

Cabinet

Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 2 August 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

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

3. Public Forum

(Pages 3 - 15)

Please find attached public forum received for the meeting.

Issued by: Sam Wilcock, Democratic Services
City Hall, Bristol, BS1 9NE
E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk
Date: Tuesday, 02 August 2022



Public Forum for Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 2 August 2022



Agenda

1. Statements and Questions Received

Agenda item 8 - Bristol Harbour Festival 2023-2027

CQ08.01 & CQ08.02	Councillor Hussain
CQ08.03	Councillor Fitzjohn

(Pages 3
- 14)

Agenda item 9 - Temple Quarter Update

CS09.01	Councillor Plowden
CS09.02	Councillor Dyer
CQ09.01	Councillor Pearce

Agenda item 10 - Education Capital Update and Capital Investment Decision

ITEM WITHDRAWN

Agenda item 11 – Re-procurement of IT Systems (People Directorate)

CQ11.01	Councillor Wilcox
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Agenda item 12 - Financial Update Report – August 2022

None

Agenda item 13 - Bristol's First Citizen's Assembly – Outcomes Progress Report 2

CQ13.01 & CQ13.02	Councillor Edwards
CQ13.03 & CQ13.04	Councillor Mack
CQ13.05	Councillor Stone

Agenda item 14 - Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report

CQ14.01	Councillor Hulme
CQ14.02	Councillor Townsend

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Questions: CQ08.01 & CQ08.02

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 8 - Bristol Harbour Festival 2023-2027

Questions submitted by: Councillor Hussain

1. I'm glad to see this paper authorise funding for the continuation of the Harbour Festival, as it brings in lots of revenue for my ward. Is it possible to estimate, and inform me of, the total revenue Harbour Festival brings to Bristol businesses?
2. What else is in scope for Bristol 650 festival, which marks Bristol's 650th year as an independent county, and how are the ideas for it being developed?

Question: CQ08.03

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 8 - Bristol Harbour Festival 2023-2027

Question submitted by: Councillor Fitzjohn

I welcome the decision to use 2023 as a transitional year in order to research and revise the Harbour Festival.

My question is: how can this event be used to increase international opportunities to further the careers for Bristol-based artists and arts organisations, as well as support our economy by attracting international visitors to the event?

Statement: CS09.01

Cabinet – 2 August 2022

Re: Agenda item 9 – Temple Quarter update

Statement submitted by: Councillor Plowden

In line with the consultation responses, I welcome the mixed-use development of the Mead Street area to provide high quality and high density housing and other uses, particularly ongoing employment. This is a superb opportunity to shape the redevelopment of this area, and the four principles guiding the development are positive and show support from a significant number of consultation responses. The Brief will be vital in guiding developers, architects, planning officers and planning committees, and as a committee member I welcome as much clarity as possible.

However, what is lacking from the principles is clarity and detail about both how the overall form of the development will contribute to the character of the neighbouring areas and what constitutes “sympathetic use of building form, materials and finishes”. This should have been a core part of the brief, but instead this is left to the planning process for individual schemes. This is a significant missed opportunity and the final document is unlikely to provide sufficient clarity for the many decision makers involved.

There is also a lack of detail as to how the consultation has shaped the final product, other than some clarification of the terms used in the document. This is especially apparent in the lack of any proactive response to the very high level of respondents’ concerns about the potential for massing and excess heights. There is no evidence on this issue that the consultation responses have been “conscientiously taken into account in finalising the decision” as required by the Legal Advice in the Cabinet Report. Instead the report brushes these aside as “detailed design matters”. Given the concerns about height and massing, and the petition to protect the Totterdown Escarpment reaching over 5000 signatures, this needs to be responded to as a fundamental part of the Development Brief rather than a side issue.

As such I suggest the Cabinet pause agreement of the Brief for more specific guidance on height and massing, as well as materials and finishes, to be incorporated. Without these the Brief is fatally flawed and failure to address this would be an abdication of responsibility, piling pressure and uncertainty on everyone that needs to make the detailed design decisions throughout the planning process.

