

Councillor J Mounsey  
Chair  
Overview & Scrutiny  
Management Committee  
Floor 2  
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**Ros Jones**  
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9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear John

Thank you for your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017, received in my office on 31<sup>st</sup> January, and for providing me with OSMC's response to my budget proposals.

I agree that we must protect the most vulnerable in the borough, and I can confirm that these proposals are in line with that position. As you know, I am also very keen to ensure that we consult with our residents on the way forward, and where applicable, I can assure you we will be carrying out consultation on the budget proposals.

It has been very important to me to ensure early involvement of these proposals, which is why I published them in November so we could all engage in more meaningful discussions. As you know, informal consultation/discussions commenced in August, and I published a medium term financial plan in August 2014.

I totally agree that we should utilise our one-off reserves to manage the changes in the Council, which is why I established the Service Transformation Fund in 2013. As you may also remember, general reserves were at only £6m when I became Mayor, and they are now at £16.7m, which means we are able to respond to difficult positions, such as this budget.

I share your concerns on the risks highlighted and I will ensure that these are regularly monitored and reported to Cabinet and OSMC, via the quarterly finance and performance reports.

Finally, I am happy for you to attend the Cabinet meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February to formally present the Committee's response.

I trust the above is helpful, and thank you once again for providing OSMC's comments.

Yours sincerely

**Ros Jones**  
**Mayor of Doncaster**