

# Audit Committee Public Forum



**Date:** Monday, 25 March 2024

**Time:** 2.00 pm

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

#### 4. Public Forum

Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

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Any member of the public or Councillor may participate in Public Forum. The detailed arrangements for so doing are set out in the Public Information Sheet at the back of this agenda. Public Forum items should be emailed to [democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk) and please note that the following deadlines will apply in relation to this meeting:-

Questions - Written questions must be received 3 clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that your question(s) must be received in this office at the latest by 5 pm on **19 March 2024**.

**Deadlines for receipt of questions extended to 22 March midday.**

Petitions and Statements - Petitions and statements must be received on the working day prior to the meeting. For this meeting this means that your submission must be received in this office at the latest by 12.00 noon on **22 March 2024**.

Members of the press and public who plan to attend a public meeting at City Hall are advised that you will be **required to sign in** when you arrive and you will be issued with a visitor pass which you will **need to display at all times**.

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**Date:** Friday, 22 March 2024



# Public Forum

Audit Committee

25 March 2024



## 1. Members of the Audit Committee

### Questions

Number	Name
1	Mike Oldreive
2	Dan Ackroyd
3	Suzanne Audrey



Hi Allison

Please find below 2 questions for Audit Committee on Monday:

Q1.

In his response to my Supplementary Question 1 the Director of Legal does not reference the loan made to Stepping Up CIC.

Was the Director of Legal services, or any other BCC staff, aware of any such loan being made or of any discussions of such provision?

Q2.

The response to my Supplementary question is as follows:

[Bristol City Council did not receive any reserved matter request for lending or advancing any monies from Bristol Waste to Stepping Up.](#)

Does this mean that directors of Bristol Waste have breached their articles of association?

If so , what are the legal and governance impacts?

Thanks

Mike

Hi,

As the deadline for questions has been extended to 22nd March midday, please find two questions for the Audit committee on the 25th of March.

#### Question 1

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I'd like to thank the Director of Legal and Democratic Services for the response that was sent on the 21st of March to Mr Oldreive's supplemental questions from the last meeting.

However, some parts of the questions were not answered.

From Mr Oldreive's first supplemental question:

*Q1. Was the Monitoring Officer aware and what details did he know about the arrangements for transitional support, including loans and cash support?*

Although it's great to have confirmation that Bristol Waste were to provide back office support, did the Monitoring Officer or any of his team have discussions with Bristol Waste about the loans and cash support?

Did the Monitoring Officer know if Cabinet members (including stakeholder Deputy Mayor Cheney) and the Council's director on Bristol Waste board (Councillor Steve Pearce) were aware of these loans and cash support?

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#### Question 2

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To follow up on Mr Oldreive's second supplemental question, were the loans and cash support made from Bristol Waste to Stepping Up made without a 'Reserved Matter' request?

I would like to submit the following questions to Audit Committee on 25 March 2024.

I hope to attend the meeting

Best wishes, Suzanne Audrey

**Question 1.** It is my understanding that a 'Lessons Learned' report in relation to the considerable overspend at Bristol Beacon was supposed to have been made available by now. Please can you give an update on when and how the lessons learned report will be made available to the public?

**Question 2.** The external auditors were clear about the importance of the lessons learned report in relation to the Bristol Beacon, and requested it before completion of the works. It looks as if the Mayor's Office did not want to the report completed until after Bristol Beacon reopened (at the end of November 2023) and possibly not until after the local elections in May 2024. Are there any powers available to the external auditors, or to the audit committee, to ensure that such a lessons learned report is actually completed and made publicly available?