



**Carla Denyer MP**

Member of Parliament for Bristol Central  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

**13 October 2026**

Dear John Healey MP

**Re: Funding Bristol's essential local services**

This month I met with staff and councillors at Bristol City Council to discuss the funding of essential local services. Bristol City Council is at present struggling to resource many essential services because of the lack of funding they receive from central government.

There is a £122 per person gap in average Core Spending Power between Bristol and the Core Cities average, highlighting a significant disparity in the funding available to support residents and deliver local services compared to other Core Cities such as Manchester.

In my role as Member of Parliament for Bristol Central I hear from thousands of constituents relaying their distressing experiences of underfunded services affecting their quality of life.

Your government's Local Government Finance Settlement increases dependence on Council Tax and locally retained Business Rates, placing the burden on residents of Bristol already struggling with the tightening of belts in the cost of living crisis. The buck cannot stop with the working people and businesses of Bristol Central.

I understand Bristol City Council has asked your government to increase Bristol's core funding by at least £80 per resident to begin to help us catch up with the provisions of other Core Cities. I implore you to listen. Growth in every postcode will only be possible if your government takes action and pitches in.

Yours sincerely,

**Carla Denyer MP**

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Bristol Central

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