

# Cabinet Supplementary Information



**Date:** Tuesday, 1 November 2022

**Time:** 4.00 pm

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

## 2. Public Forum

(Pages 3 - 11)

Answers to public forum questions received.

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**Date:** Tuesday, 15 November 2022



**Question: CQ10.01 & CQ10.02**

**Cabinet – 1 November 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 10 - Bristol Local Plan Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

**Question submitted by: David Redgewell, South West Transport Network**

1. With the progress on the Bristol local plan which we welcome with a strong Development strategy for Housing the economy and the Environment but with government expecting local Authorities in city Regions to work together on planning Transport and Economic policy - What progress under the duty to co operate is being made by Mayor Marvin Rees with West of England mayoral Combined Authority and the metro mayor Dan Norris and leader of North Somerset councillors Steve Bridger, Toby Savage South Gloucestershire council and councillor Kevin Guy to coordinate the local plans around Transport, Housings, Economy, Growth Environment and Climate Change policies.

- **We are working closely with neighbouring authorities under the duty to cooperate.**
- **Officers have continued to work cross-border following the cessation of the SDS. I am meeting with neighbouring cabinet members to start to formalise ongoing working arrangements to support our respective local plans.**
- **We will work together on evidence to inform plans and to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to strategic planning matters. This will include transport modelling.**

2. With Mayor Rees's strong commitment to a Green city after COP 26 and climate change policy is it now the city council view to remove a number of the city Green lungs from the development plan? ie Bristlington meadows, Yew Tree the last farm in Bristol part of western slopes from the plan.

Whilst building and regenerating Brown field land with higher densities in the city centre and regeneration site like Lockleaze and Chiswick, City central area, Bristol Western Harbour, Temple meads station and Temple quay and St Phillips marsh, Former Airfield at Hengrove, Whitchurch, Lawrence Hill, Southmead Cribb Causeway and Patchway new neighbourhood and looking at other major developments site for regeneration around Lawrence Hill and Barton Hill, city centre Knowle, Lawrence Weston, Avonmouth, M32 Bristol Harbour to improve the Public transport Network. walking and cycling facilities whilst balancing the need to build more homes and housing communities jobs and Employment sites economy growth, Health care and schools college and universities whilst protecting one of the most Beautiful cities in South West England.

- **We believe the 2014 Local Plan should have had better regard for nature and we are working to put that right with this iteration.**
- **It's one of the reasons we're frustrated at the failure of the SDS because it brings risk to the Local Plan which we need to deliver on these.**
- **The forthcoming Local Plan consultation will no longer propose residential developments on Brislington Meadows and the land that Yew Tree Farm owns or leases.**
- **This will mean building at density on brownfield sites to protect nature.**

**Question: PQ10.03 & PQ10.04**

**Cabinet – 1 November 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 10 - Bristol Local Plan Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

**Question submitted by: Bristol Tree Forum**

**Preamble:**

The document 'Bristol Local Development Scheme 2022 to 2024', states:

*Subject of the plan: ...*

*The review will: ...*

- *Incorporate approaches to strategic policies as indicated in the NPPF;*
- *Allocate sites for development to assist in meeting development requirements and designate land for protection or specific planning purposes. Specific needs to be addressed will include new homes, land for workspace, and education; ...*

Paragraph 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states:

*Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):*

*a) an economic objective - to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*

*b) a social objective - to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*

*c) an environmental objective - to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating*

**Question 1:**

Why does the review not include the third of the three overarching NPPF objectives - the environmental objective?

- **The Local Development Scheme, which this cabinet report covers, specifies the development plan documents (i.e. local plans) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area. It does not set out objectives for the local plan. Those are embedded within the local plan itself.**

- **National planning policy advises that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. The economic, social and environmental objectives for the planning system are reflected in the local plan review.**

#### **Question 2:**

Will the review include policies which incorporate the recent declarations of:

1. Climate and ecological emergencies; and
2. The Council's unanimous resolution to protect the Green Belt and Bristol's green spaces?
  - **The local plan will include policies to conserve green space and also to ensure that the needs for new homes, work space, leisure and green infrastructure are met. The review's proposed policies aim to contribute to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies and the next public consultation will be discussing issues raised in the council resolution of September 2021**
  - **The local plan will be agreed by Full Council before it is published and submitted for examination in public.**
  - **There is a cross party working group taking forward the Local Plan work and will consider site allocations, as mentioned in my previous reply to David Redgewell, the 2014 Local Plan did not do enough to secure important green spaces or understand the trade off with density.**

**Question: CQ10.01**

**Cabinet – 1 November 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 10 - Bristol Local Plan Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Hornchen**

Please can the Cabinet member for Planning provide an update on the development of Bristol's emerging local plan?

