

Cabinet

Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 5 December 2023

Time: 4.00 pm

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

2. Public Forum

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Agenda item 8 - Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

PS08.01 Rachael Fagan

PS08.02 Kim Hicks

PS08.03 Paula Orrell

CS08.01 Councillor Patrick McAllister

CS08.02 Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend

CS08.03 Councillor Tessa Fitzjohn

CQ08.01 Councillor Philippa Hulme

CQ08.02 Councillor Tessa Fitzjohn

Agenda item 9 - Fire Safety Framework

CQ09.01 Councillor Brenda Massey

Agenda item 10 - Fibre and CCTV Contract Amendment

CQ10.01 Councillor Brenda Massey

Agenda item 11 – Purchase of properties for the provision of Children’s homes – ITEM DEFERRED

Agenda item 12 - City Centre Development and Delivery Plan

PQ12.01 & PQ12.02 Bristol Disability Equalities Forum (David Redgewell)

CQ12.01 Councillor Philippa Hulme

Agenda item 13 - Short Breaks Innovation Fund Bid

None

Agenda item 14 - Flax Bourton Public Mortuary Byelaw

None



Agenda item 15 - Collection Fund Surplus/ Deficit report

None

Agenda item 16 - Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2024/25

PQ16.01 Withdrawn

PQ16.02 Withdrawn

PQ16.03 Withdrawn

PQ16.04 Andy Watt

PQ16.05 Dan Ackroyd

Agenda item 17 – Council Tax Base

PQ17.01 & PQ17.02 Withdrawn

PQ17.03 & PQ17.04 South West Transport Network & Railfuture
Severnside (David Redgewell)**Agenda item 18 – Finance Strategic Partnership**

None

Agenda item 19 - Fees and charges review

None

Agenda item 20 – Finance Exception Report (P7)

PS20.01 South West Transport Network (David Redgewell)

Agenda item 21 – Director of Public Health 2023 Annual Report

None

Agenda item 22 – Barton House Emergency Evacuation

PS22.01 Yasmin Qureshi

PQ22.01 Withdrawn

PQ22.02 & PQ22.03 Nigel Varley

PQ22.04 & PQ22.05 Faye Davis

PQ22.06 Dan Akroyd

PQ22.07 & PQ22.08 Ann Fisher

CQ22.01 Councillor Amal Ali

Agenda item 23 – Extension of Civica Housing IT Contract

None

Issued by: Amy Rodwell, Democratic Services

City Hall, Bristol, BS1 9NE

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk**Date:** Tuesday, 05 December 2023

Statement: PS08.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 08 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Statement submitted by: Racheal Fagan

The arts are how we show who we are – what kind of people we are. Our characters, our stories, our history, our beliefs and, yes, our hopes and dreams. How we invest in the arts and our artists also shows who we are. Do we nurture and develop the arts, or do we neglect and cut them?

In the last four years we have seen a relentless attack on arts funding in this city. 40% of the funding from the Cultural Investment Programme has gone in the last 5 years by the Council's own admission.

As a trade union we understand that the structural conditions for the funding crisis in local government lies in Westminster. But decisions are made locally too. Political choices are being made to cut arts and culture for everyone in this city.

These choices have led to Equity members losing jobs, and theatre companies going under. They mean another £75,000 being cut from the cultural investment programme. They mean a lost year of investment in the arts, because the mayor has put off his funding decision since October 2022.

And here in Bristol, consultation with the relevant trade union for the sector, Equity, has been all but absent. We are the experts in this sector. We know how it works, why it works, and what it needs.

What our sector needs most of all is the workers who create the art. They are the people that make theatre, cinema, and entertainment. It is their labour that creates the economic value from which Bristol benefits, not politicians sitting on company boards, or multi million pound executives.

Your funding cuts will mean fewer Bristol workers employed in the arts. They mean missed rent, and less food on the table. Holiday clubs, and children's outreach that won't happen. Art will not happen, and Bristol will be all the poorer for it. Economically and socially.

That will be your legacy.

Statement: PS08.02

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 08 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Statement submitted by: Kim Hicks

Following the recently reported shocking and destructive proposed Arts funding cuts which suggest removing all Bristol City Council support for, among others, Watershed and Bristol Old Vic I re-read the Literature on the Cultural Investment Programme

.
It's mission statement

'Making Arts and Culture available to Everybody

With stated aims: to support people being creative and give money to people places and partnerships to help change people's lives.

