

# Cabinet Supplementary Information



**Date:** Tuesday, 6 December 2022

**Time:** 4.00 pm

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

## 2. Public Forum

(Pages 3 - 15)

Answers to public forum are attached.

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**Date:** Monday, 19 December 2022



**Question: PQ08.01 & PQ08.02**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 8 - Establishing the City Leap Energy Partnership**

**Question submitted by: Suzanne Audrey**

## **Background**

Information has been provided about the potential benefits of the City Leap Partnership, but the papers relating to risks are exempt. In Grant Thornton's 2019/20 Review of Governance Arrangements for Bristol City Council's Subsidiaries, concern was expressed about exempt papers, and it was recommended: Public reports should be consistent with the issues and concerns raised within exempt papers. The exempt papers should only provide confidential information which cannot be discussed within the public sessions.

**Question 1.** Why has no information about the potential risks of the City Leap Partnership been made available to the public?

- **Information regarding the potential risks has been made exempt to protect the council's commercial interests in the City Leap partnership. The exempt information has been made available to the council's overview and scrutiny committee and exempt question and answer sessions have been held to enable any concerns raised to be addressed.**
- **In addition, the City Leap team at the Council have taken financial and legal advice on the potential risks, and a robust governance process has been followed in relation to the decision making, including whether to accept any potential risks.**
- **There are a considerable number of safeguards in City Leap to prevent any potential risks materialising including any low carbon energy infrastructure projects carried out by the Strategic Partner on the council's estate must first meet detailed project acceptance criteria (as summarised in Appendix A (i) to the Cabinet Report).**

**Question 2.** Please will you give an overview of the potential risks to Bristol City Council and the citizens of Bristol as a result of the City Leap Partnership?

1. Financial risks to the council and the taxpayer in relation to City Leap have been limited by the process we've undertaken. It protects the council's financial interests by making sure:
  - Ameresco is meeting the operational costs of the Bristol City Leap joint venture company;
  - Vattenfall will meet the cost of building out the heat network in full;
  - In entering into City Leap Contracts, the council makes no financial commitments or commitments to funding of future projects;
  - Any future funding contributions made by the council to Bristol City Leap projects, such as contributing towards the decarbonisation of its social housing, will be subject to the usual decision-making and scrutiny processes of the council;
  - All projects on the council's estate, whether in its operational buildings or its social housing, must go through a clearly defined Project Approval Process and meet specified Project Acceptance Criteria, including a demonstration of market value where a project is above a minimum value; and
  - The council will also conduct an annual value for money audit of a sample of Bristol City Leap projects to ensure that it achieves value for money throughout the lifetime of the partnership.
  - There are contractual commitments (see Appendix A (i) and Appendix A (ii) to the Cabinet Report), which are intended to ensure that the interests of heat network customers are protected until such time as national regulation is introduced.
2. There are of course risks that are beyond our control, for example, relevant Government policies and support, which have the potential to materially impact on the number and scale of projects carried out by Bristol City Leap.
3. City Leap is an innovative pathfinder project of substantial scale that has the potential to deliver a wide range of benefits to Bristol and citizens. The risk of doing nothing: of not reducing our carbon emissions and damaging our planet through inefficient energy systems is too high not to take action.

**Question: CQ08.01 & CQ08.02**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 8 - Establishing the City Leap Energy Partnership**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Fodor**

1. How will the cost of capital for retrofit and other energy projects differ if raised through the JV versus cost of capital to the public sector?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

2. How soon will community-led initiatives and social value commitments in the business plan be initiated?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: CQ09.01& CQ09.02**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 9 - Additional resource for fire safety measures**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Hopkins**

Clearly there can be no compromise on safety and we have had one loss of life already.

Q1 can we have the cost of making a block safe by means of alarms and sprinklers being fitted as previously planned.

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

Q2 do we now have a clear programme with dates for alarm/sprinkler installations and can we see this please.

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: CQ09.03& CQ09.04**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 9 - Additional resource for fire safety measures**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Jama**

I'm very pleased to see this come to cabinet so the council can continue to fund the fire safety programme. The waking watch is an important part of an overall strategy to keep council tenants safe and I know this will reassure my residents in Lawrence Hill.

Please can the cabinet member for housing please confirm that the waking watches are now in place at all appropriate council properties? I ask because while this item concerns funding, I am mindful that it may take time find fire wardens to put in place.

- **Yes, waking watch is implemented in all blocks deemed appropriate.**

Alongside this work, has the council undertaken any sort of outreach work or awareness campaigns, to help prevent fires?"

