

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

2nd March 2016

Report of: Patricia Greer - Interim Service Director- Policy, Strategy and Communications

Title: Scrutiny Resolution and Full Council Motion Tracker

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Lucy Fleming, Scrutiny Co-ordinator – Policy, Scrutiny and Research & Executive Support

Contact Telephone Number: 0117-92-22483

RECOMMENDATION

To note the Scrutiny resolution and Full Council motion tracker.

Summary

The tracker has been created at the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to provide a summary of Scrutiny resolutions and Full Council motions, and progress to date. It is complimentary to the Scrutiny Commission action sheets produced for each meeting, which record actions and tasks in detail.

The significant issues in the report are:

1. The resolution tracker provides a summary of formal resolutions agreed and progress to date.
2. The tracker also details progress following Full Council motion/budget amendments.

Policy

Consultation

1. Internal

N/A

2. External

N/A

3. Context

At the Scrutiny work planning workshop in June 2015, the OSMB Members requested regular updates on the resolutions agreed at each Scrutiny Commission meeting for information only. Subsequently it was agreed that this would include progress of Full Council motions/budget amendments. This report is complimentary to the action sheets provided for each Scrutiny Commission meeting and does not reference resolutions that merely noted reports.

Proposal

4. Members are asked to note the resolution/motion tracker.

Other Options Considered

5. N/A

Appendices:

- A. Scrutiny Resolution Tracker
- B. Full Council Motion/Budget Amendment Tracker

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

N/A

Rolling Scrutiny Resolution Tracker 2015/16 – September to February 2016

Appendix A

Commission & date	Report title & presenting Officer	Purpose of the report / proposed resolution	Outcome of discussion and resolutions	Progress since the meeting
OSMB 09/15 (m 11)	Dealing with exempt/confidential information Strategic Director – Business Change	A report on the process applied when taking information in exempt/confidential session	Officers develop a mechanism for Councillors to challenge Monitoring Officer decisions with respect to decisions on exempt information	The report will be considered by OSMB on 2nd March.
OSMB 02/16				At the time of publication, the minutes from the meeting on 4th February 16 were not yet available.
People 09/15 (m 9)	Bristol Safeguarding Children Board 2014 – 2015 Annual Report Sally Lewis OBE Independent Chair	The Ofsted inspection directed that improvements were to be made in the way the annual report was presented directing the Board to give greater emphasis to the work done by partner agencies in their provision of safeguarding.	That the Commission endorsed the appointment of a Data Analyst to provide proper integrated business information.	The Commission's comments were relayed and the appointment is underway.
People 11/15 (m 11)	Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers	The Commission received a report from the Interim Service Director Children and Family with Anne Farmer Service Manager on the launch of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers.	The Commission endorsed the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge to Children in Care and Care Leavers as part of our Children's Services Improvement Plan	The Strategy and Pledge were published and launched in 2015. Work continues to monitor implementation of the strategic objectives through the governance arrangements outlined in the report. The Pledge will be monitored via an annual survey and on-going review.

People 12/15 (m 11)	Adult Care Community Support Services Commissioning – Update on formal consultation process	Update report as requested at People Scrutiny July 2015 when a paper was submitted about the intention to commission. The interim report provided info about the process to date and an opportunity for Scrutiny Commission input to the consultation.	Time would not allow for a full discussion on the consultation questions so Members agreed to feedback via the online consultation portal	Formal consultation closed on January 7th 2016. Findings from the consultation process will be considered in drafting a final Community Support Services Commissioning Strategy and in preparing the service specification and tender process for this commissioning. A tender process is expected to commence in Spring 2016.
People 02/16				At the meeting, a number of reports were considered and noted, but no formal resolutions that required follow up action were made.
Place 01/16 (m 8)	Consultation on Our Resilient Future: A Framework for Climate and Energy Security Service Manager: Sustainable City and Climate Change	The consultation would close on 16 th March with a decision sought following the May election. It was agreed that the Place Scrutiny Commission would submit written collective feedback.	The consultation draft of Our Resilient Future: A Framework Climate Change and Energy Security was noted, along with the new 2050 goal for carbon emission reduction.	In progress – consultation set to close on 16 th March
Place 02/16 (m 9)	Transport Poverty Public Health Support Officer for Strategic Transport	Report outlining the background and research surrounding transport poverty.	Safety on buses and in particular the safety of women to be added to the list of possible work programme items for the next municipal year.	Complete - item added to the list of potential items for 2016/17 Scrutiny Work Programme
Place 02/16 (m 9)	Transport Poverty Public Health Support Officer for Strategic Transport	Report outlining the background and research surrounding transport poverty.	Information to be circulated regarding output reports for LSTF schemes providing access to transport services in job poor neighbourhoods in order to assist job seeker access to the labour market.	Complete - information sent to Commission Members 23/02/16

