

B&NES Council – Priorities for your new Council Administration

Cllr Dine Romero

Leader, Bath & North East Somerset Council

Introductions and welcome



Our new cabinet team has set a clear direction for the council.

We are **ambitious** for our area and have some big tasks ahead, particularly addressing the **climate emergency**.

All our cabinet members are committed to **opening up the council** and making sure people's voices are heard about issues that really matter locally.

We will focus on **delivering for local residents**- for example making it easier to travel around, delivering more affordable homes and cleaner streets.

We also will **focus on prevention** in health and social care, particularly given the pressures on budgets in these areas.



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Cabinet



Cllr Joanna Wright

Transport Services



Cllr Neil Butters



Council Leader
Dine Romero



Cllr Tim Ball
Housing, Planning, &
Economic Development



Cllr Kevin Guy
Children's Services



Cllr David Wood

Climate Emergency &
Neighbourhood Services



Cllr Sarah Warren



Cllr Richard Samuel
Deputy Leader & Resources



Cllr Paul Crossley
Community Services



Cllr Rob Appleyard
Adult Services



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The story so far

- ✓ New Liberal Democrat administration elected in May
- ✓ Key council challenges include:
 - Climate emergency and clean air
 - Rising costs of and demand for social care
 - Supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
 - Brexit impacts
- ✓ Some examples of what we've done so far
 - Appointed a new chief executive
 - Got going on addressing the climate emergency
 - Invested in cleaner streets



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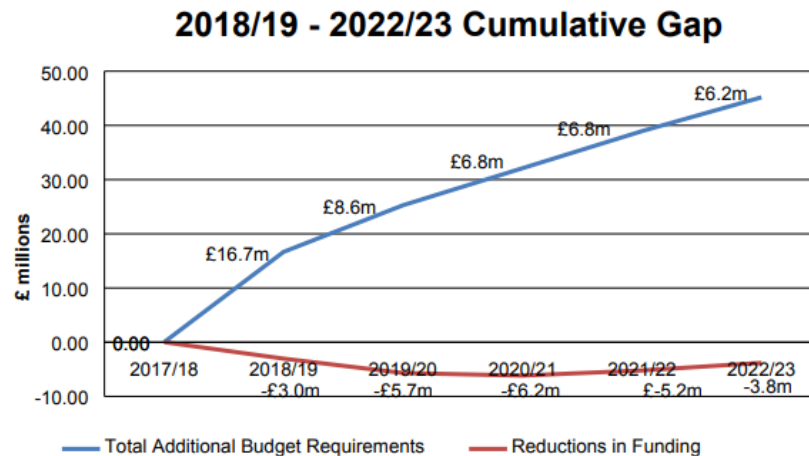


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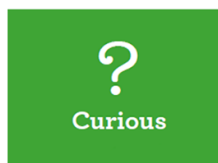
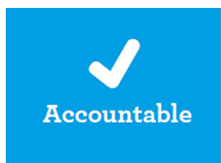
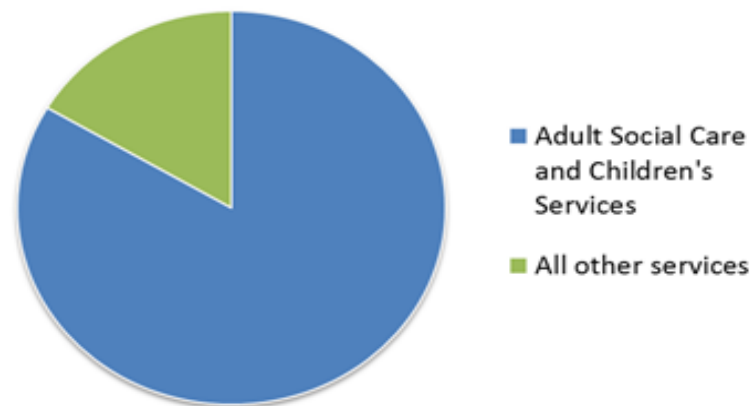
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Local budget picture

- We are receiving no money from central government
- We need to save £21.85m in the next two years on top of £78m saved in the last seven years.
- This includes increases of 2% a year in Council Tax



- In 2019-20, for every £1 of Council Tax being spent by the Council, 83.5p is spent on Adult Social Care and Children's Services:



Our approach

- ✓ We are going to have to make some **difficult decisions** and do some fresh thinking
- ✓ We are committed to **building a truly sustainable approach** - including the way we fund and deliver our services
- ✓ **We want to give people a bigger say** in how we do things. We want to work with our partners, communities and groups such as this to help find local solutions
- ✓ We are determined to support and **build on the resources that exist in our communities** – be they local buildings and assets, skills and knowledge or community capacity and volunteers



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Our new priorities

-
- **Addressing the climate emergency**
 - **Delivering for local residents**
 - **Focusing on prevention**
 - **Giving people a bigger say**
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Addressing the climate emergency

In 2019, we resolved to declare a climate emergency across B&NES. This has a big impact on how we operate as an organisation and provide local leadership to enable change on the ground locally.

We will:

- **Lead by example** to reduce or eliminate our own carbon emissions
- **Work with communities, businesses and partners** to help them make low carbon and energy efficient choices
- **Reduce vehicle pollution** through the Clean Air Zone and our ambitions to improve public transport
- Support and encourage **low carbon developments** and address fuel poverty
- Plant **more trees**



Delivering for local residents



We want to make sure that we are delivering services that matter most to local people in the ways that best meet their needs.

This means making sure that we are adapting to changing expectations – for instance, in making greater use of digital tools such as FixMyStreet.

We will:

- Secure **more affordable and social housing** and improve the quality of rented housing
- **Tackle congestion** with better traffic management and reductions in ‘rat-running’
- Deliver improvements to **public transport, walking and cycling facilities**
- Deliver **cleaner streets** including better enforcement
- **Be clear** about what we can and cannot do

Focusing on prevention

We are experiencing increased demand and growing expectations at a time when there is less money.

We need to help local people to live well and independently, become resilient and feel empowered to make good choices for their health and wellbeing. We will also ensure that we protect and support our most vulnerable.

We will:

- **Prioritise our preventative services** and our **public health** function to promote good health and reduce health inequalities
- Ensure services for the elderly are **targeted** to provide **timely interventions** before a crisis
- Ensure that the **mental health and wellbeing needs** of residents are being met



Giving people a bigger say



Local residents should have a powerful voice in determining how council services are designed, funded and run. We know there is more we can do to be transparent and collaborative in the way we work and we are committed to giving people a bigger say in our decision making.

We will:

- Develop a **clear programme of citizen's engagement** on key Council priorities – including schemes such as **Citizens Juries** to involve people in decision-making
- Make it **easier for residents to engage** with Council processes and meetings
- Introduce an 18 month **Ward Councillor Empowerment Fund** so elected members can work with community groups and Parish and Town Councils to invest in local projects



Discussion

- **What can you do to help tackle climate change?**
- **How would you prioritise services for local residents?**
- **What could you or your communities do to help with a preventative approach?**
- **How would you like to be involved and have a bigger say? How can the Council help?**
- **Do you have any other feedback on our emerging Corporate Strategy?**



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Timetable

CORPORATE PLANNING TIMELINE - 2020

SEPTEMBER

- Presentation by Council Leader to Area Forums on administration's approach and emerging priorities
- Cabinet report setting out Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Ongoing work by Council to prepare draft Corporate Strategy and budget options

DECEMBER- JANUARY

- Further engagement on the draft Corporate Strategy and budget proposals

FEBRUARY 2020

- Adoption of Corporate Strategy and budget



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