

Cabinet

Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: The Council Chamber - City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

2. Public Forum

(Pages 3 - 24)

Issued by: Sam Wilcock, Democratic Services

City Hall, Bristol, BS1 9NE

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Monday, 09 May 2022



Public Forum

Public Forum for Cabinet



Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

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Please note that the views and information contained within these public statements are those of the individuals concerned and not of the Council.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded, published online and within the minutes.

Issued by: Sam Wilcock, Democratic Services
City Hall, Bristol, BS1 5TR
E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk
Date: 9 May 2022

www.bristol.gov.uk

Public Forum

1. Public Forum Received

Statements and questions have been received as follows (full details are attached) (Pages 4 - 22)

Agenda item 8 - Adult Social Care In-House Rehabilitation Service Review – South Bristol Rehab Centre.

Statements

PS08.01	Rowena Hayward, GMB
PS08.02	Tom Merchant, UNISON

Questions

CQ08.01	Cllr Jackson
CQ08.02 & CQ08.03	Cllr Goodman

Agenda item 9 - Recommissioning of BNSSG Contract for Provision of Sexual Health Services.

None

Agenda item 10 - Introducing Drug Safety Testing in Bristol

Questions:

CQ10.01 & 10.02	Cllr Bennett
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Agenda item 11 – Book Supply Contract

None

Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Statements

PS12.01 Network	David Redgewell, South West Transport
CS12.01	Cllr Hussain
CS12.02	Cllr Dyer

Questions:

PQ12.01 & PQ12.02	Bethan Grant
PQ12.03 & PQ12.04	David Redgwell & Gordon Richardson, Bristol Disabled Equalities Forum

CQ12.01 & CQ12.02	Cllr Townsend
CQ12.03 & CQ12.04	Cllr Stafford-Townsend
CQ12.05 & CQ12.06	Cllr Fodor



Agenda item 13 - Conferencing, Events and Catering contract for Museum Sites

Questions

CQ13.01

Cllr Pearce

Agenda item 14 - Procurement of Laboratory Analysis on Behalf of HM Senior Coroner for Avon

None

Agenda item 15 - The proposed Compulsory Purchase of 16 Branwhite Close and the Gainsborough Public House, Lockleaze

None

Agenda item 16 - Extension of externally procured IT services contract for The Bottle Yard Studios to 4th contractual year

None

Agenda item 17 – Electricity Contract Procurement and Renewals

Questions:

CQ17.01

Cllr Mack

Agenda item 18 – Household Support Fund 2022 (including Easter holidays free school meals vouchers)

Statements

PS18.01

Jen Smith

Questions

CQ18.01

Cllr Pearce

CQ18.02

Cllr Grant

Agenda item 19 - Corporate Risk Management Report – Q4 2021/22

Questions

CQ19.01

Cllr Grant

Agenda item 20 – P12 Finance Exception Report

None



Statement: CS08.1

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

**Re: Agenda item 8 - Adult Social Care In-House Rehabilitation Service Review
– South Bristol Rehab Centre**

Statement submitted by: Rowena Hayward, GMB

Whilst our members are very saddened by the Council's decision to close SB Rehab Centre their wish is for the people of South Bristol to get the best service possible.

GMB is supportive of the proposals outlined in the report whereby staff will have the opportunity to apply for a post with Sirona should they wish. For those who do not wish to work within a hospital environment they will be subject to the management of change process. However we would request Cabinet consider an additional option which is to offer voluntary redundancy prior to the management of change process enabling those who wish to leave to do so.

Many staff have been working for the Council for a significant number of years (some 20-30 years) and have been through similar processes of home closures over their working lives and now feel it is time to leave. This is why GMB is requesting Cabinet consider enabling these staff to take up this option.

As you are probably aware, a great number of staff both live and work within South Bristol and although we are not sure what the future holds for the building have requested that some record of its use - it was a residential care home prior to becoming a rehab centre. It has enabled local people (predominantly women) to have paid work providing care/rehab for local service users. This all assisted in building the local community, local economy and local employment at a time when it was most needed as well as its links with the local church and hope that this can be captured and recorded in some way.

