

Summons to attend meeting of Full Council



Date: Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

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

To: All Members of Council

Issued by: Oliver Harrison, Democratic Services
City Hall, PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE
Tel: 0117 3526162

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Friday, 2 December 2022



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

(Pages 8 - 10)

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest from the Councillors. They are asked to indicate the relevant agenda item, the nature of the interest and in particular whether it is a **disclosable pecuniary interest**.

Any declarations of interest made at the meeting which is not on the register of interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

To agree the minutes of the following previous meetings as a correct record:

(Pages 11 - 30)

Tuesday 18 October 2022 Full Council

Tuesday 8 November 2022 Full Council

5. Lord Mayor's Business

To note any announcements from the Lord Mayor

6. Public Petitions, Statements and Questions

Public forum items can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affects the city. Submissions will be treated in order of receipt and **as many people shall be called upon as is possible within the time allowed within the meeting (normally 30 minutes)**.

Further rules can be found within our Council Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

Please note that the following deadlines apply to this meeting:

a. Public petitions and statements: Petitions and written statements



must be received by **12 noon on Friday 9 December 2022** at latest. One written statement per member of the public is permitted.

b. Public questions: Written public questions must be received by **5pm on Wednesday 7 December 2022** at latest. A maximum of 2 questions per member of the public is permitted. Questions should be addressed to the Mayor or relevant Cabinet Member.

Public forum items should be e-mailed to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

7. Petitions Notified by Councillors

Please note: Up to 10 minutes is allowed for this item.

Petitions notified by Councillors can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affects the city. The deadline for the notification of petitions to this meeting is **12 noon on Monday 12 December 2022**

8. Committee Model of Governance Working Group Update

Recommendation

That Full Council notes the update from the Committee Model Working Group regarding the work to develop the arrangements for the Committee model of governance.

(Pages 31 - 38)

9. Audit Committee Half-Year Report to Full Council

Recommendation

That Full Council accepts the report of the Audit Committee and notes the key areas the Committee is monitoring to support improvements required in internal control, risk management and governance.

(Pages 39 - 46)

10. Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22

Recommendation

That Full Council note the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix A.

(Pages 47 - 68)



11. Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2022/23

Recommendation

(Pages 69 - 82)

That the Mid-Year Treasury Management report for 2022/23 is noted.

12. HR Committee Annual Report 2021/22

Recommendation

(Pages 83 - 90)

That Full Council note the Human Resources Committee Annual Report.

13. Motions

Note:

(Pages 91 - 124)

Under the Council's constitution, 30 minutes are available for the consideration of motions. In practice, this realistically means that there is usually only time for one, or possibly two motions to be considered.

With the agreement of the Lord Mayor, motion 1 below will be considered at this meeting, and motion 2 is likely to be considered, subject to time.

Details of other motions submitted, (which, due to time constraints, are very unlikely to be considered at this meeting) are also set out for information.

MOTIONS RECEIVED FOR FULL COUNCIL

Golden Motion (Liberal Democrat)

TAKING BACK PUBLIC CONTROL OF OUR BUSES

Full Council notes that:

1. A comprehensive bus service, providing a reliable and economical means of travel to all parts of the city for work, child support, health care, leisure, and other purposes is of vital importance to the city's residents.
2. There are multiple economic and social benefits of maintaining an effective and accessible bus service including
 - a. providing a reliable means of travel for commuters and consumers contributing to the local economy.
 - b. allowing those who would otherwise be isolated more freedom to access safe and social ways to participate in community and city life, improving their wellbeing and aiding independent living. This includes, but is not restricted to, those with physical or other disabilities, the elderly, and those on low incomes.
 - c. reducing traffic, congestion, and air pollution through the removal



of private vehicles from the roads.

