



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London,
SW1A 2AA

9 November 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of many of my constituents who are extremely concerned about cuts to local services in Barnsley due to the Government's local authority budget cuts.

The coalition Government announced on 20 October that it will cut 28% from local councils over the next four years at an average of 7.25% per year. However, the cuts are not spread evenly and are significantly front-loaded, putting undue pressure on Barnsley council to deliver savings faster than planned.

In addition, vital funding streams, such as the Working Neighbourhood Fund, have been removed, impacting heavily on the most deprived communities in my constituency. Barnsley risks losing funding over and above the Government's headline figures, with potential reductions in 2011/12 of up to 18% in the most deprived areas.

The cuts to local government funding will be felt more in areas like Barnsley as it has a weak council tax base and is therefore more reliant on grants to fund services. This is leading to unavoidable decisions to make drastic cuts to local services, including potentially a threat to local libraries.

People understand that there will be some reductions in services caused by the need to reduce the deficit, but to make cuts on this scale, at this time, will have a hugely detrimental impact on local public services and I would urge the Government to think again.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dugher".

Michael Dugher
Member of Parliament for Barnsley East