Unfortunately a number of staff felt let down by the way in which this process was conducted in the beginning and we hope that there will be an opportunity to have a 'lessons learnt' session with all constituent groups including the trade unions to ensure we do not make the same mistakes again – as the impact upon people's lives can be catastrophic.

Rowena Hayward
GMB – Senior Organiser

Statement: PS08.02

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 8: Adult Social Care In-House Rehabilitation Service Review

Statement submitted by: Tom Merchant, branch secretary, Bristol UNISON

Saving *East* Bristol Rehabilitation Unit

Regarding item 8: Adult Social Care In-House Rehabilitation Service Review; page 15 of your agenda pack. Disregarding the recent debacle over South Bristol Rehabilitation Unit we find mentioned in this review that Bristol City council wishes to divest itself of ALL rehabilitation services and not just South Bristol Rehab. Though not a surprise, this will nonetheless lead to dismay at East Bristol Rehabilitation Unit.

We can't do much about SBRC after the recent hijacking of that debate, but UNISON remains opposed to any future privatisation, in-sourcing, co-sourcing or any other transferral of any part of ownership of any of our services to anyone apart from directly employed NHS departments. This is because we are motivated by Labour Movement values. If you want to see what happens when you abdicate responsibility of your services you need to look no further than Bath.

We are calling on Councillor Holland and cabinet to stop any further shedding of staff to other organisations and to continue to value the staff and services that remain in-house and with renewed vigour.

Question: CQ08.01

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

**Re: Agenda item 8 - Adult Social Care In-House Rehabilitation Service Review
– South Bristol Rehab Centre**

Question submitted by: Cllr Jackson

Last time this item came to Cabinet I raised issues about consultation with the South Bristol Rehab Centre staff. Please can I have assurance that the issues I raised then have been addressed?

Question: CQ08.02 & CQ08.03

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

**Re: Agenda item 8 - Adult Social Care In-House Rehabilitation Service Review
– South Bristol Rehab Centre.**

Question submitted by: Cllr Goodman

I understand there are 60 rehabilitation beds at South Bristol Community Hospital and 33 beds split across South Bristol Rehabilitation Centre and East Bristol Rehabilitation Centre.

1. How many rehabilitation beds are there currently at each of the two sites and how many are currently in use at each site?
2. How many BCC staff currently work at the two Rehabilitation Centres and how many Sirona or other staff?

Apologies if these figures are available in the documents; I couldn't find them.

Questions: CQ10.01 & CQ10.02

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 10 - Introducing Drug Safety Testing in Bristol

Question submitted by: Councillor Bennett

1. Advertising this scheme well will be essential if we are to make the most of it. Please could Cllr King provide more information on how the council will do this?
2. What other policies is the Council undertaking to reduce the harm caused by recreational drugs?

Statement: PS12.1

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Statement submitted by: David Redgewell, South West Transport Network

As the Gaol Ferry Bridge is part of a programme of works by Bristol city council the Highway and Harbour Authority.

We are very concerned about the diversionary routes for people with reduced mobility mother and Fathers with buggies and wheelchairs users. It's very important that we have a full effective step free accessible Network of Footways and Bridges around the harbour and New cuts .

As the funding is coming from the metro mayor Dan Norris and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority to make to following Bridges fully accessible as part of the city regional Transport fund.

We note with concern the there is proposed works to the Harbour bridges in the Harbour and the new cut are to repair the Bridges by the city council as a Harbour Authority. We would ask the city council and city mayor / Future city council committee to carry out a full public equalities duty and equalities impact assessment and for these Harbour bridges to be fully accessible.

Bath Road New Bridge .
langton street Footbridge.
Bedminster New Bridge.
Bedminster oid Bridge Banana Bridge .
and Vauxhall Bridge .
As part of fully accessible Harbour
and New cuts .

We ask the city mayor and west of England mayor have a plans to upgrade footway and walking for disabled people and Mother and family with buggies and access needs of all the visitors and residents.

Bristol Harbour is one of the Top tourist site in South west England and disabled people should have fully accessible walking and cycling facilities around the Bristol Harbour.