<p>Place 02/16 (m 10)</p>	<p>Community Transport</p> <p>Service Director: Transport</p>	<p>A report to consider the current community transport provision and upcoming changes.</p>	<p>Information to be circulated regarding whether any funding from Public Health was included within the proposed grant for Community Transport.</p>	<p>Complete - information sent to Commission Members 23/02/16</p>
<p>Neighbourhoods 11/15 (m 9)</p>	<p>Bristol Waste Company Performance Report Quarter 1</p> <p>Tracey Morgan</p>	<p>Officers presented the Bristol Waste Company performance report for the first quarter of delivery</p>	<p>Officers to provide additional information within next report</p>	<p>To be included in next Bristol Waste Company Performance report to Commission in March 2016.</p>
<p>Neighbourhoods 11/15 (m 11)</p>	<p>Byelaws Update</p> <p>Alison Comley</p>	<p>Members considered a report responding to a number of additional questions and issues which had arisen after the Commission's consideration of the draft Full Council report in October. The report included a revised timeline proposed for consideration by Full Council.</p>	<p>That officers provide a written response to Cllr Denyer in reference the use of lanterns and windbreaks in parks and green spaces.</p>	<p>Proposal to take byelaws to Full Council in January 2016 was subsequently deferred due to the introduction of a new byelaws process to be issued by DCLG early in 2016. We are currently awaiting clarification of timelines for the new process.</p> <p>Response provided to Cllr Denyer.</p>
<p>Neighbourhoods 01/16 (m 9)</p>	<p>Update on Libraries</p> <p>Head of Libraries</p>	<p>Update report</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That a future update report be prepared which includes detailed information concerning details of discussions with organisations on future use of buildings in different areas of the city and of community offers throughout the city 2) That an update report be prepared for Monday 21st March 2016 including details of capital spend 	<p>Resolution to be addressed in report going to 21st March Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission.</p>

Neighbourhoods 02/16				At the time of publication, the minutes from the meeting on 16th February 16 were not yet available.
Business Change & Resources 11/15	Income Generation Update Peter Gillett	Presentation covered progress to date to secure income work streams and savings targets, identified additional income sources and confirmed next steps to inform the development of an income generation strategy for the Council	The next update to include analysis of recommendations from the KPMG review	A report will be considered by the Commission at the March 16 meeting.
Business Change & Resources 01/16				At the meeting, a number of reports were considered and noted, but no formal resolutions that required follow up action were made.
Business Change & Resources 02/16	Social Value Policy and Toolkit Allison Slade - Interim Service Manager, Strategic Commissioning and Procurement	The Interim Service Manager, Strategic Commissioning and Procurement introduced the report and invited questions.	To approve the approach outlined in the Social Value Policy and Toolkit for implementation from 1 April 2016, in consideration of the points raised in discussion.	Complete – the Social Value Policy and Toolkit went to the Business Change and Resources Scrutiny Commission in February 16 and will be going to Cabinet in March 16.

FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS/BUDGET AMENDMENTS TRACKER

Appendix B

FULL COUNCIL: 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

Motion title: Secondary School Places (Motion A, Minute 46)

Motion approved as follows: The School Organisation Plan went to cabinet in October 2013 and made the following statement about secondary school places:

‘Although there are sufficient secondary school places across the City to 2017, the primary pupil numbers which will move through the year groups are significantly greater than the numbers currently available in secondary schools. For example, there are approximately 4,000 places in Year 7 (the first year of entry to secondary school) and there are more than 5,000 pupils in the Reception Year (the first year of entry to primary school).’

