



26th October 2014

Mr. R. Neil, MP, Bromley and Chislehurst
Mr. B. Stewart, MP, Beckenham

Dear Mr. Neill and Colonel Stewart,

We are a residents' association of approximately five hundred subscribing members of which a significant number fall within your respective parliamentary constituencies. Further details about us can be found here: - <http://www.rvpsbromley.org/>

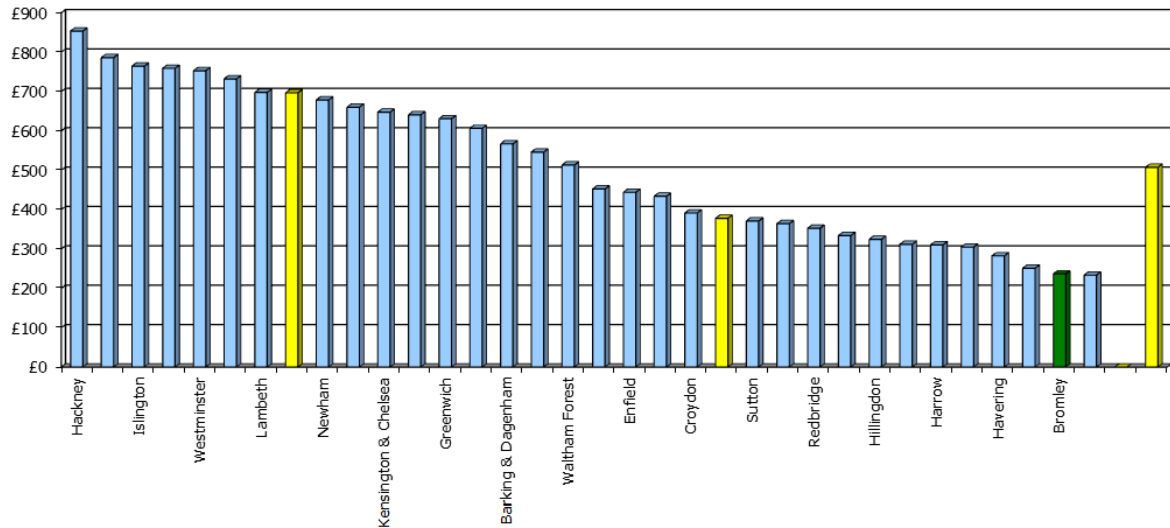
We are very concerned about the unfair funding formula applied to Bromley Council as a whole which results in very low funding from central government. Bromley has already made approximately £50 million savings in the last few years but still needs to find £65m (a variable figure depending on the exact circumstances) from a £210 million budget by 2018/19 to balance the books.

This degree of saving looks next to impossible to achieve without resorting to 'nuclear' options such as: -

- Building many thousands of new homes either as tower blocks or on the greenbelt
- Closure of libraries
- Reduction in street cleansing frequencies & enviro crime enforcement
- Close parks, minimise grass cutting
- Reducing waste collections to a 3 weekly cycle
- Stop repairing roads
- Reduce salting to roads
- A huge increase in the council tax

This is completely unacceptable and grossly unfair on the residents of Bromley to suffer the prospect of such cutbacks. The following table gives an indication of just how unfair the funding formula is: -

Whole of London Funding per Head 2014/15



*If the council received the average level of grant funding for London, income would increase by £87m which would mean Bromley would not need to make any further savings over the next 4 years.

Bromley has one of the lowest levels of settlement funding per head of population in London giving us £237 per head of population in 2014/15 compared to the average in London of £507. The highest is £853.

We should be grateful for your reassurance that you are bringing all possible pressure to bear upon the government in order that a fairer funding arrangement can be implemented to ensure that Bromley's services are not cut even further than they are today.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Clive Lees,
Chairman, RVPS