

SUPER COUNCILS' NETWORK FORUM

PAUL WYNNE (FROME TOWN COUNCIL)

Taking forward the health and wellbeing agenda in Frome

Paul Wynne
Town Clerk
Frome Town Council
Monday 11 February 2019

Bit of background.....

Frome facts

- 27,000 people rising to 34,000 by 2020
- Spend in 2019/20 is £1.580m
- Precept 2019/19 £1.343m
- Band D equivalent is £154
- 17 Cllrs in 8 wards – all Independents for Frome (IfF)
- 23 members of staff (21 FTE) – incl one apprentice







2016 – 2020 FTC strategy

...a town that doesn't sit on its laurels but looks for, and tries, new ideas and ways of doing things...

...a place that is proudly independent and which puts local solutions first...

...a town which makes decisions with the long-term in mind...

...a council looking to improve the lives of generations to come ...

...success is dealing with issues not just delivering services...

The challenge facing the country,
not just Frome and not just the Town Council

“More children, more elderly will soak up every available penny”

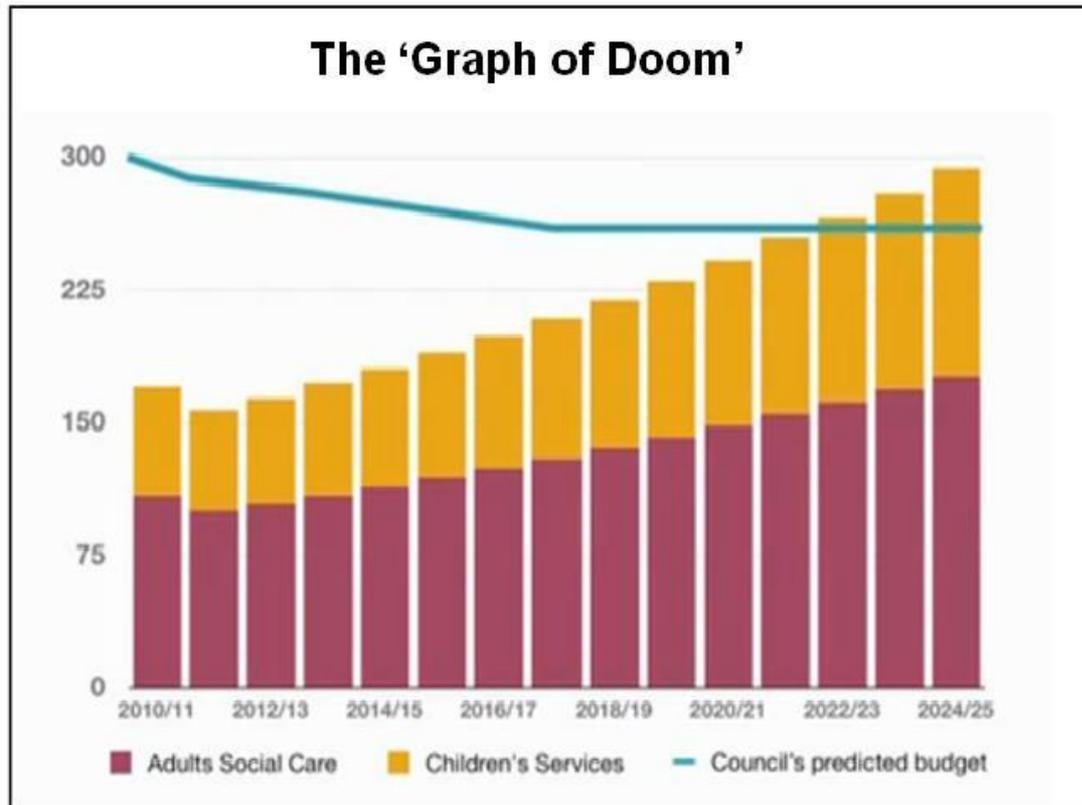
CEO Barnett Council 2011

“Somerset County Council cuts: live updates from Shire Hall as £15M savings proposals come under scrutiny