Statement: CS12.01

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 : Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Statement submitted by: Councillor Hussain

While temporarily closing Gaol Ferry bridge will cause disruption to my ward, these repairs are a ultimately much-needed active travel investment. These repairs need to happen urgently, so we are faced with a choice of either closing the bridge temporarily for repairs or closing it for good. Closing it for good is clearly unacceptable and would cut off a major pedestrian and cycle lane across the river, so I'm glad that these repairs are happening before it's too late.

The fact the bridge needed repairing was identified many years ago to the Council, long preceding this Labour administration. It's a shame that this couldn't have taken place before, or while, Wapping Wharf was being developed, as that would have caused much less disruption to businesses in my ward.

Whilst I understand that these repairs are unavoidable, I am very sympathetic to local businesses who are braced to lose trade due to the diversion to other bridges. Wapping Wharf is a huge success story for my ward and Bristol as a whole and I know the Council will do all it can to support the affected businesses.

I plan to visit the businesses at Wapping Wharf to explain the situation, as I believe clarity will be an assurance, and explain what support is on offer for them. I would appreciate it if Cllr Alexander, the Mayor, or any other relevant Cabinet member or officer could list the support in a clear format for me to use when I visit the businesses.

Statement: CS12.02

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Statement submitted by: Cllr Dyer

We welcome the news that much needed repair and refurbishment of Gaol Ferry Bridge is to take place, starting in early June.

Obviously this is a key active travel route from the south of the city into the city centre and beyond, and clearly any closure will have major implications for those who use this route as their regular commute. As councillors for two of the wards most directly affected, we are keen to continue to engage with officers about how to mitigate the impact of the bridge closure.

We are also aware that this is the beginning of a much-needed five year project to overhaul all of the bridges on the New Cut, as well as supporting infrastructure including the walls.

We would like to express our support for the recognition of these north-south crossings and the critical importance that they play within Bristol's wider transport system, and thus the need to invest in ensuring they are fit for purpose for years to come.

One of the key problems Bristol has had to face, even from the point of its founding, is the restrictions placed on north-south communications by its river system. This has led to the funnelling of traffic into certain pinch points contribution to congestion and a lack of capacity.

The clear direction of travel for Bristol's transport system is clearly to encourage increased levels of active travel alongside improved public transport provision, and this will also require the provision of increased capacity for pedestrians and cyclists across the New Cut.

Back in 2014, proposals for a cyclist/pedestrian bridge across the New Cut from near Camden Road in Southville received planning proposals but were dropped due to cost concerns. At the same time, proposals for another cyclist/pedestrian bridge near the existing Banana Bridge (or near the end of Whitehouse Street) were also discussed but eventually went nowhere.

We would like to encourage a review of the need for additional capacity across the New Cut focused on pedestrian and cycling access, and whether, alongside the five year plan to repair and refurbish the existing bridges, there is now the opportunity to revisit the provision of additional bridges across the New Cut to provide that additional capacity as we move towards a greater emphasis on active travel and public transport provision for our city.

Question: PQ12.01 & PQ 12.02

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Questions submitted by: Bethan Grant

Question 1:

Please can I ask what assessment has been undertaken of the likely impact of directing both pedestrians and people on bikes to use the footway - which is very narrow and obstructed at parts (e.g. the bus stop approaching Bedminster Roundabout), currently not legal for bikes to use, and likely to be busy at peak commuting times - specifically commenting on the impact of the safety of pedestrians sharing this space with people on bikes/e-scooters and the safety of cyclists who choose to use the road instead of the pavement.

Question 2:

What measures have been considered to make a signed on-road diversion along Coronation Road for cyclists/e-scooter users safer and therefore more desirable, taking them out of potential conflict with pedestrians on the narrow footway e.g. reducing the speed limit, filling in several deep pot holes & sunken manhole covers, providing a temporary, segregated lane for cyclists/e-scooter users?