3. The Bus Services Act 2017 allows for alternative models to the provision of bus services where these were previously required to be operated solely by private companies whose working relationship with local authorities was strictly limited. The revised options are Enhanced Partnership, Advanced Quality Partnerships, and Bus Franchising.
4. Bus Franchising offers the opportunity for public direction of innovation of fares, routes, and bus quality.
5. Bus Franchising is being implemented or explored by a number of city and regional authorities across the country including the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Full Council believes that

1. There are significant speed and cost advantages in implementing a more comprehensive mass transit solution based on buses as opposed to alternatives that are dependent on costly and disruptive infrastructure.
2. Implementing bus franchising would provide the opportunity to comprehensively re-think and re-design how the bus service can best serve our citizens, the city, and the region.
3. Services provided under a franchising model would be better designed to meet the needs of the city rather than those of the bus operator(s).
4. Bus Franchising could provide the improvements and innovation required to achieve modal shift, increasing bus usage and reducing private car journeys.
5. Bus Franchising would strengthen the West of England Combined Authority's position in discharging its responsibilities for planning and transport across the region.
6. The West of England Combined Authority's previous dismissal of franchising in favour of developing an Enhanced Partnership was not the result of a comprehensive review of its potential benefits.
7. The Enhanced Partnership model is compromised by the power of veto that the region's major bus provider will have over decision-making.

Full Council resolves to

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the WECA Mayor requesting that he commissions a comprehensive feasibility study of all aspects of adopting and financing a system of franchising bus services in the region. The commission should also consider how the existing knowledge and experience of each member Authority could also be maximised in the consultation and design of such an approach.
2. Request that the Mayor seeks consensus from the leaders of the other WECA authorities, and the WECA Mayor, in order to facilitate the delivery of a feasibility study as soon as possible.

Motion proposed by: Councillor Andrew Brown (Liberal Democrats)

Motion submitted: 1st December 2022



Silver Motion (Conservative)

MAKING BRISTOL A CPR-FRIENDLY CITY

“This Council was saddened to learn of the sudden death – by cardiac arrest - of Sam Polledri in Millennium Square last February. It was even more tragic to discover that this loss might have been averted if there had been public access to a defibrillator and general knowledge on how to use such a machine.

Consequently, Council welcomes the training now being given to Members on CPR and defibrillation by the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity to highlight this issue. However, a great deal more can and must be done.

In order to make Bristol a leading local authority in this field, and mirroring the work already undertaken in Swansea, Council calls on the Mayor to support and help develop the following proposals:

- (i) Support and collaborate in a partnership as exists in Swansea with a charitable partner who can fundraise and organise the installation and maintenance of public access defibrillators and raise public awareness around their use
- (ii) Request that the Licensing Committee explore the option of making basic CPR/Defib skills a condition for granting drivers a license to operate a taxi in Bristol
- (iii) Ask the Local Plan Working Group to examine whether new building developments above a pre-determined size should be required to also include an accessible defibrillator
- (iv) Work with One City partners to make available basic CPR and / or defibrillator training in our local schools, colleges, and universities
- (v) Agree to install a defibrillator – available 24/7 – outside City Hall to not only provide an additional life-saving resource but also demonstrate a genuine commitment to this worthwhile cause.”

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Steve Smith (Conservative)

Date of submission: 28th November 2022

Signed





Proper Officer
Friday, 2 December 2022



Public Information Sheet - Full Council

Public meetings include Cabinet, Full Council, regulatory meetings (where planning and licensing decisions are made) and scrutiny are held at City Hall.

Members of the press and public who plan to attend City Hall are advised that you may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room should the numbers attending exceed the maximum occupancy of the meeting venue.

Fire Safety Information

In event of alarm please calmly leave by the nearest fire exit. The assembly point is by the side of the Cathedral.

COVID-19 Prevention Measures at City Hall (June 2022)

When attending a meeting at City Hall, the following COVID-19 prevention guidance is advised:

- promotion of good hand hygiene: washing and disinfecting hands frequently
- while face coverings are no longer mandatory, we will continue to recommend their use in venues and workplaces with limited ventilation or large groups of people.
- although legal restrictions have been removed, we should continue to be mindful of others as we navigate this next phase of the pandemic.