- **We have working with our housing officers as part of the Estates Programme and that includes more contact with our residents on fire safety and making sure residents on how the buildings work in the case of a fire, what we are making the buildings safe and what they need to do to minimise risk of fire.**
- **Our community development team have also been knocking on doors and connecting with residents. This has been important and there has been a fair bit of misinformation spread about.**
- **We are part way through resident engagement sessions focused on fire safety working in partnership with Avon Fire and Rescue Service to all affected blocks that will concluded by Christmas.**
- **Thereafter these events will continue at other blocks in the city.**
- **Fire safety is led by the fire service and we know they are carrying out home visits to talk to citizens about fire safety and preventative measures.**

**Question: CQ09.05**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 9 - Additional resource for fire safety measures**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Rippington**

I am pleased the council has taken these measures - few (or perhaps, any) councils have introduced similar measures to help prevent fires in buildings with EPS cladding, but I hope more will follow suit.

Gilton House in my ward of Brislington East is one of the tower blocks affected by the recent changes. They recently had a meeting with Fire Authority and Council staff to answer many of their queries, however I have been contacted by residents there who still have some outstanding concerns about the changes to policy.

I have pasted some correspondence a resident has sent me below:

1. Evacuation policy – it has changed from “stay put until told to get out” to “evacuate as soon as you are aware of a fire”. This change is causing confusion. If we are to evacuate immediately, there is the question of alarms. When the smoke detector goes off in a flat, it goes through to the call centre which is part of our supported housing package. They then call the fire brigade. However, they do not, as far as I am aware, inform the fire marshals whose job it is to go from floor to floor sounding air horns. Recently there have been delays in getting an answer from the call centre and sometimes no answer at all. This is a particular problem if fire breaks out when no-one is in the flat or the resident is incapacitated and cannot get out to press the alarm button on the landing. A fire could be well alight before the fire marshals know about it.

If there is a general evacuation, there is likely to be a crush on our one and only staircase which the two fire marshals on duty at any one time would struggle to contain. We are getting mixed messages. On the one hand, we have been told in writing to evacuate as soon as we become aware of a fire anywhere in the block but on the other hand, some officers are saying we should wait for the fire marshals to evacuate the block floor by floor. Confusion is dangerous.

2. Restricted mobility – a number of residents (including me) have restricted mobility and would find it hard to get down the stairs. We would slow everyone else down and add to the danger of a crush. Some residents cannot manage the stairs at all. People with mobility problems are supposed to have Personal Evacuation Plans so they can get help. We did not know of this until recently. The Council needs to make much more of an effort to inform residents of PEPs and how they would be evacuated. I suspect that in Gilton House and in other blocks there would be a serious and dangerous problem.

Please could the Cabinet Member for Housing provide a response to the issues raised by my local resident, as I am sure many other residents would also like reassurance on these matters?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

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

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 10 - Arts Council England National Portfolio Funding 2023-2026**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Fitzjohn**

In this important year Bristol Museum celebrates its 200th anniversary, and this event provides a fantastic opportunity to increase their reach, develop their audiences and profile innovative city wide programming with new and diverse partners. All requirements of the NPO offer which they have to confirm in the Action Plan by March 2023.

However, organisations need capacity, strong leadership, visionary and effective boards and enough funding to employ good quality staff that can deliver the programmes Arts Council England demand.

The last cultural strategy was produced in 2017, this provides compelling evidence that the current administration hasn't provided the necessary support nor value the 'culture' that is described in the NPO bid as playing an important key sector role.

1. Does the museum have this support?

**[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)**

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

2. If not what can this administration do to improve this situation?

**[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)**

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

**Question: PQ13.01 & PQ13.02**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 13 - Moving Traffic Enforcement**

**Question submitted by: Rob Bryher**

Thank you to the Mayor, Councillor Alexander and officers for bringing this forward and for taking action to improve road safety in Bristol.

The report indicates that Improve My Street has been one of the ways that officers have assessed which sites to target initially. I think this should say Fix My Street as a quick Google doesn't return anything for Improve My Street.

Question 1:

What is the best way for a member of the public to raise the attention of the officers to an instance of a Moving Traffic Violation and build support for a site to have cameras installed? Is there somewhere on the council's website they can feed this information in and that explains best practice (i.e. what evidence is needed for a site to be strongly considered)?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

- **Fix my Street is not a BCC site.**
- **Improve My Street is currently the correct place to report concerns and make requests. It can be found at <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/tell-us-about-a-road-safety-concern>**
- **If the powers are awarded the plan is to create a separate webpage under the heading of Moving Traffic Enforcement**
- **You can also talk to your local councillors to flag areas.**

Question 2:

If there are six enforcement sites this year, will this be the same every year? Will the Mayor set a specific target for the number of additional enforcement sites to be added each year?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

- **In order to apply for MTE it was necessary to carry out consultation at specific sites**
- **Initial six sites were chosen on known contraventions**
- **Once MTE powers are received, they will allow enforcement within the whole administrative boundary of Bristol City Council**





**Question: CQ13.01**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 13 - Moving Traffic Enforcement**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Bailes**

I am delighted that the Council is moving forward quickly to install an 'ahead only' enforcement camera on the Hareclive Road / Anton Bantock way junction. This will undoubtedly deter drivers from reckless, illegal driving and help prevent another fatal injury at the junction.

