

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMISSION  
HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013 AT 9.30 AM**

P Councillor Abraham  
P Councillor Brain  
P Councillor Hassell  
P Councillor Hopkins (in the Chair)  
P Councillor Naysmith  
P Councillor Wright  
A *Vacancy*

**RC**

**129.4/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

None given.

**RC**

**130.4/13 PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of the Commission had received public forum statements in advance of the meeting. (*A copy of the Public Forum submissions are held in the Minute Book*).

**RC**

**131.4/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**RC**

**132.4/13 WHIPPING**

None declared.

**RC**

**133.4/13 MINUTES - RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 22<sup>ND</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2013**

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**RC**  
**134.4/13 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

None.

**RC**  
**135.4/13 CORPORATE OUTCOME PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 3 (2012/13)**

The Commission considered a report from the Head of the Executive Office (Agenda Item 7) relating to Corporate Outcome Performance, Quarter 3 (2012/13).

During discussion of the report the following points were highlighted:

- Commission Members in relation to strategic outcome 1 – Making our prosperity sustainable, sought clarification on what are S58 obligations;
- Green Capital bid, the commission sought information on the costs associated with producing a bid, and the benefits to Bristol;
- Strategic outcome 2 – reducing health and wealth inequalities – members sought clarification on why the name was being changed to smoking prevalence from April 2013;
- Strategic outcome 3 – a city of strong and safe communities – the commission sought information on the target associated with improving the environment for a thriving third sector [voluntary and community organisation] was being measured;
- Strategic outcome 4 – raising the aspirations and achievements of our children, young people and families – commented that this target needed to be improved for both the welfare of the children and the costs associated.

Concern was expressed at the widening gap at key stage 4 attainment gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and on free school meals, achieving the expected DfE level or above.

Members also sought information on how the additional funding associated with pupil premium was being used;

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**RC**  
**136.4/13 BUS RAPID TRANSIT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF NEW ROUTE OPTIONS**

The Commission considered a report of the Service Director, Major Projects (Agenda Item No. 8) relating to the review of the BRT. The Commission were informed that the Review would not be completed before the end of May 2013 following discussions with the Department for Transport.

Points arising from discussion –

- Members noted the three public forum statements submitted to the meeting on this subject including the Civic Society proposals which asked for the Council's auditors to re-examine the costs (capital and revenue) associated with the scheme;
- In response to a members question, it was noted that it would be difficult to gauge at this stage whether an alternative route could be found within the timescales for the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads route;
- The commission noted that as Bristol City has asked for a review of the scheme, that any costs associated with the review would be borne by the City Council;
- Councillors commented that the Mayor would be considering whether an alternative route could be found which did not involve Prince Street Bridge and having two way on road running on Cumberland Road to Bedminster Bridge then to Redcliffe roundabout;
- Members noted that the DfT would be examining a number of factors in reviewing revised proposals which would include cost benefit ratio, timescales and estimated changes to scheme costs;
- The Commission acknowledged that there had been some slippage against the programme, which was due to lengthened timescales for the outcome of the Secretary of State report on the public inquiry in respect of Ashton Vale to Temple Meads, lengthened timescales for approval of South Gloucestershire's Core Strategy, and lengthened timescale for statutory progresses and programming of works generally relation to the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads programme;
- Several members noted the key role of the 'benefit cost ratio' which would have major implications if it fell below level 2; and
- The commission suggested that it would be appropriate for a further discussion be held with the mayor.

**RESOLVED - (i) that the report be noted; and**  
**(ii) noted that a further report would be considered by the commission in June 2013.**

**RC**

**137.4/13**

**IMPLICATIONS OF SCHOOLS CAPITAL SETTLEMENT**

The Commission considered a report of the Service Director – Resource, Planning & Performance (Agenda Item No. 9) giving an overview of CYPS Capital Programme and requirements in relation to the provision of additional school places.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

RC

**138.4/13 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE SOUTH BRISTOL AND EAST BRISTOL POOL**

**(a) Household Waste Recycling Centre South Bristol**

Members received a verbal update on the Household Waste recycling centre in South Bristol.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted**

**(b) East Bristol Pool**

Member received a verbal update on the potential provision of a leisure facility in east Bristol.

It was noted that this would be the subject of a more detailed report to be considered by the Commission at its meeting scheduled for September 2013.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

RC

**139.4/13 HOUSING BENEFIT AND UNDER OCCUPANCY IN THE RENTED SECTOR**

The Commission considered a report of the Service Director Integrated Customer Services (Agenda Item No. 11) relating to housing benefits and under occupancy in the rented sector.

**RESOLVED - that the impact of the new under occupancy legislation and regulations on housing benefit claimants in the social rented sector, and the actions taken to assist claimants, be noted.**

RC

**140.4/13 CHANGING BRISTOL PORTFOLIO**

The Commission considered a report of the Service Director – Business Change and ICT (Agenda Item No. 12) relating to the Changing Bristol portfolio.

**RESOLVED - (1) that the continued progress in developing the overall change portfolio be noted;**

**(2) that the progress with delivery of key programmes be noted.**

**RC**

**141.4/13 REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

The Commission considered a report of the Service Director Legal Services (Agenda Item No. 13) reviewing the work programme and performance of the scrutiny commission in 2012/13, and evaluating its effectiveness against the outcomes as set out by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

**RESOLVED - that the Review outcomes and Work Programme for 2012/13 be noted.**

**RC**

**142.4/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Resources Scrutiny Commission will be held on *21 June*, 2013 at 9.30 am.

**CHAIR**

(The meeting ended at 12.30 pm)