

Cabinet

Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting - Zoom Committee Meeting
with Public Access via YouTube

2. Public Forum

(Pages 3 - 11)

Issued by: Corrina Haskins, Democratic Services
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Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2021



CABINET – 26 January 2021

PUBLIC FORUM ITEMS

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

Agenda item 8 – Budget Monitoring Outturn report P8

None

Agenda item 9 – Budget Recommendations to Full Council, including the Treasury Management Strategy

Statements:

PS01	David Redgewell
CS01	Councillor Jo Sergeant (also refers to item 11 - Housing Revenue Budget Proposals 2021-2022)

Questions:

CQ01&02	David Redgewell
CQ03&04	Gordon Richardson

Agenda item 10 - Dedicated School Grant (DSG) 2021/2022 Budget Proposals

Feedback from Bristol Schools Forum

Agenda item 11 - Housing Revenue Budget Proposals 2021-2022

None

Agenda item 12- Parking Services Tariff Review

Questions:

PQ12.01&02	Ed Plowden
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Agenda item 13 – Bristol Holding Group Business Plans

ITEM WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA

Agenda item 14 - Re-procurement of Supply & Delivery of materials for Fleet Services

None

Agenda item 15 – Quarterly Performance Progress Report – Quarter Two 2020/21

None

Agenda item 16 - Corporate Risk Register Q3

None

Agenda item 22 – Corporate Risk Management Report (CRR)

None

Statement: PS09.01

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Re: Agenda item 9 - Budget Recommendations to Full Council, including the Treasury Management Strategy

Statement submitted by: David Redgewell

We want to ask Cabinet to note the following.

Firstly we are concerned to make sure that the support bus service budget is spent by WECA on:

- local bus services in south Bristol, on local routes around Stockwood, Whitchurch Hengrove to South Bristol Hospital 515 HCT group;
- 512 511 First Group 96 Brislington, Knowle to Hengrove Hospital;
- 92 Bristol city centre to Whitchurch;
- East Bristol Route 18 Bath spa bus station Saltford; Keynsham; North Common; Warmley, Kingswood, Hillfields, Staple Hill Downend UWE Bristol bus station;
- 19 Bath Spa bus station; Weston RUH back entrance; Kelston; Bitton; Cadbury Heath; Warmley; Kingswood; Hillfields; Staple Hill; Downend UWE; Bus Station; Bristol Parkway Station and Cribbs Causeway bus station;
- The 505 from Long Ashton park and ride to Clifton down station and Southmead Hospital Bus Station;
- 506 Bristol Cabot Circus; Southmead Hospital bus station via Lawrence hill Easton Eastville park and Horfield;
- 10 11 Severn Beach Avonmouth and Shirehampton to Lawrence Weston Westbury on Trym to Southmead hospital bus station Lockleaze; Bristol Parkway Station; Bradley Stoke; Thornbury

This is alongside the Covid 19 bus operator's grant.

These are some very important bus services and need ongoing revenue support. When we carry out a governance review and a devolution deal with WECA mayoral transport authority and North Somerset council joins then we hope WECA will become a fully integrated transport authority with a Railway executive and full transport and planning authority. We hope progress can be made on the devolution deal and precept powers.

Railways

The Budget shows money for Portway Parkway but the Department for Transport grant runs out on 31st March 2021 so we wonder what progress is being made by WECA mayoral transport authority and Network Rail western routes and First Great western railway to progress this scheme and whether the station interchange be operational by December 2021.

For the New Severn Beach; St Andrews Road; Avonmouth; Portway; Parkway Station; Shirehampton; Sea Mills; Clifton Down Station; Redland; Montpellier; Stapleton Road; Lawrence Hill; Bristol Temple Meads; Keynsham; Oldfield Park;

Bath Spa; Freshford; Avoncliffe; Bradford on Avon; Trowbridge; Westbury; Frome or Warminster Metro west service which will need revenue support.

The budget needs to maintain bus stops shelter and infrastructure which should of by now been transferred to the combined authority.

We still would like a know of a date for the metro bus service around the south Bristol loop from Hengrove where we need a new stop on Bamfield and the route from Hengrove; Whitchurch; Hartcliffe; Withywood; Long Ashton Park and Ride Bristol Temple Meads and Cabot Circus and the city centre .

Other important issues are:

- the Harbour wall and Cumberland road and the Harbour Railway;
- money for PCSO to parole the city with the Avon and Somerset Police;
- more patrols on the public transport network with the Covid 19 marshals after an assault on a nurse;
- An Abus by being spat at by a passenger on a scooter and this is being investigated by the Avon and Somerset police officers.
- We also note with concern that HCT group still have not fitted safety screens to their buses to protect drivers despite the promises made to the Director of Public Health and the Health and Safety Executive. All other bus companies in Greater Bristol have safety screens. Unite the union are also concerned.
- Other Covid 19 related issues is money to maintain public toilets essential in view of the temporary ones in the Harbour and Queen Square - a budget is required for public toilets and community toilets and money invested from capital from the sale of public toilets blocks should be invested in fully accessible public toilets and changing places. We are worried that community toilets will not be opened so a budget is needed for the city centre and Harbour if we are to recover a £1.4 billion pounds tourism economy in the city region. We would hope like in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, the WECA mayoral transport authority would fund toilets at public transport interchange across the city region.

