

As I was saying to the PDS Panel on resources on Monday night (11 February), it is essential that this Council really listens to people and takes on board all the objections to cuts to Children's Centres, and Youth Services, as spelt out by Cllr Hardman, and by speakers from the public here tonight. I asked then if this was a 'listening council' and if you could hear the outrage about the cuts to children's services and the howls from Radstock about the threat to the youth service, and the injustice and inefficiency of a so called 'targeted service'.

Now I want to ask if you are an 'acting council'. It seems to me, to quote the General Confession of the Book of Common Prayer, that 'we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and there is no 'health' in the Budget.

- 1) p56 Cabinet Papers. Victoria Hall. A year since it closed but all that has happened is that a decision has been made to retain it as a community building. I welcome that, but where is the business plan, the architect's plan and most import of all, there is no analysis available of the community response to the public consultation. How can you plan a community facility without analysing what the community has said?
- 2) P55 £500,000 in 13/14 and 14/15 for 'affordable housing' –one cheer- but it is very vague as to what is actually going to be delivered. Tracking it through the PDS papers, it seems that it will only be spent on the Bath Western Riverside project – which is not acceptable to those of us living 'out in the sticks' in N E Somerset. Empty houses are not an issue in my ward if it is to be used on the Empty Homes Policy. I have one potential site for development and one on the border. Here once again we have a Bath-centric policy.
- 3) Finally can I make a plea that we have no more white rabbits like Cllr Bellotti's half million for Radstock regeneration –and not a penny spent yet.
- 4) A promise is a commitment and a commitments means delivery now, not in some dim distant future – when the electorate will hold you to account for not getting anything done.

Thank you, Chair, for letting me speak.