COVID-19 Safety Measures for Attendance at Council Meetings (June 2022)

We request that no one attends a Council Meeting if they:

- are required to self-isolate from another country
- are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19 or
- have tested positive for COVID-19

Public Forum – Full Council

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at www.bristol.gov.uk.

Members of the public who live or own a business in Bristol may present a petition, make a written statement or ask a question at Full Council meetings. Please submit it to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk.

Petitions, Statements and Questions must be about a matter the Council has responsibility for or which directly affects the city. For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>



Petitions from members of the public

- Petitions will be presented to the Council first.
- Petitions must include name, address and details for the wording of the petition.
- The person presenting a petition will be asked to read out the objectives of the petition with one minute allowed.
- A written reply will be provided to the lead petitioner within 10 working days of the Full Council meeting.

Statements

- Statements should be received no later than **12.00 noon two working days before the meeting**.
- There can be one statement per person and subject to overall time constraints, a maximum of one minute is allocated for presentation.
- Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper.
- For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

Questions

- Questions should be received no later than **three clear working days before the meeting**.
- A maximum of two written questions per person can be submitted.
- At the meeting, a maximum of one supplementary question per question may be asked, arising directly out of the original question or reply.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated to the Committee and published within the minutes. Your statement or question will also be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website and may be provided upon request in response to Freedom of Information Act requests in the future.

We will try to remove personal and identifiable information. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Committee information on the council's website may be searchable on the internet.

The information contained within public forum submissions are the views of those individuals and do not reflect the views of Bristol City Council.

Process during the meeting:

- The Lord Mayor will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.
- As part of the drive to reduce single-use plastics in council-owned buildings, please bring your own water bottle in order to fill up from the water dispenser.



Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Arrangements for Full Council

The allocated public gallery for Full Council is available for members of the public to observe the Full Council meeting.

The Lord Mayor has determined:

- Attendees should please be quiet and not interrupt proceedings.
- Large bags will be left at reception.
- All loud hailers, banners, and placards must be left at the main entrance and will not be permitted to be brought into the building.
- The Council reserves the right to remove any person who disrupts the proceedings. In appropriate circumstances, the police may be called.

Under our security arrangements, all members of the public (and bags) will be searched. This applies to all members of the public attending the meeting in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending. Visitors' bags are liable to be searched prior to entry, and entry is conditional upon visitors consenting to be searched. Searches are carried out to ensure that no items which may interrupt proceedings are brought into the building. Small notices may be acceptable if they are not obstructive or offensive (no more than A4 size).

The privacy notice for Democratic Services can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services



Bristol City Council Minutes of the Full Council

18 October 2022 at 5.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Mayor Marvin Rees, Lord Mayor Paula O'Rourke, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Kerry Bailes, Jenny Bartle, Nicola Beech, Marley Bennett, Fabian Breckels, Andrew Brown, Craig Cheney, Jos Clark, Sarah Classick, Amirah Cole, Asher Craig, Carla Denyer, Kye Dudd, Tony Dyer, Richard Eddy, Emma Edwards, Jude English, Lily Fitzgibbon, Tessa Fitzjohn, Martin Fodor, Lorraine Francis, John Geater, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, Zoe Goodman, John Goulandris, Katy Grant, Fi Hance, Tom Hathway, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Katja Hornchen, Jonathan Hucker, Farah Hussain, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Ellie King, Tim Kent, Heather Mack, Mohamed Makawi, Brenda Massey, Henry Michallat, Yassin Mohamud, , Barry Parsons, Ed Plowden, Guy Poultney, Kevin Quartley, Tom Renhard, Tim Ripington, Steve Smith, Ani Stafford-Townsend, Lisa Stone, Christine Townsend, Andrew Varney, Mark Weston, David Wilcox, Chris Windows and Tim Wye

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Lord Mayor welcomed all attendees to the meeting and issued the safety information.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were heard from Councillors Ali, Bradshaw, Davies, Hartley, Hulme, Morris, Pearce, J Scott and S Scott.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Kent declared an interest as a former member of the Bristol Parent Carer Forum, which is the subject of the Golden Motion. This is not a pecuniary interest.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

On the motion of the Lord Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hance, it was

RESOLVED:



That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on the 5 July 2020 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

5 Lord Mayor's Business

Full Council noted the sad news that former Councillor Charles Lucas, who served Clifton Ward from 2013 to 2016 has recently passed away. A minutes' silence was observed.