Currently you are indeed changing people's lives - the thousands of Bristol creatives who see their opportunities to work closing down one by one as crucial Council support is not just reduced but completely disappears.

The Cabinet must rethink this approach before the damage to the cultural sector in Bristol becomes irreparable - as it already has for many groups and individuals

Statement: PS08.03

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 08 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Statement submitted by: Paula Orrell

The question I would like to put forward in person: How can the Council reimagine the value of the arts and seek new funding and investment to support and sustain a greater larger portfolio. There are plenty of examples that the Council need to research and assess before substantially cutting critical and important organisations. Included in this statement/question will be a set of examples that could be considered.

Statement: CS08.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 08 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Statement submitted by: Councillor Patrick McAllister

I am saddened to see that funding for Watershed and the SS Great Britain Trust was not granted. While I am of course acutely aware of the financial pressures that the Council is under, it could well risk future employment, tourism and business rates to not support these “anchor” businesses that form such an integral part of life around the harbour.

It should be the role of local authorities to help support socially valuable businesses that contribute heavily to the cultural scene. Sadly, the cruel austerity that is enforced from central government is destroying yet another of the vital functions of local government. This is a tragic day for Bristol’s once-vaunted cultural scene.

There is an obvious contrast between the profligacy of the Bristol Beacon project, at enormous cost to taxpayers present and future, and the crumbs that remain for other smaller but equally valuable organisations. At a time when Bristol’s cultural strategy has been left rudderless without a Head of Culture, and when funding has already been delayed for a year, it is difficult to have confidence in this decision-making process.

Statement: CS08.02

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 08 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Statement submitted by: Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend

The administration repeatedly demonstrates that it notes the cost of everything and the value of nothing when it comes to art & culture.

In the same week as the Beacon reopens at a cost of a staggering £132m, other vital organisations have had their funding removed. Many of these organisations with their funding cut support the very acts that then go on to perform on stages such as the Beacon. We have already lost great resources such as Theatre Bristol, who were a key support for those in theatre from less privileged backgrounds, we cannot afford to lose other organisations such as the Wardrobe Theatre.

The arts and cultural impact upon all of our city must be supported and appreciated, the value is not only economic but social. This key funding helps it to be accessible to the very demographics that the administration claims to be dedicated to focusing upon.

I urge the cabinet to rethink their funding choices.

Statement: CS08.03

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 08 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Statement submitted by: Councillor Tessa Fitzjohn

All councillors cannot fail to be aware of the financial crisis that all local authorities are struggling with, and the tough financial choices they are having to make.

The Cultural Investment Programme appears to be one of those choices. But reducing funding streams and restructuring the selection process, will affect the cultural infrastructure of the city. Institutions like the Bristol Old Vic and the Watershed are both destination venues for residents and visitors alike and an essential part of Bristol's international identity

The mayor's opening statement in the 2023 – 27 Cultural Investment Programme says, "Our culture and creativity is a huge part of what makes the city unique", and I absolutely agree.

I therefore question the wisdom of reducing funding at a time when the creative arts are struggling to survive.

We know art and culture contribute, according to Arts Council England, 10.6 billion to the UK economy. In Bristol we use creativity to brand the city and rely on individuals funding their own projects and new initiatives, like Upfest festival, that rely on enthusiasm and good will to survive.

My concern about these cuts is the fact that national funders Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, and DCMS won't take Bristol seriously. They expect this to be a shared risk, and to see ongoing commitment to this sector.

The arts operate on a top-down, bottom-up approach. Benefiting communities, affecting social injustice bringing communities together.

The major arts organisations operate in a wider context, such as Spike Island, providing exhibitions for less established artists who are then selected for the Turner Prize providing a stepping stone to international status.

If Bristol removes one layer it will affect the whole, and I ask the cabinet to review this short-term decision that will affect many people across the city, and the identity of the city itself.

Question: CQ08.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 8 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Question submitted by: Councillor Philippa Hulme

Background: I welcome the allocation of cultural grants and the Labour administration's wider investment in culture despite continued government cuts to the council's budget.