The answer was given in person

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: CQ10.02**

**Cabinet – 1 November 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 10 - Bristol Local Plan Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Bennett**

In 2020, the Government imposed a 35% uplift on the largest cities housing targets, in effort to meet former PM Boris Johnson's manifesto commitments. Since the top-down housing targets were scrapped by another former Prime Minister, does the administration have a view on removing the 35% uplift from the emerging local plan?

The answer was given in person

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: CQ011.01**

**Cabinet – 1 November 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 11 – Household Support Fund (October 2022 – March 2023)**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Townsend**

Household Support Funding allocated to Bristol City Council has been confirmed at £4,039,965 from a national total of £500m

£500m seems a very rounded number and not one that is necessarily reflective of actual need for this type of support. Too often we see local authorities having to compete with each other for limited funding that fails to fully address the problem at a local level but sounds good at a national level in a press release.

**Question:**

Was the £4m or so of funds allocated to Bristol City Council reflective of the level of need in our city, as identified by the Council, or is it more a reflection of what was deemed Bristol's "fair" share of the total amount of national funding available by the Conservative government?

- **I agree with your assessment and £4 million is nowhere near reflective of the level of need in the city.**
- **The competitive element to grants and funding bids that works across government departments is a flawed system and applies to a lot of the bidding processes for councils. The system is flawed because it doesn't allow for certainty or planning.**
- **The DWP has been consistent with these funds and comparing our awards from the national allocation of £421m it does at least appear to be proportionate compared to other cities.**
- **£500m was the figure announced by the then Chancellor (now Prime Minister) for the whole of Great Britain. After the allocations to Scotland and Wales were taken out of this, £421m of this money was awarded to English authorities.**



**Question: CQ012.01 & CQ12.02**

**Cabinet – 1 November 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 12 - Financial update report - November 2022**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Wye**

I note from the financial update report that there is £5.1 m savings for 22/23 described as “at risk”.

**Question 1: Please could you provide more detail about the specific budget lines that are under delivering and briefly outline any mitigation plans.**

**Question 2: Will this level of detail be available for the planned Budget scrutiny meeting on 22nd November?**

These answers were given in person

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: CQ12.03**

**Cabinet – 1 November 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 12 - Financial update report - November 2022**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Dyer**

As I write this question in late October, I realise that there is no guarantee that the Prime Minister currently in office will not have fallen prey to yet another round of Tory Party self-interest and political social climbing.

Nevertheless, following yet another Tory Prime Minister failure, it has now been announced that the 31st December Financial Statement has been delayed until mid-November (assuming there has not been yet another Tory coup). The last prime minister lasted 45 days, this one is clearly expecting to last at least half that time.

For many families and businesses, this delay in announcing important financial information will further increase the stress, uncertainty and worry as they try to plan for the future within a climate of chaotic political and economic turmoil that not been seen since the early 1980s.

Very few of us outside the current Conservative cabinet have the levels of wealth that they are able to fall back on to protect them from the Conservative Party's ever more desperate attempts to avoid facing the judgement of the British public in a General Election. Indeed many Bristol residents are increasingly reliant on support provided via the council – however the council itself is facing several budgetary pressures, in large part due to poor decision making by the series of train wreck chancellors and prime ministers we have had to put up with.

**Question:**

**Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member for Finance give us some indication of how the delay in publishing the December 31st Financial Statement will impact on the council's budget setting agenda, including the work being done with Scrutiny, and what adjustments are having to be made in order to ensure that the council is able to address the budget pressures and risks to services already identified in the MTFP [Medium Term Financial Plan] recently presented at council'?**

This answer was given in person

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)