

JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

January 2015

Dear John,

Further to your letter of 14th January regarding the Local Government settlement, I have heard you make the claim that Thurrock cannot cope with this level of funding.

In setting out your figures, you conveniently ignore the fact that our academies now receive their grant directly from the Government, rather than via the council. Let's be very frank. Thurrock has done very well out of this Government. We have three new schools; a studio school at Ockendon; funding for improvements to the A13; £150m for Junction 30. And Thurrock Council was gifted £60m of assets when the Development Corporation was abolished. I have every expectation that the growth bid for Purfleet will be approved. So I don't think anyone can claim that this Government hasn't looked after Thurrock.

It has to be understood that the country must live within its means, and that means that across our public services there is a challenge to reduce costs. Labour might be prepared to run up debts to be paid by future generations to avoid cuts, I am not. That is unfair and irresponsible. Leadership is about stepping up to those challenges. The fact is that the country cannot spend what it doesn't have, and neither can the council.

Best wishes
Jackie

Cllr John Kent
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THURROCK

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