

05 SEP 2015

CROYDON TUC CROYDON ASSEMBLY

Ruskin House,

23 Coombe Rd

Croydon, CV0 1BD

The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark
St Matthew's House
100 George Street
Croydon
Surrey CR0 1PE

3 September 2015

Dear Bishop,

Austerity Cuts and Other Concerns

The Croydon TUC's Croydon Assembly Planning Group is concerned about

- (1) the harshness of the welfare budget cuts particularly on those with physical and mental health difficulties, young people up to age 25, by a Government whose vote was a minority of the electorate.
- (2) the reduction in spending power of millions of people which will further depress spending and contribute to the risk of slipping back into recession.
- (3) the proposed loosening of planning controls decreasing the ability of local people to influence the way in which developments change their areas, in contravention of the spirit of the Localism Act 2011.
- (4) the vicious attack on the functioning of trade unions as collective self-help organisations seeking to protect the standards of living of their members and health and safety in the workplace.

It requests that as Chair of the Fairness Commission that you propose that the Commission, working with the Council, should begin to analysis and publish what the effect of the benefit cuts will be on the people of Croydon. It also thinks that the Fairness Commission should also be involved in this.

The Commission may also wish to support the group's request that the advice and support organisations in the Borough should consider publishing monthly details of the adverse effects on the cuts of the people who seek their advice and other services.

Finally the group considers that there should be a collective rejection across Croydon of all attempts to set one social group against another whether they are people in work, out of work, coping with physical and mental health problems, pensioners, young people, asylum seekers and immigrants. It is hoped that you might be able to make a public statement on this as Bishop.

Finally, it asks that you discuss with fellow Bishops in the House of Lords mounting a vigorous defence of those being adversely effected by the benefit cuts.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Aird
Secretary