Labour's 2021 Manifesto commitments regarding culture include: Support Bristol's night-time economy and creative sector in its recovery; Raise awareness of Bristol's past through the History Commission; Support the return of Bristol Pride and St Paul's Carnival; Expand the Agent of Change principle to protect night-time entertainment economy; Invest in new and existing sports facilities

I am pleased there has been action on all of these items. The Cabinet will be aware that Government has cut council funding by over 60% since 2010. As such, the council has had less funding to offer cultural organisations. Despite the financial circumstances, it is commendable that we are keeping arts investment relatively high, while delivering on our manifesto commitments.

Question 1: Alongside the funding in this report and the aforementioned policies, please can the Mayor highlight other work Bristol City Council has been doing for the cultural sector?

Question: CQ08.02

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 8 – Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27

Question submitted by: Councillor Tessa Fitzjohn

Question 1: The grant funding in this report is commendable regarding increased diversity and equity. However, I was disappointed to see that Openness funding is not to be granted to some of our most significant cultural organisations across the city. Previously, the Mayor has indicated that he would consider applying for Bristol to become the next UK City of Culture.

With applications expected to open in 2025 for the 2029 title of UK City of Culture, does the Mayor feel that this budget offers enough investment to begin the development that this application is going to need?

Question: CQ09.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 9 – Fire Safety Framework

Question submitted by: Councillor Brenda Massey

Question 1: As the Chair of the Avon Fire Authority, I welcome the investment into fire prevention.

I note the section: 'Fire safety work will include compartmentation and fire stopping work – ensuring appropriate materials and workmanship prevent a fire from spreading between properties in group of dwelling, installation of fire doors, and providing dedicated spaces for the storage and charging of mobility scooters and e bikes and scooters.'

As we all know, e-scooters are a major fire hazard, so I am glad that we are getting on the front foot to mitigate potential issues as their use becomes increasingly prevalent.

Please can the Cabinet Member for Housing Services please provide further details into the plans to dedicated space for charging e-bikes and e-scooters?

Question: CQ10.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 10 – Fibre and CCTV Contract Amendment

Question submitted by: Councillor Brenda Massey

Question 1: I am pleased that our CCTV contract has seen 650 cameras upgraded. Likewise, I am pleased that the council is installing CCTV in fly-tipping hotspots. Are there any plans for further CCTV installation to deter crime and antisocial behaviour?

Question: PQ12.01 & PQ12.02

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 12 - City Centre Development and Delivery Plan

Question submitted by: Bristol Disability Equalities Forum (David Redgewell)

Question 1: What consultation to has Bristol city carried out with disabilities group and when in view of the Bristol disability equalities forum Objections With disability groups about the Proposed changes to the Horsefair and Penn Street for pedestrianisation and cycling facilities and the provision of a full equalities impact assessment by Bristol city council?

And the Transport Authority' for bus and coach services the mayor of west England combined transport Authority. Dan Norris Stagecoach west and First group plc Wales and West buses Division And can an equalities impact assessments be published. It should be note such a proposal in Oxford Westfield failed in the courts On equalities grounds and lack of passengers and bus company consultation.

Question 2: In view the local plan policy and National government policy from the Department of Transport being that bus service should be accessible to people with reduced mobility and partly sighted passengers. Being 400 meters. How can moving bus stops with castle kerbs and Drop Kerbs be improved by moving bus service and stop from the main shopping centre whist leading access to the court yard and pick points for the private car . Making disability passengers go to Bond Street the Haymarket.

Will the mayor Malvin Rees council Don Alexander and mayor Dan Norris and his public transport Network officers Take a walk around the effect Roads and bus stops to the issue for passengers with reduced mobility and partly sighted by closing theses road to the public bus and coach and Taxis service for themselves with disabled passengers?

Gordon Richardson Bristol disability equalities forum Trustees
David Redgewell Bristol disability equalities forum Trustees.

Question: CQ12.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 12 - City Centre Development and Delivery Plan

Question submitted by: Councillor Philippa Hulme

Question 1: The plan gives the outline for 2,500 new high quality homes; 750 student bedrooms; new office spaces; a diversified and consolidated retail offer supported by extended leisure, community and cultural spaces, and more, in the city centre.

