

**SWYDDFA'R ARWEINYDD
OFFICE OF THE LEADER**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM40677

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 6th December 2018

David J Rowlands AC/AM
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales
Cadeirydd / Chair
Y Pwyllgor Deisebau / Petitions Committee

Annwyl / Dear David

**Re: Petition P-05-840 Fair Funding for Neath Port Talbot County Borough
Council and all other Local Authorities**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the petition calling on Fair Funding for Local Authorities. The committee's recent discussion, expressing appreciation for the services delivered by Local Authorities and the scale of the challenges being faced, is welcomed.

As you will be aware, Cardiff Council is preparing to set its budget for 2019/20. Despite receiving a funding increase of around 0.4% (or £1.6m) from the Welsh Government, a combination of rapidly rising demands on services and inflationary cost pressures means that the Council is facing a budget gap of £35.2m next year and almost £93m over the next three years. Closing this funding gap presents a significant challenge.

As a Council we have already delivered nearly a £¼ billion in cumulative savings since 2010 and lost over a fifth of all 'non-school' staff. During the same period, local authorities across Wales have had their funding reduced by £1bn by the Welsh Government. If schools funding is excluded, as is the case in England, then core funding to Welsh Local Authorities has fallen by 35%. No other Welsh public service- including the Welsh Government, the NHS, the Police or any others- have experienced the same level of cuts.

I do not need to remind you that, as local authorities, we are responsible for delivering some of the country's most valued services. We are responsible for educating our school children, looking after the vulnerable and supporting older people. We are responsible for keeping our communities clean, collecting household waste and managing parks and green spaces. We are responsible for libraries, leisure centres and a whole range of other services that help make people and communities happier, healthier and more prosperous.

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



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Our ability to deliver these highly valued services has been dramatically reduced. We may soon be unable to deliver them at all. Our service footprint has been reducing, and with non-statutory services inevitably bearing the burden of funding reduction, our ability to prevent demand increasing and problems escalating to crisis intervention point has been greatly diminished.

The crucial role of local authorities in preventing demand for NHS services, for example, from reaching crisis point is proven. If there is £1.4bn of additional investment coming to Wales following the UK Government's decision to spend more money on the NHS, it makes sense that Local Authorities are given a proportion of that funding to help manage the growing demand that will otherwise cripple public services.

I trust this letter sets out some of the principle challenges facing local authorities, and once again welcome the Committee's interest in advocating a rounded and informed approach to safeguarding public services.

We lend our full support to this petition and if you require any further clarification on the issues raised, we are happy to engage with Committee.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,



**CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS
ARWEINYDD / LEADER,
CYNGOR CAERDYDD / CARDIFF COUNCIL**



**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Chris Weaver
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance
Aelod Cabnet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad**