

Cabinet Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 1 December 2020

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Virtual meeting via Zoom Cloud Meetings

2. Public Forum

(Pages 3 - 14)

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Date: Tuesday, 01 December 2020



CABINET – 1 December 2020

PUBLIC FORUM ITEMS

Statements and questions have been received as follows (full details are attached):

Agenda item 6 – Reports from Scrutiny

PS06.01 David Redgwell

Agenda item 8 – Year 7 East Central Sufficiency – 6th Form Proposal for Cabot Learning Federation (CLF)

PS08.01 Jen Smith
PS08.02 Rebecca Woodward

Agenda item 9 – Disabled Children’s Home

Statements:

CS09.01 Councillor Don Alexander

Agenda item 10 - Corporate Parenting Strategy (refresh) 2021-23

None

Agenda item 11 - Stabilisation of Redland Hill Parapet Wall and Retaining Rock Face

Statements:

CS11.01 Councillors Martin Fodor and Fi Hance

Agenda item 12- Procurement of Emergency Payment vouchers in respect of the Local Crisis and Prevention Fund (LCPF)

None

Agenda item 13 - City Leap Energy Partnership – procurement update and contract extension notification

PS13.01 Councillor Jerome Thomas
CQ13.01 Councillor Martin Fodor

Agenda item 14 - Council Tax Base 2021/22

None

Agenda item 15 – Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit 2020/21

None

Agenda item 16 - Budget Monitoring Outturn report P7

None

Agenda item 17 – Avon Mutual Regional Community Bank

CQ17.01 Councillor Don Alexander

Agenda item 18 – HRA Asset Management Strategy 2021-2026

CQ18.01 Councillor Don Alexander

Agenda item 19 – Redcliffe Bascule Bridge Refurbishment

None

Agenda item 20 - Procurement of Energy Supply Contracts

None

Agenda item 21 – Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol treatment grant

CQ21.01 Councillor Clive Stevens

Agenda item 22 – Corporate Risk Management Report (CRR)

None

Statement: PS06.01

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Re: Agenda item 6 – Scrutiny Report: Emergency Activity Travel Fund

Statement submitted by: David Redgewell

We welcome and fully support this report from the scrutiny commission on the emergency activity travel fund and the need to allocate money to provide a busgate and walking and cycling routes on Bristol Bridge to Baldwin street high street including the bus gate with improvements to the bus network especially route number 2 2a Cribbs Causeway Bus Station and Southmead; Clifton Down station; Bristol city centre; Bristol Temple meads station to Stockwood including planning light rail system through the Bristol Bridge area.

The old city and Kings Street has improved air quality and pedestrians facilities. The scheme has provided good social distancing measures in the city centre We welcome the bus priority measures from the city centre to Stokes Croft and the Bus station.

We also the welcome the proposal to provide a cycle lane as part of the Haymarket bus hub scheme and there needs to be a look at the scheme from Marlborough scheme to BRI especially with bus services operate outside the hospital y 1 T1 and route 13.

With schemes like Cumberland road Clifton village and st Mark's road its very important that their is full consultation with public transport users groups especially around Stapleton road station with the st Mark's Road scheme.

We would like to further scheme including Victoria street and park street as local access traffic and parking bus priority measures and walking and cycling. It is especially important to consult with disabled people and the Bristol equalities network and Bristol disability equality forum as we go forward with the permanent schemes especially around access to Bus stops disabled parking access to shops and railway stations.

We would also like more details of the public equalities duty consultation with equalities groups at the west of England combined authority when bring forward schemes within the WECA combined authority area and with the LEP that should include North Somerset joining WECA mayoral combined authority as soon as possible to make it much easier for public transport network planning and sustainable travel.

Statement: PS08.01

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Re: Agenda item 8 – Year 7 East Central Sufficiency – 6th Form Proposal for Cabot Learning Federation (CLF)

Statement submitted by: Jen Smith

Education funding in Bristol is consistently robbing Peter to pay Paul. Whilst some responsibility for this lies in central Government, there has been a long-term failure to adequately plan places for both Specialist need and mainstream schools in the city.

We also have a selective admissions process in too many centrally based schools with some deliberately allocating a considerable number to pupils well outside of Bristol.

The result of this now is that we have nearly 200 Send pupils with EHCPs entitling them to specialist provision and a shortfall of mainstream secondary places with the highest need in Central East.

None of the shortfall comes as any surprise. Central East parents have been campaigning since their children were very small for adequate school places. And we have Send parents for whom some of their children are not accessing education and others who are being siphoned off through the Sendist appeals process.

Funding is now being passed around like parcels and every time the music stops, it comes at the detriment of another group of pupils.

After an earlier fanfare investment in Send building and projects, £4.5m of that future spend is now being taken to fund a failure in mainstream school places. Whilst it is hoped that the future Basic Need Grant will be awarded to replace this funding, there is still the potential for this to fall short and Send projects delayed or 'paused'.

It is essential to fund the project to provide these school places in Central East. But, we should be mindful of the fact that this is a cut to Send provision yet again.

Statement: PS08.02

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Re: Agenda item 8 – Year 7 East Central Sufficiency – 6th Form Proposal for Cabot Learning Federation (CLF)

Statement submitted by: Rebecca Woodward

I am sending this submission for the cabinet meeting due this week looking at the Year 7 Central East shortfall - Agenda item 8.

Please find attached a parents objection to the closing of the secondary school at Avanti Gardens - part of Avanti Schools Trust. (*background paper available*) Not only did this transfer and dismantling of the former Steiner Academy breached the objects of the founding trust but it also has made worst the shortfall of secondary places in Bristol East Central. There are clear legal issues and marginalisation of the local community to suite the incoming trusts business model and not serve the local children and stakeholders.