How much Community Infrastructure Levy can the council expect to receive as a result of these developments? I appreciate that it will be difficult to give an accurate estimate, but a projection based on similar regeneration schemes across the country will suffice.

Question: PQ16.04

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 16 - Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2024/25

Question submitted by: Andy Watt

Question 1: Given that a majority of members of the Finance Task Group do not support the proposals to change the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, will you follow their recommendation and keep the scheme intact?

Question: PQ16.05

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 16 – Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2024/25

Question submitted by: Dan Ackroyd

Question 1: First, I want to make clear that I do think this administration is doing a good job controlling the budget for Bristol City Council. This city is clearly in a better position than Nottingham or Birmingham City Councils.

But the austerity measures and lack of funding from central government appear to have reached a critical level here in Bristol.

I am absolutely sure the Mayor would love to continue the Council Tax Reduction Scheme both because it's the right thing to do, but also it would avoid confrontation with people in Bristol.

But the budget appears to be so tight, that despite the mayor and most councillors wanting to keep the scheme going, and knowing that it is very unlikely to deliver the additional revenue, this Council is being forced to abandon the CTRS due to the requirement to set a 'balanced' budget.

And now this city is facing a lot of emergency spending due to the situation at Barton House.

I think it is time for this administration to make a clear statement to the people of Bristol that the Council is going to be forced to make cuts in the coming years.

Is this administration prepared to make a clear statement, either by themselves or jointly with politicians from other parties?

Question: PQ17.03 & PQ17.04

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 17 – Council Tax Base

Question submitted by: South West Transport Network & Railfuture Severnside (David Redgewell)

Question 1: To ask mayor Malvin Rees and Deputy mayor Craig Cheney. What progress is made on the budget from the money raised on polluting vehicles in the city centre to reinvesting the money in improvement to the city bus and public transport and sustainable transport Networks, by passporting the money to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority mayor Dan Norris especially to improve the city Region bus network?

bus services to Ashton vale .Stapleton, Broomhill, Fishponds, oidbury court, Fishponds, Downend Bromley Heath. Southmead links to Filton uwe Bristol parkway station Bradley stoke Aztec west, st Anne's park and Bristlington parts of Easton and the Drings Areas that have lost their bus services. As the money is set in the base budget for the west of England mayoral combined Authority transport levy

Question 2: Question to mayor Malvin Rees and Deputy mayor Craig Cheney. What discussion and consultation are taking place with South Gloucestershire county council Banes and North Somerset council and the Metro mayor Dan Norris especially the voters and Tax payer on setting city council budget?

On the Transport levy to be paid to the west of England mayoral combined transport joint with North Somerset council to pay for vital bus and public transport Network services in the city Region so people can get to work school College university, food shopping ,Heath care and hospital appointment and leasure and Tourism. The lack of public transport especially effective the working class and oider people within the city Region. The Transport levy is set in Bristol city council Budget.

David Redgewell South west transport Network.
Railfuture Severnside.

Statement: PS20.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 20 – Finance Exception Report P7

Statement submitted by: South West Transport Network (David Redgwell)

On the base budget Bristol city council
Has with Bath and North East Somerset council and South Gloucestershire county council
and North Somerset council a Transport levy to the west of England mayoral combined
transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvement plan area
In the city Region to be negotiated by the councils with the west of England mayoral
combined transport Authority and North Somerset council and mayor Dan Norris.

To pay for public transport services coach community transport
Buses ,trains ferry's,
Under the west of England mayoral combined Authority act .
Giving joint powers to the Bristol city council, South Gloucestershire county council and
North Somerset council.
To fund bus services alongside the improvement plan with the metro mayor Dan Norris and
the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.
So we would like to see an agreed increase in the rate paid to fund the local bus services
which are essential to get people to work school College university health care, hospital,
food shopping and shopping leisure trips and tourism.

We need to restore bus services to in Greater Bristol and Bath city region South
Gloucestershire county council and North east Somerset and North Somerset.