Question: PQ12.03 & PQ12.04

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Questions submitted by: David Redgwell & Gordon Richardson, Bristol Disabled Equalities Forum

1. What plans do the City Council and the West of England mayoral combined transport authority have to make the diversionary route fully accessible to all users whilst the Bridge is closed especially for disabled people and parents with buggies, including works to drop kerbs and temporary pavements. We ask this of both authorities as being jointly responsible for the funding and works programme.
2. As the Gaol Ferry Bridge is part of a programme of works by Bristol city council the Highway and Harbour Authority, what action is being taken by the city mayor Marvin Rees and Dan Norris and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority to ensure the following bridges are fully accessible as part of the regeneration works.

Gaol Ferry Bridge
Bath Road New Bridge .
Langton Street Footbridge.
Bedminster New Bridge.
Bedminster Old Bridge (the Banana Bridge).
Vauxhall Bridge,

Do the City Mayor and West of England Mayor have plans to upgrade the footways and other routes for disabled people and parents with buggies to ensure their access needs are met. All routes should be step free and without other obstructions inhibiting their use by disabled people, including those with vision impairment, and parents.

Question: CQ12.01 & CQ12.02

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Question submitted by: Councillor Townsend

This diversion will cause significant issues for the many people who use the bridge to walk and cycle via a direct link between South Bristol and the City Centre, and beyond.

In the Equalities Impact Assessment it appears that the plan is to divert all this sustainable traffic via footways. In the Eco Impact assessment no mention is made of the risk that people may choose to travel by motorised transport as no safe alternative route is available.

It is highly likely that many people will be forced to cycle and walk on Cumberland and Coronations Roads. The latter road is currently already taking the strain of increased use as a result of the long term closure of Dalby Avenue and the diversions as a result of the Malago Road one-way closures.

Q1: Since the Coronavirus pandemic there has been a lot of progress in understanding how to deliver temporary active travel infrastructure which needs to be put into place here.

What provision is being made for safe and segregated routes that as far as possible meet the LTN/120 standards along these routes?

Q2: The best way to mitigate road danger is to remove danger at source. What signage is proposed?

Question: CQ12.03 & CQ12.04

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Question submitted by: Cllr Stafford-Townsend

We welcome that the bridges are getting the urgent repairs required.

However the 6 to 9 months duration is of intense concern to both residents and businesses in both Central & Southville wards. For many residents in Central, their core facilities like doctors surgeries are on the south side of the bridge. For businesses in Wapping Wharf, a considerable amount of customers (for some businesses more than half of their customers) come over the bridge.

Not only will the Wapping Wharf businesses be impacted by the footfall, considerable numbers of residents from south of the river will be dissuaded from venturing into the town centre, potentially choosing easier to access options such as the internet, or travelling by less sustainable modes of transport to access the city centre. The current closure timescale includes the critical Christmas period, and that with the expectation that the project adheres to schedule.

With the cost of living crisis and retailers having only just scraped through the pandemic, the independent businesses of Wapping Wharf are ill placed to survive additional losses in footfall for such a critical period of time.

As ward councillors for the two wards most directly affected by the closure of Gaol Ferry Bridge, we have already engaged with officers and will continue to do so. However we feel that there is a need for support for both residents and businesses alike that is beyond what officers are able to provide without support from above.

Questions:

1. What measures will BCC be putting into place to assist city centre & Wapping Wharf businesses beyond signposted diversion route signs?
2. Will BCC be offering any financial and/or marketing support to those businesses impacted by the bridge closure in order to prevent the forced closure of retailers from extended lack of footfall?

Ani Stafford-Townsend, Tony Dyer and Christine Townsend
Green Councillors for Southville and Central wards

Question: CQ12.05 and CQ12.06

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 12 - Gaol Ferry Footbridge Full closure for complete Bridge Refurbishment commencing in early June 2022

Question submitted by: Cllr Fodor

In the short term:

1. Will the council look into installing a Bailey Bridge or other temporary structure to ensure reasonable access is provided for pedestrians and cyclists rather than relying on a long diversion?

Given the existing crossing is at or over capacity already, and in line with the provision of a second bridge at Commercial Rd/Wapping Rd to facilitate bus priorities:

2. Will the council prioritise a second, permanent bridge here in the near future to ensure adequate and segregated capacity for growing cycle and walking access in line with our active travel priorities?