Please could the Cabinet Member for Transport inform me of when he expects the Department for Transport to approve this scheme?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

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**Question: CQ013.02 & CQ13.03**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 13 - Moving Traffic Enforcement**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Wilcox**

I welcome the council embracing the ability to enforce Moving Traffic Violations.

1. Will the cabinet member outline the process for people to nominate sites for enforcement?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

2. Will the cabinet member detail how this process can be used to stop Motorcycles and Mopeds using infrastructure that is dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists? Such as the modal filter at the end of Landseer Avenue onto Honey Pens Crescent?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: PQ16.01 & PQ16.02**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 16 - Economy of Place - Implementation of the Corporate Strategy**

**Question submitted by: Richard Goldthorpe**

For the past two years you have actively commissioned equivalent services from your external 'Strategic Partner' for various projects within your regeneration and housing programmes. This includes urban design, landscape architecture, planning and transport planning services that the in-house resources and skills are able to cover.

Q1. Why do you continue to overlook and undervalue the experience, skills, creativity, local knowledge and adaptability of your in-house design professionals (transport planners, urban designers, landscape architects, planners, arboriculturalists etc.) in favour of arrangements with the external 'Strategic Partner' for delivering projects with the same services?

- **The role of City Design is to support development and delivery against the challenges of a growing city.**
- **At this moment in time we are in a crisis and we must secure best value and the Council is committed to securing best value on delivery of all relevant services at all times.**
- **The commitment of our Corporate Strategy is to streamline the council to:**
  - **To focus on priorities**
  - **Safeguard statutory services; and**
  - **To become an effective development organisation**
- **There will continue to be a need for a mix of internal experts to provide advice in a number of areas related to planning and external resource where it is value for money to do so**

Q2. From your cost benefit analysis that you will have undertaken to date, how does this outsourcing represent value for money for the city in the medium and longer terms?

- **The Strategic Partner service was competitively procured and there are various value for money mechanisms built into the contract.**
- **In the areas where we have procured the strategic partner the VfM has been better.**

**Question: PQ16.03 & PQ16.04**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 16 - Economy of Place - Implementation of the Corporate Strategy**

**Question submitted by: David Redgewell**

**QUESTION 1**

Has agreement been researched with the metro mayor Dan Norris and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and Bristol city council City mayor on the 2023 / 2024 Transport levy for Regional bus services and public transport services such as metro west railway ferries ect .

Does this now include the public transport and transport staff now being Transferred to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

- **There was a West of England Combined Authority meeting planned on 16<sup>th</sup> December which will specifically look at proposed supported services for the region and the Transport Levy for 2023/24 which will be included in Unitary Authority budgets next year.**
- **The council has commenced discussions with the Combined Authority about the potential for the CA to carry out strategic transport activities. The council intends to focus on delivering its statutory functions as a highways authority as part of becoming a Development Organisation in accordance with its corporate strategy. Those discussions are at an early stage and there is not currently any agreement with the Combined Authority.**

**Question: CQ16.01 & CQ16.02**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 16 - Economy of Place - Implementation of the Corporate Strategy**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Plowden**

1. What comparative analysis has been done as to how transport and urban design are strategically planned in other similar councils, including those that are part of a Combined Authority which is not an Integrated Transport Authority?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

2. What work has been done to review the capital recharge rate for Transport, Highways and Urban Design staff to ensure it is maximised and continues to be legitimate?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: CQ17.01**

**Cabinet – 6 DECEMBER 2022**

**Re: Agenda item 17 – Independent and Non-maintained special school placements - block contract**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Rippington**

I am very pleased to see that the Council is making positive moves to secure 30 places for children who present with a range of complex additional learning needs. Provision for such children has always been lagging behind demand in our city, so it is right that we look ahead and ensure we can allocate as many places as possible to these children in future years.

Can the Cabinet Member re-assure me regarding the quality of these Independent placements and how will you be able to monitor that to ensure they deliver the standard of education these children deserve?

**Answer was provided in the meeting:**

[Cabinet - Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)