

PRESS RELEASE

Conservative Group on South Gloucestershire Council

Bradley Stoke £60K youth funding boost

Councillors succeed in long-running campaign

Bradley Stoke Conservative councillors have welcomed confirmation that the town's young people are to share in a £60K funding boost.

The extra money has been pledged by South Gloucestershire Council's Conservative Cabinet who met earlier today to recommend a council budget for 2011/12.

The additional £58K is being funded after the council negotiated a better-than-expected deal with the bus companies on the authority's flagship youth bus pass scheme.

Cllr Sheila Cook, Conservative Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said:

"The town's Conservative councillors have made a consistent case about the need for this authority to put more money into local youth provision and I have met with them several times about this.

I am pleased that, despite the tough times we are living in, we are able to substantially increase our commitment to Bradley Stoke's young people.

I look forward to the discussions as to how this money is used to ensure we get the most value out of it as possible because it is outcomes that matter most."

South Gloucestershire Conservative councillors for Bradley Stoke have welcomed the news.

Cllr Brian Hopkinson (Con, Bradley Stoke Central and Stoke Lodge), who initiated the joint working between the district and town council said:

"Shortly after being elected in 2007, I was staggered by the tokenistic approach that Bradley Stoke Town Council had taken with youth work. It has not been easy creating the club we now have and there is now a much better partnership in place between South Gloucestershire Council and Bradley Stoke Town Council."

Cllr Sarah Pomfret (Con, Bradley Stoke Central and Stoke Lodge) said:

“We were elected on a platform of getting a better deal for the town’s youngsters and this announcement is yet more proof that we are delivering on this promise.”

Cllr John Ashe (Con, Bradley Stoke South) said:

“We are delighted with this announcement as it shows that determined efforts over a number of years can pay off, even in tough times.

Cllr Rob Jones (Con, Bradley Stoke South) said:

“Where the LibDems failed, we have succeeded – but it’s the town’s young people who are the real winners from this announcement.”

Mayor of Bradley Stoke, Ben Walker added:

“I hope that the opposition parties on South Gloucestershire Council support this Conservative proposal for extra investment when the budget is voted on by the Full Council in a few weeks time. I am calling on them not to play political games with the town’s young people.”

The Cabinet’s budget will be voted on by the Full Council on 23 February 2011. The Labour and LibDem groups have often used their combined majority on the council to alter Conservative budget proposals.