

STOP THE GROWING DIVIDE

The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA) have launched an e-petition to 'Stop the Growing Divide' between areas which are the most and least affected by government cuts.

With the support from Council Leaders and MPs who represent deprived areas across the country, Sigoma is running a campaign which asks government for a discussion about how to put fairness to the top of the agenda. The campaign will run from September until December.

Local Government Cuts

Local Government will have suffered a cut of over a third between 2010 and 2016. This has major impacts on local services. Councils have been amongst the worst affected under each successive budget since the Spending Review of 2010.

The Poorest Are Hit Hardest

This average cut is only the beginning of the bad news for some places. Prior to 2010 and in the years following, reductions have been borne disproportionately by councils which serve in places with the highest needs. The poorest places have been hit the hardest. Projections for 2017-18 have suggested a difference in cuts of over £900 per head between the least and worst affected places.

A Growing Divide

With welfare reform and further cuts ahead, the poorest areas are set to suffer further. This trend cannot continue sustainably. Council Leaders across the country have warned government of the risk of service failure from further cuts. Leading thinkers have shown that if our national economy becomes more regionally imbalanced there will be little chance of sustainable long term national prosperity. None of us want to see a return to economic growth that leaves the poorest in society behind.

Sign the Petition

A campaign and e-petition have been launched to invite discussion on how to 'Stop the Growing Divide'. Local organisations will be encouraging support for this message between now and December. We ask the government not to turn its back on those towns and cities that have made this country wealthy but to help regenerate them before the poorest areas get left behind as a result of further cuts.

You can sign the petition online at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/51366> to help **Stop the Growing Divide**.

SIGOMA

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