



For immediate publication

Solace response to Budget 2020

Martin Reeves, Solace spokesperson for local government finance, said: “It was vital that the Government provided extra funding for local government and the NHS to support the response of our organisations and workforces to Coronavirus. It was also encouraging that the Chancellor promised additional resources as needed. These short-term challenges are on top of underlying financial weaknesses, particularly across adults and children’s social care, and the sector needs long-term, as well as short-term, funding certainty.

“Ploughing significant additional sums of money in to flood defences, which Solace specifically called for, as well roads and railways, buildings and broadband, is to be welcomed. But if the Government is to stand a chance of achieving its aims of levelling up the country and improving the life chances of our citizens it must invest just as much money in our people and social infrastructure as part of a systemic shift in spending towards prevention and early intervention.

“A fundamental element of this investment must be to ease the significant strain on local authorities over the last decade and support the services that local people value and rely on - from bin collections to youth clubs, green spaces to social care. This Budget signaled an end to austerity in terms of capital spending but this change in attitude needs to be replicated in revenue spending too and we look forward to working with the Government to deliver a truly sustainable multi-year funding settlement for local government as part of the upcoming Spending Review.”

Notes to editors

Solace is the representative body for public sector professionals.

Solace Business Partner