6 Public Petitions, Statements and Questions

Public Petitions:

There was one public petition received which was referred to the Mayor for his consideration and response.

	Name	Title
PP01	Miss D T R-Oakly	Colston Parade Road Name Change

Public Statements:

Full Council received and noted the following statements, which were also referred to the Mayor for his consideration / information.

Ref No	Name	Title
PS01	Residents of Kensington Road	Concerns Regarding Kensington House
PS02	Suzanne Audrey	A citizens' assembly on Bristol's new committee system of governance
PS03	Roger Dickinson	Extension of Southville RPZ
PS04	David Redgewell	Bus Tenders – West of England Combined Transport Authority and North Somerset Council
PS05	Emma Green – Bristol Disability Equality Forum	Impact of Clean Air Zone Plans on Disabled People
PS06	Tom Clermont	Road Usage for Hospitality Businesses
PS07	Dr Ettore Lamacchia – The Victoria Park Community	Bristol's Residents' Parking Zone scheme
PS08	Alderman Steve Comer	Airport Statement
PS09	Sian Ellis-Thomas – Chairman of Friends of Redcatch Park	Redcatch Community Garden



PS10	Lesley Powell – Vice Chair of Friends of Redcatch Park	Redcatch Community Garden
PS11	Louise Spellward	Road use Gorgeous Hospitality Businesses
PS12	Rory Casey	Road Usage for Hospitality Businesses
PS13	Jen Smith	Golden Motion, Send Social Media Monitoring
PS14	Jill Tarlton - Bristol Tree Forum	Protect Existing Bristol City Council Trees and Plant More
PS15	Michelle Jackson	A4018 'Improvements'
PS16	Claire Bowers	Opposition to Proposal on A4018
PS17	Vicky Read	Bus Lanes on THE A4018
PS18	Ann Hughes Devereaux	Who Will Benefit From The Destruction Of Nature In BRISTOL'S City Centre
PS19	Michelle, Wayne, Joshua and Jacob Haskins	Bus Lanes on The A4018
PS20	Kevin Fitzgerald	Bus Lanes on The A4018
PS21	Allison Lambert	Bus Lanes on The A4018
PS22	Professor John Tarlton - Bristol Tree Forum	BRISTOL MUST ACT ON ITS CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES
PS23	Charlotte Tedenljung	A4018 'Improvements'
PS24	Anita Bennett	Building Homes in Flood Zones
PS25	Lucy Bartlett	A4018 'Improvements'
PS26	Lesbian Rights Alliance, Bristol Branch	Trans Inclusion and Gender Identity Policy
PS27	Bethany Harris	Road Usage
PS28	Dave Langley	A4018 'Improvements'
PS29	Penny Porter	A4018 No Bus Lanes Please
PS30	Suzan Sadie Hackett	Climate Change and Bristol Inner City
PS31	Gloria Walsh	Bus Lanes on A4018
PS32	Jo Hooper	Bus Lanes on A4018
PS33	Kate Baxter	A4018 'Improvements'
PS34	Carolyn Webb	A4018 'Improvements'
PS35	BARBI - British Association of Restaurants, Bars and	Road Usage for Hospitality