Services to Ashton vale estate in Bristol using services 505 From Southmead hospital bus
station, Horfield Downs Clifton, Hotwells Ashton gate, long Ashton park and ride and around
the estate,

Service 5 ,25 Bristol city centre, st Paul's, St werburgess Eastville park Stapleton, Broomhill,
Fishponds oidbury court, Downend,Bromley Heath,

Services 1a to Run from Cribbs causeway bus station to Henbury, Westbury on
Trym, Downs Clifton Down station, park street, College Green,

Bristol city centre, Bristol cabot circus, Bristol Temple meads station Arnos vale, Brislington
sandy park, st Anne's park Guilford Road Broomhill Brislington Trading estate Hungerford
road Bristlington village School Road back to st park Wick Road normal route.

1 to run Sandy park road,Broomhill, Brislington Trading estate

,Hungerford road ,west town lane, Bath Road Alison road sandy park back to the city centre.

Via Arnos vale, Bristol Temple meads station, Bristol cabot circus Bristol city centre then via
Clifton Down station, Westbury on Trym, Henbury, Cribbs causeway bus station.

Services 10 11

Services, Avonmouth, Shirehampton, Westbury on Trym Southmead hospital bus station
uwe bus station,Bristol, Parkway station, Aztec west, Hortham Alverston and Thornbury.

Services to operate for Eastville Tesco to Easton, Lawrence hill, Dings ,Bristol
Broadmead.

Services 622 917 Severn Beach, Pilning Cribbs causeway bus station, Bristol zoo,Olverton
Alverston Thornbury Tytherington and yate bus station.

84 85 Yate,Railway station, Yate station

Chipping Sodbury, Wickwar, Charfield and Wotton under Edge.

Services 522 Bristol bus and coach station, Bristol Temple meads station Arnos vale, Bristlington, keynsham marksbury Timsbury Paulton midsomer Norton to run ,Timsbury,Tunley Bath spa bus and coach station,

Services 424 ,414 Frome to Mells Radstock, Westfield ,midsomer Norton extension to Paulton to replace service 82 .

Services 672 52 Chew valley, Bridgwater Road Bishopsworth South Bristol, Bedminster, Redcliffe Bristol Temple meads, Bristol Broadmead.

126 Wells bus and coach station to Easton Westbury sub Mendip, Draycott Cheddar ,Axbridge ,winscombe Banwell and locking, Hutton ,Weston super mare bus and coach station.

And a review of west link Demand responsive bus services to link to Cribbs causeway bus station, Southmead hospital bus station, Filton Abbey wood station, Patchway station, Aztec west roundabout. Eastville Tesco, Easton, Lawrence hill Station Dings Bristol Temple meads station. Portway park and ride, long Ashton park and ride, Bristol parkway Park and ride. Axbridge and Cheddar.

We need to reset the Transport levy to Work with the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council to improve Public Transport in the year . Bristol city council, Banes ,south Gloucestershire county council, and North Somerset council. And it Bristol to passport the clean air zone money to spend on coach and bus services improvement, Public transport rail ferry services Sustainable transport Networks.

Other funding streams is to look at car parking charge in South Gloucestershire implementation , Kingswood, Staple Hill, Yate ,Thornbury, Bristlington, Westbury on Trym and other shopping centre car parking Radstock and midsomer Norton. To help fund Public transport. It important to remember 48 of people don't use cars and pay council taxes for the maintenance of car park they never use .

On savings it very important the Bristol city council, Banes ,south Gloucestershire county council, and North Somerset council as part of local Enterprise partnership soon to be a full . Member of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority under the levelling up act .

Look to make urgent savings in the cost of consults and interim Directors at the west of England mayoral combined Authority, By appointing and Transferring staff from Bristol city council, South Gloucestershire council, Banes. To the Transport Authority. To save money and duplication of offices. Public money on staff needs much more control at the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority local Enterprise partnership and western Gateway Transport Board.

We also want to see an equalities offer employed at the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

And full equalities impact assessment of the budgets .

And more more invested in public toilet and changing places across the Bristol city council, South Gloucestershire council North Somerset council and Banes councils including public transport interchanges.

Public toilets are very important investment in Bristol city Region.

Gordon Richardson Bristol disability equalities forum

David Redgewell South west transport Network,

For

Somerset bus partnership.

Somerset catch the bus campaign

Gloucestershire catch the bus campaign

Statement: PS22.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 22 – Barton House Emergency Evacuation

Statement submitted by: Yasmin Qureshi

I would like answers about what they're surveying on Barton house, in detail.

why are they only checking certain flats when they've never asked to see other flats where tenants have lived over 2+ years.

