

Summons to attend meeting of Full Council

Extraordinary Full Council



Date: Tuesday, 24 May 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

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

To: All Members of Council

Issued by: Oliver Harrison, Democratic Services

City Hall, PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE

Tel: 0117 3526162

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

Date: Friday, 13 May 2022



Agenda

3. Public Forum

Please note the below updated notice for Public Forum at this Extraordinary Full Council: **(Pages 3 - 12)**

Public Forum (Public Petitions, Statements and Questions)

For Extraordinary meetings, Public Forum items will be accepted only if they relate to the business for which the extraordinary meeting has been arranged (i.e. items on the agenda). Submissions will be treated in order of receipt and as many people shall be called upon to speak as possible within the time allowed within the meeting (which is normally 30 minutes).

Further rules can be found within our Council Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

Please note that the following deadlines apply to this meeting:

a. Public petitions and statements: Petitions and written statements must be received by 12 noon on Monday 23 May 2022 at the latest. One written statement per member of the public is permitted.

b. Public questions: Written public questions must be received by 4pm on Friday 20 May 2022 at the latest. A maximum of 2 questions per member of the public is permitted. Questions should be addressed to the Mayor or relevant Cabinet Member.

Public forum items should be e-mailed to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Signed



Proper Officer
Friday, 13 May 2022



Public Forum

Extraordinary Full Council

24 May 2022



Members of the public attending or taking part in Public forum are advised that Full Council meetings are filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's [webcasting pages](#).

The whole of the meeting would be filmed (except where there are confidential or exempt items) and the footage will be available for two years. If you ask a question or make a representation, then you are likely to be filmed and will be deemed to have given your consent to this. If you do not wish to be filmed you need to make yourself known to the webcasting staff. However, the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now means that persons attending meetings may take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on the meeting (Oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). Members of the public should therefore be aware that they may be filmed by others attending and that is not within the council's control.

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.

Public Forum

Pink highlight denotes those who have indicated that they plan to attend the meeting.

1. Public Statements

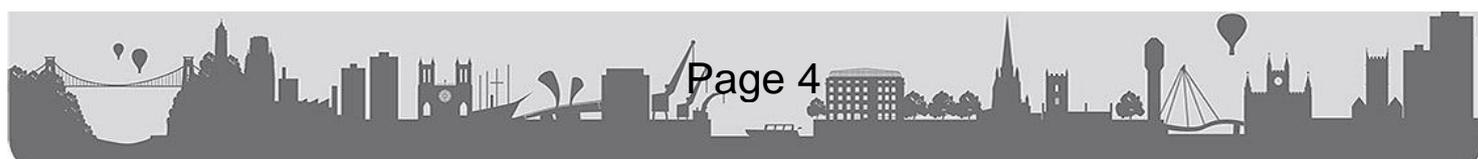
(Pages 3 - 5)

Ref No	Name	Title
PS01	Mary Page	Governance Referendum Outcome
PS02	Emma Harvey	Governance Referendum Outcome

2. Public Questions

(Pages 6 - 10)

Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01 & PQ02	Suzanne Audrey	Mayoral Referendum
PQ03 & PQ04	Mary Page	Mayoral Referendum
PQ05 & PQ06	Harriet Bradley	Mayoral Referendum



STATEMENT PS 01

Submitted by Mary Page

Title: Governance Referendum Outcome

Democracy is the will of the common people

Thank you to the people of Bristol who turned out to vote in the City Governance Referendum. Over 96,000, not far off a third of all Bristol voters, made an active choice by placing your X on the ballot paper.

Nearly 6 out of 10 of those people chose the committee system, which I truly believe will be better for Bristol, and crucially better for the people of Bristol. As that for me, and the It's Our City Bristol Independent campaign team is what the referendum choice was all about. That the city didn't, doesn't and shouldn't ever function for, and around the needs of one person, one mayor and their vision. Instead it's about all our collective needs, the council services, shared spaces and resources which must be provided or protected for the benefit of all.

At the heart of the It's Our City Bristol campaign is a fundamental belief in the inclusion and diversity of all individuals who share this wonderful city as our home. Although, having run that campaign with a small team of independent people including one who is only 17, and another a past youth mayor, it highlights the case of those who are still excluded from the voting system for being under 18.

During and after the campaign the It's Our City Bristol team were incorrectly labeled a lot of things, denigrated and dismissed as being lone voices or the usual suspects, but by the votes of the people we can see we were, and are representative of the people. Like most of the citizens who voted to change the system, most of us have no status or standing in the city and that is also the essence of the word democracy. The Greek words means "the might of the common people" and we, the common people have spoken to chose a more collaborative system which involves community representatives running the city.

So on behalf and with, all the people who voted for change, I would like to challenge the current administration, the mayor and all councillors to find ways of taking the council to the people, not expecting the people to always have to come to the council. As nothing will change if there is no increase in time for public participation and democratic engagement. One simple change would be to balance the system with time limits on the politicians' speeches, rather than on the public forum, or at the very least matching the time available for all. You are elected to represent us all not to just suit your own agendas and in order to represent you will need to listen more than you speak!