Please also see attached the Oasis Temple Quarter document which outlines the basic need for secondary places and shortfall. (*background paper available*)

The fact it is written in the Head Teachers Board minutes the Local Authority supported the closure of the secondary side of the Avanti Gardens Schools - seems a dereliction in duty to ensure basic education needs are met. I would like to know what rationale was used to support this closure ?

The school roll number has plummeted to now 129 pupils at the school from 338 in September 2019. A significant number of children are now homeschooling as a result of this transfer and also secondary closure - both secondary children - 30-40 families plus also high number of primary age children.

The result of secondary closure has meant teachers have been made redundant and children are now being homeschooled and displaced from the state funded education.

Statement: CS09.01

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Re: Agenda item 9 - Disabled Children's Home

Statement submitted by: Councillor Don Alexander

I wish to congratulate Cllr Helen Godwin and officers on this plan to provide a council-run home for disabled children which I'm proud to say will be in my ward. I would also like to draw attention to the full business case which clearly sets out the advantages, both financial and otherwise, of local, council-run provision over the current offer from the private sector. With interest rates at a historic low, this is a time to build what we need in order to cut revenue expenditure in the future and to give our most vulnerable citizens what they deserve not what the market feels able to supply. Thank you.

Statement: CS11.01

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Re: Agenda item 11 - Stabilisation of Redland Hill Parapet Wall and Retaining Rock Face

Statement submitted by: Councillors Martin Fodor and Fi Hance

We're writing to support this proposal and thank the council for stepping in and tackling this problem.

Since the collision of a lorry with the Spire Wall on Redland Hill in late 2017 the north side of the road pavement has been impassable and subject of many complaints; the temporary path was also impassable for months on end, forcing those with wheelchairs or buggies onto the opposite pavement. Of particular concern was a period when this pavement was also blocked, which was not only inconvenient but dangerous.

In frustration we sought help from the council lawyers for what is really a matter between private insurers. At the time there was a long stalemate and the repairs were not happening.

The supplementary images show the magnitude of this project which has escalated from the original estimate of £230,561 to works that are now at £942,094.

We'd like to support the proposal to seek approval for the additional £442,217 over and above the £500k threshold. This is on the basis this is at no overall cost to the council once recovered from the site owner, The Spire.

It's been a frustrating, lengthy and fitful process for the reasons set out in the report but we finally hopeful that an end is in sight.

Statement: CS13.01

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Re: Agenda item 13 – City Leap Partnership – procurement update and contract extension notification

Statement submitted by: Councillor Jerome Thomas

Councillors remain unclear what services are being procured or what council assets are being sold that might justify the significant expenditure on the City Leap procurement.

It is worrying and suggests a lack of adequate management direction and supervision that a further £1million+ needs to be spent of financial and legal advisers to get a deal off the ground.

Please can the Mayor and cabinet member give some more public indication of what this City Leap is and explain straightforwardly the reasons for the huge and growing sums being spent on its procurement.

Question: CQ13.01

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Re: Agenda item 13 - City Leap Energy Partnership – procurement update and contract extension notification

Question submitted by: Councillor Martin Fodor

The Climate Emergency Programme makes a commitment to decarbonisation and private investment in the city's carbon neutral journey. Opportunities for the community to contribute have been mentioned but not pursued, except independently by the successful Bristol Energy Co-operative.

It is hoped that City Leap will eventually bring carbon savings to the city and a return to the investment being discussed today. It may also be shaped in a way that supports community energy initiatives.

Meanwhile other authorities have proven the ways green bonds, in the form of the model called Community Mutual Investments (CMIs) can successfully pull in sums every few months like £1m per call from private and local savers. These have a low risk, being publicly backed bonds, but a modest and hopefully reliable return to all the savers. [see Motions to council November 10th for details].

Bristol is the only one of 4 authorities cited in the development of CMIs not to have taken this forwards to date.

Q: What commitment is there to initiate such opportunities for Bristol savers to help create carbon saving projects with council support?

Question: CQ17.01

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Re: Agenda item 17 - Avon Mutual Regional Community Bank

Question submitted by: Councillor Don Alexander

I welcome the development of increased local banking capacity. Could Cllr Cheney please explain any differences between Avon Mutual and the Bristol Credit Union and whether they will be complementary? Thanks.

Question: CQ18.01

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Re: Agenda item 18 - HRA Asset Management Strategy 2021-2026

Question submitted by: Councillor Don Alexander

I recently attended a number of Local Housing Forum meetings and have been very pleased to see new vision and enthusiasm for council housing amongst both officers and tenants. **Could Cllr. Godwin please share her ambitions for the coming years of council housing in Bristol?** Thanks.

Question: CQ21.01

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Re: Agenda item 21 - Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol treatment grant

Question submitted by: Councillor Clive Stevens

I was pleased to read this and the joined up approach too. The only thing apparently lacking (assuming that they end up in a home of their own) is assistance with retraining and or getting a job.

I appreciate the extra information in the reissued report and I have no doubt that this type of treatment is cost effective.

My line of questioning seeks to add evidence of the cost effectiveness of building more affordable and council housing and so (part) preventing this type of dependency from occurring in the first place

Q1) What proportion of the people needing this type of intervention might have been prevented from becoming homeless in the first place if the city had had enough affordable and council housing?

Q2) I see the value of the bid is to be around £600,000 across four years. How many rough sleepers might this program actually succeed with?