3. Continue to work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.