

**“WE DO BEST AS A SOCIETY WHEN WE PROVIDE FOR OTHERS  
OUT OF OUR SENSE OF HUMANITY”**

The Bishop of Liverpool has stated that he will be asking the government to review and re-examine the criteria upon which their current cuts have been proposed. Speaking at a summit he hosted alongside the Mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson, Bishop James said that *"we do best as a society when we provide for others out of our sense of humanity what we provide for our families out of a sense of affection."*

In his keynote address to a summit which include political and faith leaders from Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle and Sheffield, the Bishop spoke out of a pastoral concern for the city citing the stories that are coming from our churches' experience at the front line of social welfare.

The Bishop stated that "When society goes through difficult stages and experiences trauma there is a need for a sort of social triage which involves the pastor, the prophet and the politician. Pastors must come alongside and hear the cry, prophets must speak clearly about their diagnosis and politicians must prescribe solutions. Society needs all three."

Bishop James said that *"faith communities through our different sacred texts have an acute sense of justice"* and *"out of their pastoral experience often speak prophetically about the need to share fairly the wealth we have"*.

Recognising that austerity faces us all the Bishop was clear that *"the reason I was so glad to host this conference with the Mayor is to have an opportunity with other pastors to ask those with the power to reassure us that the proposed cuts are just and fair"*.

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