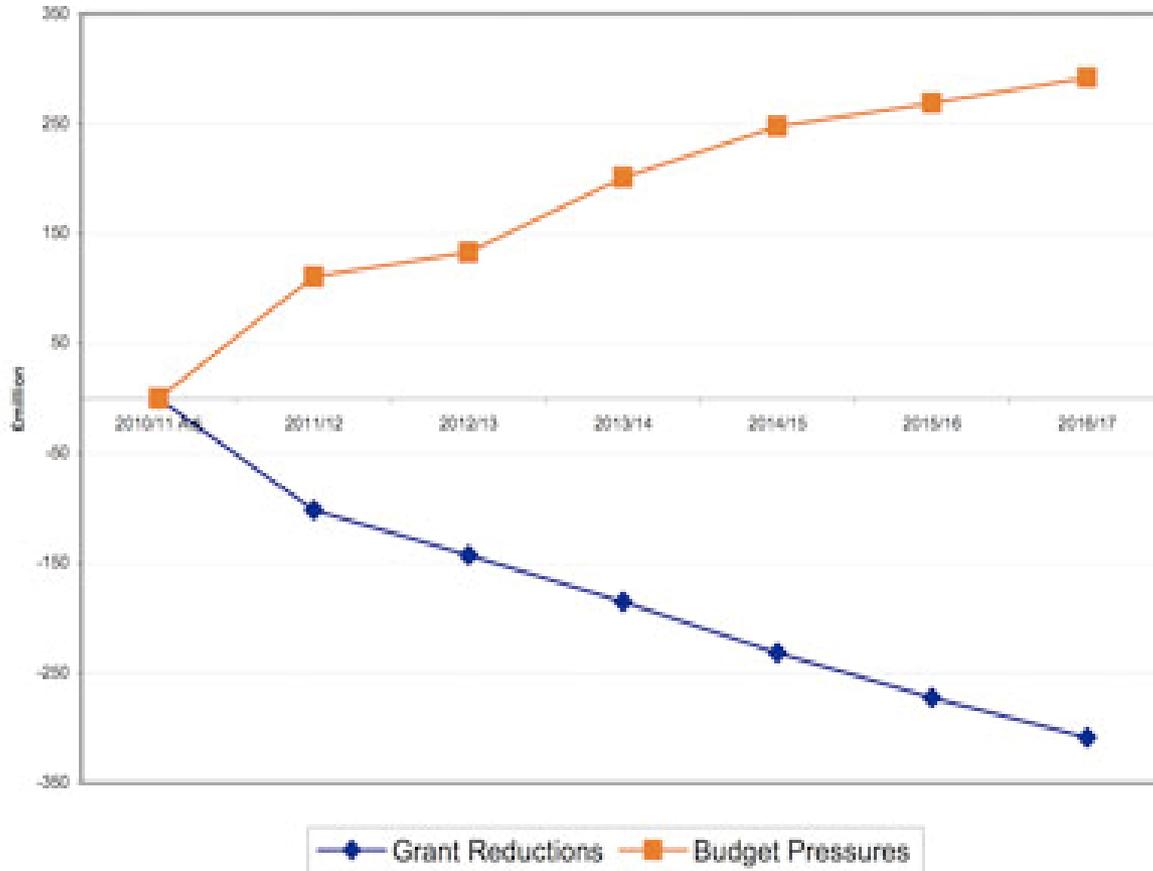
“Protests are expected outside a meeting of Somerset County Council ...”

Somerset Live Sept 2018

The challenge in the context of Barnett Council's graph of doom in 2011/10



Birmingham City Council's Jaws of Doom



Birmingham city council's 'Jaws of Doom' graph represents the gap between grant income and future cost pressures. Photograph: Birmingham city council

Reaction to Gov't budget in October 2018

“If I was a local authority CEO I’d struggle to find much to celebrate”

Paul Johnson, Inst of Fiscal Studies

The challenge:

How to have healthy, happy communities in the context of the graph on doom?

This leads on to:

What are the alternatives to “normal” public service provision?

One approach is to build a more resilient community that looks after itself and not so reliant on a dwindling public sector

Frome Town Council and health and wellbeing...

2014 – presentation from the local Vicar and Citizen's Advice.
Universal Credit on the horizon, homelessness, health, poverty, hunger, very vulnerable people.

In our town? Really?



Building a more resilient community

What does that mean?

A community where neighbours look after each other

Is community led wellbeing the alternative to public sector service provision and the graph of doom?



2014/15

Established Fair Frome. Trustees, funding (council and other) to create a Frome Food Bank. fairfrome.org

Now, almost financially sustainable, three members of staff and 40 volunteers, community dining, furniture project, campaigning, homeless support - but demand for food bank increases.



2015

Health Connections Mendip project – GP surgery based, funded by Medical Practice with a little extra from FTC - focus on prevention rather than cure.

healthconnectionsmandip.org

“We are now beginning to understand that the roots of health lie not in hospitals or GP surgeries, but in our communities.”

Clinical Advisor, Community Centred Care, NHS England. HCM Annual Report ‘16





.....projects.....projects.....projects.....



2015 - Fair Housing for Frome - decent, secure, affordable and accessible.

- Developed by a Cllr with help from the staff and a little cash from a FTC grant
- Established the night shelter
- Frome Landlords Assoc
- Affordable housing in new developments



fairhousingforfrome.org.uk



Meanwhile....

2016 – FTC commissioned local group to explore how to increase community resilience which led on to....

2017 – established a post to work as a community development officer in a specific vulnerable area of town – going well.

Method: asking the neighbourhood what the problems are, helping them solve them.

Building community-led wellbeing

How was it going?

1. Community groups developing
2. Started to impact in discreet areas in the town
3. Projects were successful

Context.....

1. Somerset County cuts are really kicking in
2. Getset services and youth service are no more,
3. CAB has had core funding cut

The graph of doom is still here



To conclude...

No one knows what a resilient,
sustainable, happy, healthy,
prosperous community looks like

But, most of us know what moving in
the direction looks like

The fear is that things will continue to
get worse before they get better

