

## **BOB GOODMAN – STATEMENT TO CABINET – 9 FEBRUARY 2023**

I rarely speak about my family because that side of my life is precious to me but the events of this week cannot go without mention. My son who is a major in the Royal Artillery was presented with an MBE by the King for his work on unmanned Aircraft. You may ask what is that to do with the City even though he is a true Bathonian who grew up and was schooled in this great city of ours.

Well how immensely sad that I have learnt that this BANES Cabinet have taken £27,000 out of next year's budget for what is the most important event of the year that is the Remembrance Day services. Of course, you will say that's not the case because it is still going ahead ~that may well be the case but only after the Chartered Trustees we're given an ultimatum pay for it or it will not happen.

It is appalling that you as Cabinet can agree to a budget cut and pass the buck to the Chartered Trustees pure cowardice. However the Chartered Trustees are complicit in this decision because they should have rejected these bullying techniques and told you as a Cabinet to take on the Financial responsibility each and every one of the Trustees should have the moral convictions to simply say NO.

WHAT does this decision show to those who have given their lives for this Country or those who like my son who serve the King not knowing what lies before them but prepared to put their lives in danger for all of us.

It has always been the financial responsibility of BANES to pay for this Civic event no other Administration of whatever political persuasion has ever cut this.....will Cllrs here tonight from N E Somerset ...if of course you get re-elected in May~ expect an invitation ...quite frankly the easy answer is. NO..

I can assure Cabinet Members in Bath that residents are appalled by this decision — just ask them, you are letting down the Armed Forces both those who serve and those who have gone before. There are other ways of cutting or increasing funding to reinsert the money in the Budget.

Any Bath Cllr who votes for this cut and passes on the responsibility to the Mayoralty will be held accountable by the electorate at future elections, I respect some of the Cllrs from Bath so don't allow this to happen. This is clearly the thin end of the wedge and it is now common knowledge that discussions have taken place to see what other financial responsibilities can be passed onto BATH.

That's fine but the residents of Bath need to be given back the Guildhall and you can pay rent to us, so and we will have the revenue from the Car Parks, Roman Baths and the Commercial estate and then North East Somerset will be bankrupt.

You must not let down our Armed Forces and I urge you to change your decision.