

Revd Jon Doble -
Director

The Churches Council
for
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Dear Colleague

I am writing to invite you to participate in a meeting being organised by ISR to help formulate a church response to the proposed public spending cuts in Bristol. We are aware that the city faces a particularly difficult time in the light of such cuts which will impact on all communities and particularly on the vulnerable and isolated.

With some areas of services, including Police and Social Care potentially facing cuts of 20%, the local impact is going to be substantial. The consequent loss of jobs and employment, and the consequences on families, communities and neighbourhoods, will demand a response from local churches.

Bristol City Council has asked for submissions from groups and organisations to assist their thinking and understanding in formulating their policy and decisions.

Churches in Bristol play a significant role within local communities and have a perspective that needs to be articulated and heard in the debate.

The meeting we are planning is to be held on Wednesday 1st September at the ISR office from 1pm to 4pm.

We are looking for people who will be able to help create a value based framework from which some analysis of proposals can take place, and from which an appropriate submission can be made to Bristol City Council on behalf of churches.

We also intend to use the material generated to produce a resource tool for local churches to help them ask questions about local impact and address issues of pastoral and community responses and to local need. ISR is preparing to resource churches that need to take action to support such new initiatives in a period of significant community change.

I do hope that you will be able to participate in the meeting as the deadline to respond to the City Council is the end of September. If you are unable to attend but know of others who you think could make a contribution, it would be helpful if you could let me know or pass this communication on to them. Similarly, if you are not able to be with us but would like to make some comment in writing, I will make sure these comments will be fed into the process on the day.

Many thanks for your help and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jon Doble', written in a cursive style.

Jon Doble - Director