It seems you've picked and chose only Some residents.

The rest of us want reassurance that we'll have a home and not stay in temporary accommodation for months on end. We were all told 2-3 days then a couple of weeks, now we're being told that it couple be until after Christmas.

We're being told to continue paying our rent and council tax even though nobody is allowed to be in their home which is a shambles and disgusting as we're having to pay out more money on a daily basis where us adults are paying and children are getting ill from the food provided, you've offered some people temp accommodation but it's unsuitable.

All of our mental health and and physical health are suffering in these hotels and temp accommodation. It's not suitable for all our needs that we have at home in Barton house.

Majority of us are petrified to even go back due to the shocking nature of how we found out. Which was by news crews in the carpark. It's shameful and we need answers.

Question: PQ22.02 & PQ22.03

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 22 – Barton House Emergency Evacuation

Question submitted by: Nigel Varley

Question 1: In planning for the possible long-term rehousing of Barton House residents, and residents of the other LPS blocks of flats, should they need lengthy repairs/reconstruction or demolition, will the Council consider the following:

- a. using the current 200 Council home voids for emergency re-housing and, if so, setting aside the current 100 days (major) and 29 days (standard) of turnaround works so that tenants can move in immediately, where possible, with refurbishment work being done retrospectively
- b. taking appropriate measures to acquire the 2472 empty second homes and 1881 long-term empty homes in Bristol for emergency re-housing and mitigation of the effect of this emergency on the Council home waiting list?

Question 2: Will the Council ensure that all measures, both short and long term, taken to accommodate evacuees from Barton House (and the other blocks if necessary) are negotiated and agreed with democratically elected and accountable tenants' representatives?

Question: PQ22.04 & PQ22.05

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 22 – Barton House Emergency Evacuation

Question submitted by: Faye Davis

Question 1: Why didn't you hold a meeting for the residents of Barton House or write to us explaining the situation and why didn't you come up with a better plan?

Question 2: Why did the media appear to know before the tenants or Barton House?

Question: PQ22.06

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 22 – Barton House Emergency Evacuation

Question submitted by: Dan Ackroyd

Question 1: I realise that it is too soon to investigate the response of the Council once the nature of the emergency situation became public, but people of Bristol, particularly those who live in Barton House, deserve to know the details of the concerns regarding the safety of buildings, that led to large amounts of money being spent in an emergency.

There are multiple FOI requests outstanding that seek basic information that should have been provided weeks ago, including these two:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/information_regarding_the_inspec
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/large_panel_system_ips_buildings

But there are probably other FOI requests made on similar topics.

It would save the FOI team a lot of work if the Council was proactively releasing information about what has happened.

Please will you commit to providing responses to those FOI requests before the "Budget scrutiny" meeting on Friday?

If nothing else, the Councillors setting the budget need to know detailed information about the problems at Barton House. The unexpected cost looks very likely to be a larger amount of money than the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Question: PQ22.07 & PQ22.08

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 22 – Barton House Emergency Evacuation

Question submitted by: Ann Fisher

Question 1: Can you explain why you want use to pay rent when we can't live there?

Question 2: Why I had to be evacuated and why everyone know before anyone in Barton House was told?

Question: CQ22.01

Cabinet – 5 DECEMBER 2023

Re: Agenda item 22 – Barton House Emergency Evacuation

Question submitted by: Councillor Amal Ali

Question 1: It is, of course, an enormously difficult time for residents. I have unending sympathy for the people who have been asked to leave their home on such short notice. As a Lawrence Hill resident, I have been supporting them through this and will continue to do so.

However, I am glad that the executive took the difficult decision to evacuate the building, putting residents' safety first, when we learned of the dangers.

I am grateful to officers and my fellow councillors, including many Cabinet members, who helped through the day and into the night with the evacuation and since. I also want to put on record my thanks to all the volunteers at Café Conscious, the Bristol Cable for their fundraiser, and the council's community development teams - to name a few people and organisations who have helped support residents throughout the evacuation.

I have been speaking with residents since the evacuation. The main question they have is 'when will we know whether it is safe to move back?'

At the time of writing, we do not know the answer as the surveys are yet to be completed. However, there may be an update by the time of the Cabinet meeting.