

Hope this reaches you OK , as discussed on the phone just now.

From: Mike Wedgeworth [mailto:mike@thirdsectorlancashire.org.uk]

Sent: 13 January 2015 14:07

To: 'Gorman, Dave'

Subject: RE: Consultation on the County Council's Budget Proposals 2015/16 - 2017/18

Hi Dave

Thank you very much for this further opportunity to comment on the Budget Proposals.

It is devastating to see that the Council must make even more reductions, and it is to be hoped that the spending review following the election of a new government might offer some amelioration, especially in the field of social care. The current crisis in the Health Service will become even worse if allocations for social care are to be reduced.

I am pleased to note, on behalf of the third sector, the Council's commitment to find new ways of working with communities and partners. This of course, is something of a journey for us also, but the commitments evident in the Council's procurement strategy, and its emphasis on Social Value, convince us that such co-operation will be effective. Our vehicle for commissioning , Greater Together, is seen as the ideal way to achieve this, bearing in mind that the larger charities who win tenders should be in a position to sub-contract some of the work to the smaller.

As to the detail of the Budget proposals, I can only say that I am sure that everyone concerned will have done their best to make spending reductions where they will do the least harm.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Council, both its members and officers, in trying to defend the people of Lancashire against what seems to be the present Government's policy of shrinking the public sector almost out of existence.

It is possible I will be able to offer further thoughts before your deadline, once I have had an opportunity to consult colleagues