The Education and Capital Strategy document goes for consultation soon and confirms the need for extra secondary places.

Council notes that local authorities retain the responsibility for the planning of school places but the Secretary of State determines admission numbers for academies and the Education Funding Agency has responsibility for large capital projects in academies. 18 of the 21 secondary school in Bristol are academies. Council further recalls that it agreed to £20m extra capital for primary places in the budget passed in February 2012 and that this, combined with cross-party lobbying of central government, gave Bristol record levels of investment for primary places.

Council wishes to give confidence to parents and local councillors that Bristol children will be given an acceptable offer of a place at a Bristol secondary school if they so wish. Council therefore requests that the Mayor write to the Secretary of State and the Regional Commissioner explaining the situation, expressing our concerns and asking for the most accurate information available on their plans for the provision of places.

Council also requires that the Mayor brings a report to Full Council which includes details of council capital investment on school places since October 2013 and the plans for expansion/new build of secondary places to meet the expected numbers.

Resolution:

- Paul Jacobs to liaise with the Mayor’s officer re: sending the requested letter from the Mayor to the Secretary of State and Regional Commissioner.
- Paul Jacobs to liaise with the Mayor and advise the likely timing of a report back to Full Council – likely to be January 2016.

Progress since meeting:

- Letter sent to Secretary of State on 4th February 2016. On the same date the Mayor also wrote to the four Bristol MPs about this topic.
- Members have been sent a copy of the correspondence.
- Item confirmed on the Full Council agenda for 15th March 2016

FULL COUNCIL: 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

Motion title: Altered motion – City of sanctuary status – housing refugees (Motion C, Minute 46)

Altered motion approved as follows: This Council calls on the Mayor to give real meaning to our “City of Sanctuary” status by working with housing providers, charities, faith organisations and other partners to ensure that Bristol City Council plays its part in housing refugees caught up in the current humanitarian crisis.

We especially call on the Mayor to agree as a matter of urgency to authorise officers to accept refugees from Syria under the government’s Vulnerable People Resettlement scheme. We are aware that this issue was raised with the Mayor as early as February of this year, and would therefore urge him to take immediate action.

Bristol City Council, as a City of Sanctuary must agree to play a significant role in accepting refugees. Glasgow, Kingston (London), Birmingham and Edinburgh have already agreed to take 50 refugees each. As one of the larger cities in the UK, Bristol City Council should immediately pledge to take 50 refugees as a starting point towards playing our part in hosting refugees fleeing conflict from across the world.

This Council further asks the Mayor to write to HM Government asking them to support cities and communities who want to make a difference at least for some of these refugees.

Resolution:

Mike Hennessey to liaise with the Mayor to determine action to be taken forward.

Progress since meeting:

- In November the Mayor wrote to Richard Harrington (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Syrian Refugees) on 4th November outlining his political will and urging government to double the number of Syrian refugees the UK takes.
- Members have been sent copies of the correspondence.

FULL COUNCIL: 10 NOVEMBER 2015

Motion title: Standing against the Trade Union Bill (Motion A, Minute 58)

Motion approved as follows: Bristol City Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces. We value the constructive relationship that the City Council has with our trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services in Bristol.

We acknowledge that there are around 100,000 trade union members in the Bristol area and we recognise that many hardworking Bristol City Council employees have exercised their right to be a member of a trade union. We reaffirm our commitment to support and promote trade union activities in the workplace.

We note with concern the Trade Union Bill which is currently being proposed by the Government would affect this Council's relationship with our trade unions and our workforce. Furthermore we believe the Government's plans will lead to a more confrontational relationship between the Council and its employees which could damage the public services we provide.

This Council believes that facility time, negotiated and agreed by us and our trade unions to suit our joint needs, has a valuable role to play in the creation and delivery of good quality and responsive services for the residents of Bristol. Moreover we believe that facility time should not be determined or controlled by Government in London.

This Council is content with the arrangements we currently have in place for deducting trade union membership subscriptions through our payroll. We see this as an important part of our positive industrial relations and a simple way to administer a system that supports our employees. This system is an administrative matter for the Council and should not be interfered with by the Government in Westminster.

