

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****OPPOSING CUTS AND 'INTELLIGENT COMMISSIONING' AS THE RESPONSE**

"This Council notes with dismay the cuts imposed upon it by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government, amounting to £3.55 million within the current financial year. These cuts will hit services to all residents, but particularly the most vulnerable and those least able to lose the support of our public servants.

Local government including this Council, has continued to deliver annual efficiency savings and so played no part in causing the current national government's budgetary deficit. These cuts unfairly penalise this Council, put public sector jobs at risk and threaten important programmes including Connexions, housing benefit and road safety improvements.

This Council deplores the Government's willingness to hand down swingeing cuts without providing any additional powers to raise funds in a fairer way than the regressive council tax system.

This Council also notes the Conservative Administration's stated desire to adopt a process of outsourcing and privatisation labelled 'Intelligent Commissioning'.

This Council expresses full confidence in its staff and would wish to protect their pay and conditions. It expresses concerns in respect of 'Intelligent Commissioning' which it feels risks:

- Wasting time and resources on lengthy tendering processes;
- Outsourcing services to private firms who will place profit ahead of public service;
- A hugely negative impact on staff morale.

With less than a year until local elections, this Council questions the timing of this restructure and the political mandate for its implementation.

This Council also refutes the need for the high salaries of the new strategic directors proposed for this restructure.

This Council agrees that the main sources of the national deficit were:

- A huge bailout of failed banking institutions which the previous Labour government failed to properly regulate;

- The vastly expensive foreign wars pursued in Iraq and Afghanistan with the support of Tory and Labour MPs;
- Billions spent on unnecessary projects including ID cards and Trident nuclear weapons;
- A failure to address massive tax evasion by corporations and wealthy individuals.

This Council requests that:

- The Leader & Chief Executive reconsider their approach to restructuring the Council;
- The Chief Executive write to Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, requesting he reconsider the huge cuts imposed on this Council;
- The Chief Executive write to the city's three MPs asking them to support the council's request to the Secretary of State Eric Pickles to reconsider the cuts he has imposed.

Proposed by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Seconded by: Cllr Ben Duncan

Supported by: Cllrs Alex Phillips, Sven Rufus, Ian Davey, Pete West, Bill Randall, Georgia Wrighton, Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett, Paul Steedman, Rachel Fryer and Amy Kennedy