Statement: CS09.01

Cabinet – 26 January 2021

Re: Agenda item 9: Budget Recommendations to Full Council 2021/22 (Agenda item 11 “Housing Revenue Account Budget Proposals 2021-2022” also refers)

Statement submitted by: Councillor Jo Sergeant

Section 11.3 of the Mayor’s Recommendations states:

‘Although the Rent Policy and Rent Standard allows Local Authorities to increase rents by up to CPI plus 1% for 2021/22, considering the current economic conditions, the impact of pandemic and the hardship suffered by people in need, it is proposed that the Council will freeze rents for existing tenants for the coming year, effective from April 2021. Therefore, to maintain the existing level of service this will require an accelerated use of HRA reserve and an increase in borrowing requirement from 2024/25 onwards.’

We need more information about how this accelerated use of the HRA reserve and, what could be argued as the unsustainable practice of borrowing against future budgets, will work in practice and their longer term consequences.

By not implementing this small increase in rent (that will not impact anyone who has applied for CT reduction as a result of the Pandemic), we lose the increase in funding from the housing benefit/Universal Credit that many of our tenants use to pay their rent.

I would like to see the evidence that our council house-building and maintenance programmes will not be harmed by the loss of funding, due what is effectively a cut in rental income.

I have many residents in my ward waiting to be housed/rehoused. There are 13,000 Bristol families waiting for a decent home. Those who are not currently council tenants pay more rent to private landlords and won’t get the benefit of a rent freeze. I hope this is being taken into account.

Councillor Jo Sergeant
Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston Ward
(Includes Shirehampton, Coombe Dingle & Upper Sea Mills)

Question: CQ09.01&02

Cabinet – 26th January 2021

Re: Agenda item 9 Budget Recommendations to Full Council, including the Treasury Management Strategy

Questions submitted by: David Redgewell

1. Capital Programme:

What progress is being made with Network rail western routes; the Department for Transport; First group; Great western railway and the metro mayor WECA mayoral combined Authority in opening the very important Portway parkway station and Interchange and can the city mayor ask the metro mayor for the station opening delivery date?

2. Capital Programme:

The council and WECA mayoral combined authority continues to show the metro bus project, do we have a date for operation of the south Bristol loop with a new bus stop on Bamfield for metro bus from Hengrove hospital through Hartcliffe; Withywood; South Bristol link through North Somerset council area to Ashton gate park and ride to Bristol Temple Meads; Old Market; Broadmead and the city centre as this scheme is also supported by the Karen Smyth MP and North Somerset council?

Do we have a date to commission the service by WECA mayoral transport authority?

Question: CQ09.03&04

Cabinet – 26th January 2021

Re: Agenda item 9 Budget Recommendations to Full Council, including the Treasury Management Strategy

Questions submitted by: Gordon Richardson, Bristol Disability Equality Forum

Questions 1.

In view of the temporary public toilets in the summer in Bristol Harbour and Queens Square including Disabled facilities and the importance of public toilets with Covid 19 hand washing etc, our members would like to know what budget is being put together to provide public toilets in Bristol city centre and Harbour area and in many shopping centres and parks (especially with changing places) and will capital receipts from any public toilet blocks be reinvested in new public and community toilets?

Question 2.

The Bristol Disability Equality Forum is pleased that public transport is being maintained to all hospitals in Bristol (South Bristol hospital 515 from Stockwood, Whitchurch and Hengrove 505 from Bristol Long Ashton park and ride to Clifton and Southmead hospital; 506 Bristol Easton Eastville Horfield and Southmead hospital. 11 and 10 from Shirehampton Avonmouth to Southmead hospital and Parkway Station Bradley Stoke and Thornbury).

Will these services still be operated by WECA mayoral transport authority using budget set by Bristol city council?

Our members are very concerned at HCT group buses operating to Southmead hospital and South Bristol Hospital and lack of progress to fit safety screen on these vehicles by the Director of Public Health and the Health and Safety Executive.

Bristol Schools Forum (BSF) Feedback – 13 January 2021

BSF is invited to provide feedback, as appropriate, to Cabinet and Council, for their consideration in making final decisions on the Schools Budget for 2021/22

Response from BSF:

- Bristol's Schools Forum remains concerned that Early Years settings that are required to remain open during lockdown would only be funded for the children actually attending and this was not a financially sustainable position as many parents were choosing not to send their children to nursery during lockdown.
- The lack of secondary school provision would result in an increase in the number of school appeals. This will have an impact on school resources and a detrimental financial impact on individual school budgets.
- Bristol City Council makes representation to the relevant government bodies and lobbying where appropriate to ensure early years settings and schools are able to claim back additional costs resulting from the Covid pandemic and receive sufficient funding to ensure sustainability.

Question: CQ12.01&02

Cabinet – 26th January 2021

Re: Agenda item 12 - Parking Services Tariff Review

Question submitted by: Ed Plowden

- 1) Additional revenue from the increased parking charges is estimated at £950k per annum; please can this be placed in context of how much is the total revenue from the current parking charges for these sites, what are the estimated costs to parking services of producing this revenue and what is the contribution of inflation and of amendments to the parking charges themselves?
- 2) how many parking spaces have been taken out as a result of the COVID-19 measures, at what cost to BCC and how has the lost revenue been recovered (or not)?