

Cut The Deficit Party

We believe that the most important Government task right now is to cut the budget deficit – and with much more urgency than is currently planned. In 2009/10, the Government spent £163.4 billion more than it received in income – that means for every £100 of spending, over £23 was borrowed.

Any household, any business, would sort this situation fast. Instead, our Government intends to increase the debt – borrowing an additional £163bn in 2010/11, then another £131bn in 2011/12. Even in 2014/15 it plans to add another £74bn to the outstanding sum.

Some say that borrowing to spend in the difficult times makes sense for a Government. Perhaps. But we do not think this justifies continuing the impetus through to 2015 and beyond – the Government is expecting healthy economic growth of 3% or more by 2011. We must therefore move towards balancing the books as soon as possible, and certainly before 2015.

Zero-based budgeting: We believe that, like any household or business that has borrowed too much, we should scrutinise every area of spending and ask:

1/ is this an essential expenditure?

2/ if we need it, how can we minimise the cost?

That means no ring fenced departmental budgets.

But any state employee, who contributes good value to the country by caring for the sick, educating our children, policing the streets or defending our nation, will have our full support. The Quangos and non-jobs who get in their way will not.

In the last 2 months, the Government has suggested spending over £30bn on a high speed rail link from London to Birmingham, impacting on huge amounts of beautiful countryside. This is madness. We oppose this scheme absolutely.