



Reply to:

Cllr Amanda Chadderton

Oldham Council
Room 347, Level 3,
Civic Centre,
West Street, Oldham OL1 1UL

Support Officer: Nicci Robinson: 0161 770 1201

Dear Chancellor,

Re: 'Don't Take It Out on Us': Oldham shouldn't pay the price for Government incompetence

The country faces an economic crisis made in Downing Street. The Governments' reckless mini-budget has crashed the economy – and working people in Oldham are already paying the price. We were already concerned about the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on the residents here and I have personally encountered some truly distressing situations through contact with residents and my work with front-line teams. That is why Oldham Council declared a Cost-of-Living Emergency in September.

This was before the disastrous mini budget, which has compounded the problems we were already facing. Mortgages are up, rents are rising, prices are soaring, and the cost of borrowing has gone through the roof.

The government was warned repeatedly about the consequences of their ideologically driven mini budget, which gave unfunded tax cuts to the rich during a cost-of-living crisis and yet they went ahead anyway. Now we are all poorer because of failed experiment that no-one in Oldham voted for.

I am writing to remind you that your government has no mandate for cuts to local authorities. There was nothing in the 2019 manifesto about local government cuts and Liz Truss committed to no cuts to public services during her recent leadership campaign. Local services were already under serious strain due to rampant inflation, soaring interest rates, and rising demand.

Roads need to be repaired, we must bring down crime, children need after-school clubs, bins must be emptied, and streets must be kept clean. We need to build affordable housing, and we need to invest in the support that business needs to thrive.

Families in Oldham shouldn't lose services and support to pay for the government's mistakes. The Cost-of-Living Emergency is placing unprecedented demand on council services. Oldham Council is investing £3million to support affected residents. We would like to do more but over the last twelve years, successive Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments have cut Oldham's budget by 45%.

Don't take your mistakes out on Oldham, local residents cannot afford to pay for them.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Amanda Chadderton
Leader of Oldham Council