

# Funding the Future

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This comes from the [TUC's blog](#). It was written by Geoff Tily, their senior economics adviser, an old friend of mine and a very sound Keynesian:

*Earlier this week, the Chancellor finally admitted what we've been saying for years: that the best way to repair the public finances is not to cut spending but to get the economy growing.*

*Workers have put up with eight long years of austerity in the name of 'balancing the books' — a goal so sacrosanct that the coalition government tried to put it into law.*

*But at this week's Treasury Committee, the Chancellor [confessed that](#) the easiest way to get debt down as a percentage of GDP was to "get the economy growing faster with higher trend productivity growth...grow the GDP, strong real wage growth, rising living standards".*

You can watch the clip below:

<https://videoplayback.parliamentlive.tv/Player/Index/3e5d5d48-15aa-408a-bea1-43f09f169600?in=2018-11-05T17%3A03%3A04%2B00%3A00&out=2018-11-05T17%3A03%3A38%2B00%3A00&audioOnly=False&autoStart=False&statsEnabled=True>

*We couldn't agree more with the Chancellor's assessment, but why has it taken him so long to admit that austerity was a political choice not an economic necessity?*

*And if the austerity agenda has finally been binned, why is it still being put into practice?*

As a former adviser to the TUC I do, of course, echoed Geoff's sentiments. His [analysis that follows](#) that shows that spending is what has driven tax revenues is also well worth looking at.