Question: CQ13.01

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 13 - Conferencing, Events and Catering contract for Museum Sites

Question submitted by: Councillor Pearce

The budget included provisions to look at opening a roof top bar on the M Shed. Has progress been made on this, and does this catering contract take into account this work?

Question: CQ17.01

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 17 – Electricity Contract Procurement and Renewals

Question submitted by: Cllr Mack

I was fascinated to learn about the sleeving arrangement, which seems a novel solution to a ridiculous system where the feed in tariff is so much less than our cost of electricity. The papers claim this decision will deliver a carbon saving of 2700 tonnes of CO2 equivalent each year.

However, I'm not sure I follow the logic that this system reduces emissions at all, as the arrangement does not change anything physical, it's just an accounting arrangement that moves a carbon figure from a 'national' column into the 'Bristol' column.

Question: Given Bristol Council will continue to use the same amount of electricity (not considering the many efficiencies other projects are contributing), and produce the same amount of renewable electricity, how will this decision lead to the promised saving of 2700 tonnes of CO 2e a year?

Statement: CS18.1

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 18 - Household Support Fund 2022 (including Easter holidays free school meals vouchers)

Statement submitted by: Jen Smith

Yet again, children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities who are not able to access education are being disadvantaged by the Local Authority (LA) and Cabinet.

During the Easter holidays, vouchers were given out to pupils on Free School Meals (FSM) by Bristol schools. However, the Equality Impact Assessment has not taken into consideration pupils of statutory school age on FSM who are not accessing education.

They may be off rolled, a Child Missing Education, accessing part time ALP, not accessing anything at all or at specialist independent provision due to a lack of LA provision and cannot take up their entitlement.

It's an ongoing issue in the Send community. Children from low-income families – often pushed that way due to a failure of education provision – missing out on FSM entitlement throughout the entire academic year.

A family with a Send child who has FSM entitlement but is out of education is losing around £400 an academic year. For a second child, it jumps to £800 and so on.

Why should families continually be penalised by Cabinet and LA decisions which discriminate against families with protected characteristics?

Question: CQ18.01

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 18 – Household Support Fund 2022 (including Easter holidays free school meals vouchers)

Question submitted by: Cllr Pearce

This cabinet item notes the authorisation of spending £660k on free school meals from the £4m household support fund. What does the Council intend to spend the remainder of this fund on?

Question: CQ18.02

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item Household Support Fund 2022 (including Easter holidays free school meals vouchers)

Question submitted by: Cllr Katy Grant

The news of an additional £4,039,965 to be spent in the coming six months on vouchers to cover holiday periods in the place of Free School Meals, as well as energy rebates for pensioners and support to other vulnerable groups, is welcome. This will be vital support at this time of cost of living crisis for many.

£211,965 has been budgeted for administration of this fund, which at 5% is not a high percentage of the total budget. But it is nonetheless a lot of money, given that vouchers and rebates will be distributed through existing targeting systems such as the Free School Meals database, the Red Cross, and the Council Tax register.

Transfers will be mostly electronic, so the procurement and logistics aspects of this operation should be minimal. What is not spent on the administration of this fund can be turned into support for more households.

Question: Would it be possible to see in more detail how the £211,965 will be broken down across administration, procurement communications, and marketing?

Question: CQ19.01

Cabinet – 10 May 2022

Re: Agenda item 19 - Corporate Risk Management Report – Q4 2021/22

Question submitted by: Cllr Grant

It is distressing to see that Safeguarding Children remains one of the highest in the risk register. It is understood how the past two years have put significant additional pressures on services, and it is clear that steps are being taken to work on strengthening both prevention and response. However, as Corporate Parents, reducing this risk needs to be our top priority.

Services seem to be under highest demand from teenagers; the demand in this cohort must be exacerbated by the arrival of young refugees in Bristol. We must ensure we honour the commitments we have as a city of sanctuary to ensure that these potentially traumatized and vulnerable young people are given safety, security and the chance to thrive on our watch.

Question: Are there extra measures that can be put in place to ensure the protection of adolescent and unaccompanied refugee minors?