

Summons to attend meeting of Full Council



Date: Tuesday, 15 January 2019
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, City Hall

To: All Members of Council

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Date: Monday, 7 January 2019



Agenda

14. Altered Golden Motion and Amended Silver Motion

Note:

(Pages 16 - 19)

Under the Council's constitution, 30 minutes are available for the consideration of motions. In practice, this realistically means that there is usually only time for one, or possibly two motions to be considered. With the agreement of the Lord Mayor, motion 1 below will be considered at this meeting, and motion 2 is likely to be considered, subject to time. Details of other motions submitted (which, due to time constraints, are very unlikely to be considered at this meeting) are also set out for information.

MOTIONS RECEIVED FOR FULL COUNCIL – 15 JANUARY 2019

1. TACKLING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, DELIVERING FOR BRISTOLIANS

(LABOUR GROUP GOLDEN MOTION)

2. DELIVERING THE PHASING OUT OF PESTICIDE/WEED-KILLERS IN BRISTOL

(LIBERAL DEMOCRAT SILVER MOTION)

Signed



Proper Officer
Monday, 7 January 2019



TACKLING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, DELIVERING FOR BRISTOLIANS

(GREEN AMENDMENT)

Full Council notes that:

1. The Government's continued pursuit of ideological austerity will see local government face a £7.8 billion funding gap by 2025, according to the Local Government Association.ⁱ
2. Data showing that the UK's progress on life expectancy stalled in 2015-17, against a historic trend of improvementⁱⁱ, with life expectancy falling for the poorest for the first time since the end of the Second World Warⁱⁱⁱ; deprived areas often suffer the worst health outcomes^{iv}; and preventable diseases caused by smoking, obesity, and alcohol account for almost 110,000 early deaths each year in the UK, with smoking-related ill health alone costing local authorities some £760 million per annum in social care costs^v.

Full Council believes that:

1. The Government should have listened to calls from across the political spectrum to end austerity and invest in Bristol and other cities.
2. We should make Bristol the UK's first real Living Wage City, and engage with city employers, trade unions, and the Living Wage Foundation to work towards this.
3. Cutting prevention services is a false economy. Cuts to public health grant funding, which will see local authorities left with over half a billion pounds less to spend next year than in 2015/16, must be reversed by the Government.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Call on all Party Group Leaders (PGLs) and the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and call for fair funding for Bristol and an end to austerity.
2. Work to ensure that the 2019 budget is as progressive as possible by protecting support for the most vulnerable through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Local Crisis and Prevention Fund, and standing up for local services.
3. Encourage local employers to follow Bristol City Council's lead on the real Living Wage, and back the Mayor's plan to work with the Living Wage Foundation to roll out the real Living Wage across Bristol – making Bristol the first Living Wage City in the UK
4. Work to support progress in building new homes, especially affordable and social, and with high standards of energy efficiency to keep people's bills low.
5. Endorse calls from Cancer Research UK and others for the UK Government to invest in public health, and a sustainable health and social care system, and also back the One City

Approach of utilising the resources, influence, and energy of city partners alongside that of the local authority.

ⁱ <https://www.local.gov.uk/moving-the-conversation-on/funding>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/whats-happening-life-expectancy-uk>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/life-expectancy-uk-plumments-ons-data-hartlepool-torridge-amber-valley-barnsley-a8164171.html>

^{iv}

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthinequalities/bulletins/healthstatelifeexpectanciesbyindexofmultipledeprivationimd/englandandwales2014to2016#life-expectancy-and-healthy-life-expectancy-in-england-by-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2015-imd15-2014-to-2016>

^v

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/630217/Towards_a_Smoke_free_Generation_-_A_Tobacco_Control_Plan_for_England_2017-2022__2_.pdf

2. Delivering the phasing out of pesticide/weed-killers in Bristol

Motion submitted by: Cllr Antony Negus, Liberal Democrats, Cotham Ward

Date submitted: 27 / 12 / 2018

Council notes:

- there is an increasing body of evidence concerning the dangers of unrestricted use of glyphosate. This is often referred to as a pesticide but although it is actually a herbicide it has deleterious effects on fauna as well as flora so diminishing our biodiversity.
- there is considerable debate about the carcinogenic risks from glyphosate and a recent high profile court case in the United States. Concerns for those particularly vulnerable, including children, are even more sustainable.
- The 2016 Labour manifesto pledged to ‘stop using harmful pesticides’ and ‘eliminate the use of the most harmful substances and ensure proper safety for employees and contractors using pesticides.’
- Mayor Marvin Rees’ column in the November 2018 *SERA New Ground* magazine which highlighted the administration’s work ‘exploring alternatives with other councils so that we can be able to phase out the use of glyphosate’:
https://www.sera.org.uk/bristol_a_leading_green_city
- glyphosate is applied at present in parks and green spaces and in highways by Bristol Waste Company.
- it is also used by many different contractors and agencies commissioned for the city’s housing estates, schools, nurseries, hospitals and other institutions.
- discussions about the use of this weed killer have for some time been less about its health risks and more about the viability, particularly financial, of suitable alternative treatments. Nevertheless cities and Local Authorities in this country and abroad have taken a variety of measures to limit or exclude the use of glyphosate pesticides for treatment of weeds. Recently Croydon Council has confirmed they are phasing out glyphosate for this purpose over the next three years. Bristol’s Labour administration are already actively working with other councils to identify viable alternatives to glyphosate.
- there have been several attempts within Bristol City Council over recent years to examine this problem and to seek a resolution. In 2014 the then Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission confirmed a study of alternative treatments based on a year-long trial in Cotham ward. This study did not deliver its objective as it did not practically trial any alternatives, except the use of vinegar, with all other options considered on a desktop study basis only. There is still some doubt as to whether the correct number of treatments was carried out during this trial period.
- subsequent attempts, including a well-attended meeting of all relevant parties and pressure groups in 2017 did raise one alternative option, pelargonic acid, for which this council failed to obtain a licence and so was unable to trial. All attempts to arrange a follow-up meeting over more than 12 months were rebuffed.
- the Mayor’s response to a members question on 11th September 2018 was that “our options are based on finding affordable alternatives”.

Council believes:

- this council has a duty of care to its citizens regarding concerns over the use of glyphosate. In the same way that this council is looking to address the risks from air pollution caused largely by vehicles under the control; of others, it should establish the risks to all of its residents from unrestricted spraying of certain types of weed killers.
- this council should use its considerable influence and leadership to impress and inform all other users of such weed killers of its study's findings of the risks and alternatives.

Council resolves:

- to request the Mayor to produce a report on the risks to human health and to our biodiversity from unrestricted use of glyphosate as a weed killer, using evidence including but not limited to that from the European Chemical Agency, which relicensed the substance until 2022, the World Health Organisation, who have expressed concerns, and the European Food Safety Agency, which felt it 'unlikely' to pose a public health risk
- to request the Mayor to meaningfully test and evaluate the practicality and the cost of alternative forms of treatment in parks and highways, informed by the report produced and work with other councils.
- to request the Mayor to set up a stakeholder forum/task force as requested by the Pesticide Safe Bristol Alliance. The University of Bristol, Sustrans, Bristol Zoo and the Soil Association have shown interest in being part of such a body. It should be charged with planning and delivering a phased withdrawal from the use of glyphosates over a period of three years based on the information from the studies commissioned by the Mayor building on the experience of other authorities.
- to request the Mayor to provide regular updates to members on the progress of this initiative