We call upon the Mayor to:

1. Publically reject the Government's attack on Trade Unions and its attack on our right to manage our own affairs
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills stating the Council's opposition to the Government's Trade Union Bill.
3. Continue its own locally agreed industrial relations strategy, take every measure possible to maintain its autonomy; (i) To maintain the current facility that recognised trade unions can have subscriptions deducted through payroll, (which is, de-facto zero cost to the Council) unless legally obliged to, in which case we will support trade unions' efforts to move members onto direct debit. (ii) Maintain the current level of release time for Trade Union representatives.
4. Write to all Bristol MPs informing them of Bristol City Council's position and encouraging them to oppose the Trade Union Bill.
5. Protect Bristol City Council employees' right to strike by committing to refusing to use agency workers to cover permanent staff during industrial action.

Resolution:

Mayor to consider his response to points 1-5 as listed.

Progress since meeting:

- The Mayor wrote to Sajid Javid in November relaying Councillors' concerns. Nick Boles (Minister of State for Skills) responded in January.
- Members have been sent copies of the correspondence.

FULL COUNCIL: 15 DECEMBER 2015

Motion title: Making Avon pension fund a fossil-free fund (Motion A, Minute 70)

Amended motion approved (note: the Labour amendment was approved) as follows:

This Council notes:

1. That there is increasing recognition that fossil fuel assets and investments are likely to become 'stranded assets' with 75% having to be kept in the ground to prevent runaway climate change (ref1).
2. Many international experts and investors are warning of the risks of fossil fuel investments, and at the same time the increasing attractiveness of renewable energy technologies, with wind power being the cheapest form of onshore generation now (ref2). Other funds and Universities are increasingly divesting (ref3).
3. The city and its sub region are an area of international expertise in renewable energy technologies. Locally we are also an area with a very strong track record of community sustainable energy initiatives, typified by the work of Bristol Energy Network members, the Bristol Community Strategy for Energy, and the projects supported by Bristol 2015.
4. Bristol Unison branch passed a motion in July for the LGPS to divest from fossil fuels and then wrote to the chair of the Avon pension fund committee conveying that decision in July. Pension fund boards have now been established and UNISON has a seat on the board.

This Council recognises that:

1. The past industrial and economic base of the Bristol and Avon area was in part based on coal and fossil fuels.
2. The future industrial and economic base of Bristol and surrounding authorities will in part be based on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
3. The interests of the pension fund and its pensioners both present and future will increasingly be served by investments that reflect the nature of the fund's liabilities, having particular regard to potential future interest rates and inflation.

4. With many other pension funds divesting and switching to renewables it may be time for Avon Pension Fund to consider following suit if doing so is in the best interests of the scheme and its members. The experience of the award winning Environment Agency PF (a local authority scheme) and other public sector funds are positive lessons we can draw on (ref4) (ref 5).

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Mayor to write to the Avon Pension Fund calling for it to:

1. Request a position statement on the potential impact divesting from fossil fuel assets will have on the Avon Pension Fund and to asked the Avon Pension Fund to report on the scale of its investments in fossil fuels, giving reference to level and scale of the such investments and the impact divesting will have on the future liability profile of the fund.
2. Work with the Council's representative on the Avon Pension Fund to maintain a strong position against further investment in fossil fuels and to provide an annual report evaluating of the viability and risk of investing in any extractive industry, including metal and mineral mining, as well as fossil fuels.
3. Work with Trade Union representatives and the workforce to involve them in divestment and diversification plans and to provide them with a full comprehensive assessment of the impact of divesting from fossil fuel assets could have on their pensions.

Resolution:

Mayor to consider request to write to Avon Pension Fund.

Progress since meeting:

In progress. Officers have drafted a letter which is awaiting Mayor sign off. Once sent, Members will be sent a copy of the correspondence.

FULL COUNCIL BUDGET AMENDMENTS – FEBRUARY 16

The following budget amendments were accepted and progress of their implementation will be monitored via the tracker.

1. 2% Adult Social Care Precept
2. East Bristol Pool
3. Hartcliffe Way Recycling Centre
4. Diamond Card
5. Mental Health Projects
6. Get Bristol Building
7. Environmental Enforcement
8. Bristol Pride
9. Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service (RAMAS)