

Statement by Cllr Tim Ball to Cabinet 04-Feb-09

The Youth Service has repeatedly suffered cut-backs over the last few years. The Liberal Democrats want to put half a million back into the Youth Service Budget over next 3 years and spend it on detached youth workers and more activities for young people. We need to ask young people what activities they want rather than have politicians telling them what is best.

I've spoken before about the Crèche in The Hut in Twerton. In this budget we would like to allocate £100k to secure the future of The Hut for the next five years. The crèche is a vital service in a deprived community.

My colleague Cllr Crossley said on Monday that we oppose the transfer from Council tax payers of £1m per year for the next three years to build up reserves for the Council pension fund. We support the efficiency savings to provide a buffer on pensions but do not think that residents' money should be taken for this reason. I suggest you think carefully about how you spend residents' money.

We are proposing a cut to the Council's Communications department. This is the only service we would cut – our proposal is to cut it by half. We have good services in this Council and we don't need so much propaganda and spin.