

View From The House

The week that Parliament rose, dramatic announcements were made in the House. Jeremy Hunt decided he was not going to find an agreement with the Junior Doctors. The day before that the Government announced additional funding for some local authorities.

The Health Secretary's confrontation with Junior Doctors was avoidable. Who do you think has the best interests of the NHS at heart - doctors or Jeremy Hunt? Imposing the contract is a sign of arrogance and weak leadership. Moreover citing 20 Chief Executives in support of his position who have now said, except for 2, that they do not support imposition. No answers on how the NHS will be funded to have the full range of services available 24/7. Junior doctors don't work on their own. Moral is further damaged by the reorganisation which cost the NHS £3 billion.

Next the news that the Prime Minister's own local authority in Oxfordshire will receive £9m from the £300m transition fund. 83% of this fund will go to Tory-run councils, mostly in the affluent shires. The £9m to Oxfordshire comes just a week after the Prime Minister's mother and aunt signed a petition against cuts to Children's Services in the County.

Imagine what Walsall MBC could do with that extra money. The Council has recently consulted on cuts to services for 2016/16 including social care, street cleaning, weekly refuse collections and the closure of Pleck and South Walsall Libraries after its grant was cut by £8.6 million. I oppose cuts to those vital services.

I jokingly asked a question that if I could show I am related to the Prime Minister, will I get money for libraries and Sure Start centres in Walsall. Good governance means that Ministers when they make decisions have to show that they take into account relevant considerations and set out the reasons for the decision. The Government have not made that case, favouring their own Councils.

Residents on Broadway also have to put up with a decision against their will. Wolverhampton University are being forced by the Tory Council to spend £1 million pounds on a road and an exit onto the already busy Broadway. There is no evidence it is needed. The Council linked building a road to planning permission for the car park, pitting residents of one ward against another. The proposed entrance is unsafe, unnecessary, a waste of the University's money and yet another set of traffic lights on Broadway.

Valerie Vaz MP

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