

Last week the Chancellor George Osborne delivered the spending round for departments for 2015/16. I often find these announcements the hardest of all to write about. Partly because it is hard to jump up and down in celebration when budgets are being cut in order to deal with the economic mess the Coalition Government inherited in 2010, and partly because I like so many others have pet priorities that we think should be funded properly and have to deal with the disappointment when they are not. And yet here we are in recovery from the worst economic crisis since the Second World War, so it is unsurprising that it is difficult to square the circle.

We all want our bins collected, roads swept, great education for our children, brilliant hospitals, better roads, top quality adult social care, the best equipment for our armed forces and support for businesses. Yet most people also recognise that the nation has a massive problem and needs to pay off the debt and deal with the deficit.

The spending round did manage to deal with some of those issues. NHS and education budgets are protected and adult social care prioritised. There will be investment in our infrastructure designed to boost economic growth – and thankfully one of those projects included improvements to the flow of the M20 between Snodland and Aylesford. Savings will be made in welfare budgets, Whitehall expenditure and other departments like Foreign Office and Culture, Media & Sport. But it was a very difficult round for local government and it will be interesting to see how our own authorities will deal with the challenges.

So I am glad that in this spending round we've gone from rescue to recovery but it hasn't been easy, and nor will it be for the next few years to come.