

Fair deal for Bath



It is about time that Bath got a fair deal from the Government - stop the stealth taxes. Two thirds of the money the Council spends comes from the Government. Two years ago the Government said it wanted to change, instead of telling the Council how much money it will get every year, they would tell the Council how much money it will get for three years. The foolish thing we did is that we believed them. The second year they took away £1.7 million.

The biggest financial problem the Council is facing is social services funding. Nearly every council in the country is over spent on its social services funding. The Government is under funding this area and expecting the Local Council tax payers to pick up the bill or put vulnerable people at risk.

In the past few years the Government has expected us to fund more services, best value, electronic government, contaminated land, modernising local government, concessionary fares, extra education funding. Some of these we agree with and want to do, some we have no interest in at all. We get to do these things, with no choice, it is the Council Tax payer that has to pay for them. That is how income tax is being kept at low levels.

We have one of the lowest levels of funding from the Government for education within the Country. Bath has is second from the bottom in funding out of 140 Councils that have responsibility for education.

Other councils are the same through out the country, it is either cuts or increase the Council Tax. Oxford County Council, Somerset County Council, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire Council, Gloucestershire County Council and the home of one the most senior Conservatives in Local Government, Essex County Council are all suggesting Council Taxes of around 10% or more.

Where does the money go ?

If cuts in Council services are to be made where would they happen

The Council spends £140 million per year on your behalf, how is your money spent ?

Education	44.8%
Social Services	21.2%
Police	8.4%
Refuse collection	4.0%
Fire Brigade	3.9%
Highways	3.9%
Housing	2.7%
Leisure	1.3%
Libraries	1.3%
Street Cleaning	1.0%

The rest are small amounts, include job creation and environmental health.