Councillor Ed Plowden
Councillor for Windmill Hill

Statement: CS09.02

Cabinet – 2 August 2022

Re: Agenda item 9 – Temple Quarter update

Statement submitted by: Councillor Dyer

We support the development of this brownfield site for mixed use residential and commercial. We are aware that this Development Brief will provide a framework to help assess future planning applications that are coming forward in the area.

As councillors for Southville ward which includes the whole of the Mead Street Development Brief Area, we wanted to highlight the following key points, most of which are generally supported by the report to Cabinet and the associated Development Brief.

Affordable Housing

Given that the Mead Street area is within one of the 30% most deprived LSOAs in Bristol, we strongly believe that an emphasis must be placed on the delivery of affordable housing within the area. The current local plan policy is for a minimum of 30% affordable, however, where land is in council ownership (as is the majority of the land between Mead Street and York Road), we believe that the council should use its position as the freeholder to insist on 50% affordable. This is the proportion of affordable housing that we now expect from the council's arms length housing company Goram and should be the minimum aspiration for land in council ownership.

Protecting Employment and Employment Land

The site largely consists of a Principal Industrial and Warehousing Area (PIWA) and as such already provides existing employment. We support the commitment to provide some 9,000m² of employment space providing some 500 jobs – however, wherever possible, the priority should be to protect existing employment provision. We have seen elsewhere in our ward, the problems (and distress) caused when local businesses are forced to relocate – and this is particularly difficult given the lack of alternative commercial and industrial sites elsewhere in South Bristol.

Delivery of new public open space

The site is separated by a busy road and a railway line from Victoria Park, the nearest green space, and therefore we strongly support the commitment to delivering a new green public open space at the central of the Mead Street Development area.

Connections to Temple Meads

We welcome the support within the Development Brief for the opening up of East-West routes through the Mead Street area to enable the delivery of a safe transport corridor that encourages active travel. This obviously needs to extend beyond the boundaries of the development brief in order to connect the Bedminster Parade/East Street area with the proposed new southern entrance to Temple Meads via not just Mead Street but also through the Whitehouse Street Regeneration area and across the busy Bath Road.

Connections across the New Cut

At present there is only one footbridge across the New Cut between the Bedminster and Bath Road bridges. Neither the Bedminster bridges nor Bath Road bridges are particularly welcoming to non-motorised traffic, wether pedestrian or cyclist. As the number of individuals commuting by foot and bike increases, especially with the addition of several thousand homes on the south side of the New Cut, there will be increasing pressure on the only bridge dedicated to active travel usage. We encourage the council to explore the potential to deliver new crossings dedicated to active travel either as part of the Mead Street Development and/or in coordination with the neighbouring Whitehouse Street Regeneration area proposals.

Conclusion

Given its location close to the City Centre and Temple Meads station, the Mead Street area offers considerable opportunities to create a low carbon mixed use neighbourhood with low traffic demand. However, it needs to integrate with the neighbouring Whitehouse Street regeneration as well as creating new, safe links through the area, and also across the New Cut and towards Temple Meads station.

Cllrs Christine Townsend and Tony Dyer, Southville Ward.

Question: CQ09.01

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 9 - Temple Quarter Update

Question submitted by: Councillor Pearce

Please could the Mayor provide more information on the proposed workspaces to be included in the Mead Street development

It's good to see brownfield sites close to transport links being brought forward, however, I've seen some criticisms of the height and density of the proposals. How much land is being used to accommodate 1,500 homes in the area and how much land would be needed to accommodate the same number of two story homes? There will be a lot of variables in this but a rough estimation based on similar developments would be appreciated. I ask as someone who is concerned about the housing crisis but also concerned about protecting greenfield space from urban sprawl.

Question: CQ11.01

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 11 – Re-procurement of IT Systems (People Directorate)

Question submitted by: Councillor Wilcox

I welcome moving away from a mixture of insecure spreadsheets and an on-premise database solution for storing confidential information about the most at-risk citizens of Bristol.