Great leaders will listen to, and learn from all perspectives without favouritism due to political party allegiance. It's incredibly important to note that unlike the elected officials, we the public, aren't paid to be here, we give our views, hopes and services free of charge to the city we love because it's our home. It's Our City, Bristol, and in participative democracy we have a right to be seen and heard.

STATEMENT PS 02

Submitted by Emma Harvey

Title: Governance Referendum Outcome

In a Bristol Post article 18 May, it was announced that a new cross-party working group will be set up to “thrash out the details” on how Bristol’s new committee-run council “by end of year”.

A 6mth timescale has been set to consult, discuss and set out plans for this new system. As a resident and worker, I am interested to know who the 12 Councillors will be, how they've been selected and who do we contact to have our say? This is particularly important given the rapidity of the referendum process, which meant residents were given limited time in which to ask questions.

As part of shaping this new system, what wider consultation will take place? What will be the checks and balances to ensure individual wards or party interests are considered alongside those too often unheard in political debate? How will the new system adequately represent the interests of those who traditionally don't engage as part of committee structures, including those from Black, Asian, minority and/or lower socio-economic backgrounds?

One avenue offered is through mechanisms established by the City Office such as the Citizen Assembly, Youth Mayors and One City Boards that are attended voluntarily by some of the city's most dedicated charities, community and cultural leaders.

Much was done by some from the scrap the mayor side during the referendum process to discredit and dismiss these advisory platforms as "unelected bodies" serving “personal interests”. Now that the referendum outcome has been decided, I would strongly urge all Councillors to look beyond this limiting narrative and toward what opportunities consulting with these - as well as other advisory groups - has to offer to shape a committee system that speaks of the city as a sum of all its parts.

The One City approach means input is sought from some of the city’s most valuable social justice warriors such as Dom Wood (1625 Independent People) who has been working within the field of youth homelessness in the city for over 25yr, Alex Raikes (Stand Against Racism & Inequality) who has dedicated her life’s work to tackling racism and promoting equality and Karen Black (Off The Record) who has over 20yrs experience working to develop response services for young people with complex needs.

If these are the “personal interests” that are furthered by such approaches, I hope that ALL Councillors would agree with me in saying, let’s find a way for them to continue to be furthered.

The spirit of a committee system was captured by campaigner Mary Page who said, “The campaign was about saying that the city belongs to us, all of us...and that means we must

represent all the diverse views and communities across the city. It's about how we work together."

Democracy isn't just one door but many open doors, and I hope that Councillors will find ways to ensure that from this point forward, we develop processes and mechanisms that provide us with both equality AND equity, so that together we're able to continue our work in doing our best for this city that we all love and call home.

Extraordinary Full Council – 24.05.2022

Agenda item 6 b

Public questions



Procedural note:

Questions submitted by members of the public:

- Questions can be about items on the agenda.
- Members of the public who live and/or have a business in Bristol are entitled to submit up to 2 written questions, and to ask up to 2 supplementary questions. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- Replies to questions will be given verbally by the Mayor (or a Cabinet member where relevant). Written replies will be published within 10 working days following the meeting.



*point of explanation - where a person has asked two questions on the same topic they are on the same line. Where topics are different they have different lines.

Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01 & PQ2	Suzanne Audrey	Mayoral Referendum
PQ03 & PQ04	Mary Page	Mayoral Referendum
PQ05 & PQ06	Harriet Bradley	Mayoral Referendum



QUESTION PQ 01 & PQ 02

Subject: Mayoral Referendum

Questions submitted by: Suzanne Audrey

Question 1. Given the importance to the people of Bristol of the transition from the elected mayor system to the new committee system, will the mayor and his cabinet support the establishment of a citizens panel to include the public in discussions about the details of the new committee system?

Question 2. It seems likely that the mayor would like the One City process to continue under the new committee system. If so, will the mayor allow at least one opposition councillor to sit on each of the One City boards during the transition period?



QUESTION PQ 03 & PQ 04

Subject: Mayoral Referendum

Questions submitted by: Mary Page

Questions to Council - Democratic Engagement with the common people.

1) Given that the mayor actively campaigned against, and expressed doubts over the validity and effectiveness of the committee system, what will the mayor do now to ensure the structures of the existing system are open to opposition councillors, such as committing to a rainbow cabinet for the remaining two years of his administration, in order to show that he has accepted and will implement the decisive democratic vote and will of the people of Bristol to change to a committee system?

2) Given that several of the Cabinet actively campaigned against, and expressed doubts over the validity and effectiveness of the committee system, what will each Cabinet member do to ensure the structures of the existing system are open to opposition councillors to ensure that the new committee system is designed right from the outset to give the maximum time and opportunity for engagement with the public?



QUESTION PQ 05 & PQ 06

Subject: Mayoral Referendum

Questions submitted by: Harriet Bradley

1 .Will the Mayor offer assurances that in establishing the constitution of the new committee system, there will be full consultation with external bodies that have experience of such systems, for example other local authorities such as Sheffield who already operate a committee system or the Local Government Association?

2 Will the working group set up to establish the new committee system take cognisance of the various neighbourhood associations which have worked closely with local councillors to tackle issues in their localities and consider how their knowledge can feed into consultations.