	Independents	
PS36	Edyta Koloszewska	Bus Lanes on A4018
PS37	Lindsay Hamlin	Improvements Proposed for the A4018
PS38	Agata Ptak - Concerned parents of Brentry Primary School	Pedestrian Crossing
PS39	Lukasz Kazimierczuk	Knowle Lane Pedestrian Crossing Issue
PS40	Hugh Woodman	Bus Lanes on A4018
PS41	Hayley Hemming - Bristol Parent Carer Forum	Motion Regarding Bristol Parent Carer Forum
PS42	Kerry Sutton	Improvements Proposed for the A4018
PS43	Ben Cheshire	Road Usage for Hospitality Businesses
PS44	Tom Elliston	Road Use for Hospitality
PS45	Heather Malcolm	Pavement & Road Use for Hospitality
PS46	Steve Deacon	Road Usage for Hospitality Businesses
PS47	Jan Parsons	Improvements Proposed for the A4018
PS48	Laura Guest	Road Usage Removal - BS3 Hospitality
PS49	Allen Hamlin	Improvements Proposed for the A4018
PS50	Kirsty Griffiths	Improvements Proposed for the A4018

Within the time available, statements PS02, PS05, PS13, PS14, PS18, PS22, PS24, PS26 and PS30 were presented by individuals present at the meeting.

Public Questions:

Full Council noted that the following questions had been submitted:

Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01	Miha Klement	Brislington Cycle Path
PQ02	Suzanne Audrey	Committee System
PQ03	Suzanne Audrey	International Travel Policy
PQ04	Stephen McNamara	Trans Rights are Human Rights



PQ05	David Redgewell	City Region Bus Network
PQ06	Anna Swift	Temporary Pavement Licences
PQ07	Helen Powell	Handling of FOI Requests
PQ08	Jen Smith	SEND Surveillance
PQ09	Rose Crossland	Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
PQ10	Tom Bosanquet	Ashley Road junction works
PQ11	Martin Rands	Avon Crescent
PQ12	Rob Bryher	St George Park
PQ13	Anita Bennett	Flood Zones
PQ14	Rachel Horsington	Trees in Easton
PQ15	Rachel Horsington	Bristol to Bath Cycle Path
PQ16	Sarah Middleton	Chelsea Park Colston Road Trees
PQ17	<name redacted>	Gender Identity
PQ18	Clarissa Payne	Legality of Silver Motion

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ02, PQ03, PQ04, PQ06 and PQ07 also responding to supplementary questions.

7 Petitions Notified by Councillors

None received.

8 Petition Debate - Enable group to address sewage pollution in the Avon

The Full Council considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition 'Enable Group to Address Sewage Pollution in the Avon'. The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Becca Blease and Eva Perrin, the petition organisers, were invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council debated the petition.

Following the debate it was:

RESOLVED: That the petition and the comments from the debate be noted and referred to the Mayor for response.

9 Petition Debate - Road Usage for Hospitality



The Full Council considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition 'Road Usage for Hospitality'. The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Brendan Murphy, the petition organiser, was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council debated the petition.

Following the debate it was:

RESOLVED: That the petition and the comments from the debate be noted and referred to the Mayor for response.

10 Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report

Full Council considered the Corporate Parenting Annual Report.

Councillor Asher Craig moved the report and the recommendations therein.

There was a debate, and it was:

RESOLVED: That Full Council note the report.

11 Appointment of Chief Executive

Full Council considered a report on the Appointment of Chief Executive.

Councillor Craig Cheney moved the report and the recommendations therein. Councillor Tony Dyer seconded the report.

There was no debate, and it was:

RESOLVED: That Stephen Peacock be appointed to the role of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service with effect from 21 October 2022 until 30 June 2024.

12 Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy

Full Council considered a report on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy.



Councillor Craig Cheney moved the report and the recommendations therein. Councillor Tom Renhard seconded the report.

There was no debate, and it was:

RESOLVED: Full Council NOTED

1. The economic outlook and projections within the 5-year MTFP

2. The Strategic planning approach

Full Council APPROVED

3. The Medium-Term Financial Plan for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28

4. The Reserve Policy

5. The Capital Strategy for the period 2023/24 to 2032/33

13 Motions

Motion 1 – Golden Motion (altered): ‘SEND’ SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEILLANCE

This motion was altered, which means that all groups agreed to the change, which in this case was the addition of the final two paragraphs.

