

COUNTY COUNCIL – 19 FEBRUARY 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM 11(a)

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 18.1

Proposed by Councillor Criss Connor, seconded by Councillor Jane Frankum:

“This Council Notes that:

- The County Council now only receives revenue grant from Government at a much lower level than it did four years ago and is concerned that over the medium and longer term whether the authority will continue to be financially sustainable and be able to make further savings. This is particularly a concern in services such as adult social care and children’s services.
- That the Public Accounts Committee recent report “**Financial sustainability of local authorities 2014**” said : “*Further funding reductions could not just undermine the entire viability of most discretionary services, but might threaten some statutory services in these areas.*” The report continued “*The Department for Communities and Local Government (the Department) does not have a good enough understanding of the impact of funding cuts, either on local authorities’ finances or on services.*”

This Council resolves to write to the relevant Government minister urgently concerning the following:

- (i) We cannot take the same level of cuts in the next parliament. Most of the efficiency savings which can be made have been made.
- (ii) Looking to the future, if funding reductions were to continue following at the same level in the next spending review, we question whether the authority could maintain the full range of their statutory services.
- (iii) We feel that Government does not understand the impact over time of reductions in funding to us, and the potential risks of us becoming financially unsustainable if reductions continue.
- (iv) There is a risk that value for money might be undermined by reductions in spending in one area leading to additional costs elsewhere. Where we make changes in one service, this could lead to increased demand for other services over the longer term or reduced income for the local area. Changes in delivery of youth services could impact on welfare expenditure for example.

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