However, I am concerned that security is not mentioned as any of the benefits from any of the proposed solutions in section 3 of appendix A. Nor is it listed as one of the key risks and issues in section 5.

Question:

Can I have an assurance from the administration that IT Security is fundamental to delivering this important solution for the People Directorate and will be considered as part of the procurement process?

Questions: CQ13.01 & CQ13.02

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 13 - Bristol's First Citizen's Assembly – Outcomes Progress Report 2

Questions submitted by: Councillor Edwards

The response to the action “more remote and deprived areas are served by public and active transport network; increase the number of interchanges to support connectivity around the city” states that “BCC are working with WECA to deliver 'Mobility Hubs' across the city (which will include services such as bike hire, car clubs and e-scooters) will also improve connectivity to public transport operating on our key transport corridors.”

Question:

Could you tell me how many of these mobility hubs have been created?

Question 2

The response to the action “Work with all schools to implement ‘Bristol School Streets’” reads:

Bristol has delivered a number of school streets projects already and has plans for another 4 locations in the coming academic year. It is important to note that some locations will not be suitable for timed or permanent closures given the impact on the surrounding network. Further rollout of this programme will be dependent on funding

Question:

What percentage does 4 schools represent in relation to the number of schools in Bristol?

Questions: CQ13.03 & CQ13.04

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 13 - Bristol's First Citizen's Assembly – Outcomes Progress Report 2

Questions submitted by: Councillor Mack

Question 1

The response to an ask for Bristol to “create and maximise green space” states that “the Council also has complementary targets (e.g. doubling of tree canopy coverage) which will help meet the recommendation outlined.”

Question:

What is the percentage progress towards the target of doubling our tree canopy by 2045 in Bristol?

Question 2

Regarding the following action proposed by the Citizens Assembly:
Encourage new people to come into green industries – develop, organise and promote a BTEC/accredited course for people to be trained in conjunction with each new policy and innovation; including quality apprenticeships and outreach activities; focus promotion at under-represented groups (but don't exclude anyone)

The response to this states:

Bristol City Council can influence the green skills pipeline and support diverse recruitment through a number of interventions: use of our apprenticeship levy; job matching through our One Front Door; young careers pathways through Bristol WORKS and post 16 engagement. The Building Bristol initiative launched in April/May 2022 so that employment and skills plans are created for all major developments – at construction and end use phase – this can include green skills as new infrastructure and job roles come on stream. The City of Bristol College is a lead partner as a major supplier of vocational training and apprenticeship training. These actions will all be dependent upon employer/supplier demand for green skills.

Question:

Can you provide a list of the new green construction courses which are being offered?

Question: CQ13.05

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 13 - Bristol's First Citizen's Assembly – Outcomes Progress Report 2

Question submitted by: Councillor Stone

The citizens assembly asked for an increase in support “to existing career advice services”, “emphasising development of soft skills or non-academic subjects as a route into real world opportunities”.

Question:

Why is the response to this simply to refer to existing services that have been around for a long time – how does this address the ask for increased support?

Question: CQ14.01

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 14 - Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report

Question submitted by: Councillor Hulme

The report states: “Of our children in care 61 were unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors” – I’m pleased to see that as a City of Sanctuary, we are doing our bit to help refugees in this area too. Please can the Cabinet member provide further details on the care provided to them and how they are helped to integrate with society?

Question: CQ14.02

Cabinet – 2 AUGUST 2022

Re: Agenda item 14 - Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report

Question submitted by: Councillor Townsend

P21 states 'gathering accurate and reliable attendance data continues to be a challenge due to issues with school's input and systems we use'.

Appendix 1 P27 states under 'What's Been Working Well' that: 'Attendance and achievement results show continued year on year increase despite the disruption throughout Covid'.

The above statements relating to the school attendance of children in care are contradictory, both cannot be correct.

Question:

Can the administration explain which of the above claims is a true picture of children in care school attendance and what is this figure for the period covered in this annual report?