

Dear Secretary

Council Cuts in Spending

We are concerned about the level of cuts in Council spending and the effect on voluntary organisations.

The voluntary sector offers a huge range of diverse services for key groups of vulnerable people. The voluntary sector also represents some of the best value in public spending that can be achieved, because of the commitment of volunteers and fundraisers. You can also uniquely lever out funding from many other sources not open to councils or government.

We believe it is wrong that the Council has chosen to cut grant support to voluntary organisations and we are very concerned at the impact this will have on vulnerable people in many walks of life. We fear for the future of many employed in the voluntary sector and for the very existence of some organisations.

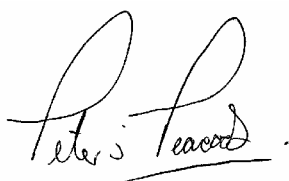
Astonishingly, at the same time as these cuts are proposed the Council plans to build up a £multi-million reserve fund.

We have launched a special website www.localgovcutswatch.org.uk where you can obtain information on the full level of the cuts. The site also sets out what representations we have already made on the issues to the Council and Government. The site has links to an online petition for anyone with concerns to sign. You can download a petition form for use within your organisation and with your clients which you can return to us. We will pass the petitions to Parliament, the Government and Council in due course.

You can also e mail us at the site regarding any cuts your organisation faces now or during the year and we will be happy to make individual representations and seek meetings with Ministers and the Council in support of your concerns. We will be happy to help you raise public awareness about the effect of the cuts on your clients and to put examples on the website if you wish.

Together we can perhaps get these disastrous cuts stopped and priority for voluntary organisation spending restored. Please feel free to be in touch. All our contact details are set out below.

Yours sincerely



Peter Peacock



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David Stewart

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