

21 MAY 2009

new Labour for Britain

Cllr Keith Mitchell
Leader of the Council
Oxfordshire County Council
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Tuesday 19th May 2009

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Dear Councillor Keith Mitchell

Earlier this year, the leader of your party David Cameron committed himself to massive cuts in investment, in jobs and the economy, just when it is needed most.

These widespread cuts would have a disastrous impact on the hard-working people of Oxfordshire and I am writing to ask you whether you support these cuts.

The plans could see up to 3,500 police officers cut across the country, which would mean 105 fewer police officers in the Thames Valley Police Force area.

At the same time, planned school rebuilding projects in nearly a hundred local authorities would be at risk from a £4.5 billion cut from the school rebuilding programme. This county knows the benefits of school rebuilding with Wood Farm and Bayard's Hill primary schools recently receiving major investment. Cheney School will also receive extra funding this year for school buildings and repairs. This is part of the Government's efforts to support local businesses and jobs through the recession by bringing forward spending from 2010/11 to 2009/10.

The Cabinet Office provides small grants to thousands of small voluntary groups across the country - from scout clubs, to amateur football teams to support for veterans and pensioners. But your Party's cuts plans would lead to a £100 million cut to the Cabinet Office budget, putting the grants that help keep these groups going at risk. This could directly impact on local groups such as Vale of White Horse Schools Football Association, Blackbird Leys Choir, Cheney Over 50s Club and Barton United Football Club to name a few. I know these are well used and extremely popular.

Labour has introduced Sure Start children's centres for children under five and their families across the country. But your Party have a plan to cut £200 million from the Sure Start budget, meaning around one in five Sure Start centres could close. That would mean in Oxfordshire we could see 6 centres closing. Brand new children's centres such as the Slade and Headington centre could be forced to close under Conservative spending plans.

The people of this country need to understand the risk if they vote Conservative. They need to know exactly where this spending axe will fall. Can you confirm whether you support these cuts?

Because of the public concern on this issue I am releasing a copy of this letter to the media.

Yours sincerely



Liz Brighthouse
Leader of the Labour Group, Oxfordshire County Council