Councillor Geoff Gollop moved the following motion:

“This Council remains extremely disturbed over the confirmed actions of local government officers being engaged in the compiling or collating of social media posts belonging to private individuals.

These controversial retrievals, involving the cross-referencing of tweets, photos and Facebook entries made by two prominent SEND campaigners and leading members of the Bristol Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) was profoundly ill-conceived.

The selective monitoring of those who have been ‘rightly’ critical of the Authority’s SEND provision was also, arguably, contrary to the spirit of family law and associated statutory guidelines designed to foster confidence and promote the ‘co-production, collaboration and partnership working’ with those families who rely on these services.

Council believes that such data harvesting by officialdom is not an appropriate use of limited resources, has caused serious reputational damage and harmed particularly sensitive community relations. Moreover, Council is unhappy with this matter being concluded via an internal investigation i.e. effectively the bureaucracy marking its own homework.

In the interests of true transparency, the Mayor is called upon to agree to hold a genuinely independent inquiry, conducted by the LGA or similar appropriate body into all the facts, faults and failings surrounding this incident. The findings of that external body, together with any recommendations of best practice,



must then be brought back to Full Council to determine the best way forward towards rebuilding recklessly broken relationships.

Bristol Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) have provided a vital voice for parents within the SEND process but on 21st July the administration wrote to BPCF, other SEND groups, the Department of Education, and Contact informing them that they would not support the continued funding of BPCF with the parent participation grant of £17,500.

Full Council calls on the Administration to issue a new letter to the Department of Education, Contact, and BPCF making it clear that Bristol Council will sign the new contract and to ensure that BPCF are included in all coproduction, as previously, so that the council and BPCF can work to build trust and cooperation.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Christine Townsend

Following debate and final remarks, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED (39 For, 0 against, 18 abstentions) and it was:

RESOLVED:

“This Council remains extremely disturbed over the confirmed actions of local government officers being engaged in the compiling or collating of social media posts belonging to private individuals.

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In the interests of true transparency, the Mayor is called upon to agree to hold a genuinely independent inquiry, conducted by the LGA or similar appropriate body into all the facts, faults and failings surrounding this incident. The findings of that external body, together with any recommendations of best practice, must then be brought back to Full Council to determine the best way forward towards rebuilding recklessly broken relationships.



Bristol Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) have provided a vital voice for parents within the SEND process but on 21st July the administration wrote to BPCF, other SEND groups, the Department of Education, and Contact informing them that they would not support the continued funding of BPCF with the parent participation grant of £17,500.

Full Council calls on the Administration to issue a new letter to the Department of Education, Contact, and BPCF making it clear that Bristol Council will sign the new contract and to ensure that BPCF are included in all coproduction, as previously, so that the council and BPCF can work to build trust and cooperation.”

It was then moved by the Lord Mayor that standing order CPR2.1(xi) be suspended to allow the meeting to go past the 30 minutes time limit for motions. Following a vote it was agreed to proceed up until a 50 minute limit.

Motion 2 – Silver Motion: Improved Communication for Ward Councillors

Councillor Gary Hopkins moved the following motion:

“This council notes the result of the governance referendum. It also notes that over recent years more decisions, which sometimes have major local consequences, are being taken by the central administration or council officers without reference to local ward councillors.

This council calls for improved communication to ward councillors and the adoption of a default position that they should at least be informed and hopefully meaningfully consulted before action is taken that will affect their ward.

This will lead to better informed and more accepted decisions being made.”

Councillor Mark Weston seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED:

“This council notes the result of the governance referendum. It also notes that over recent years more decisions, which sometimes have major local consequences, are being taken by the central administration or council officers without reference to local ward councillors.

This council calls for improved communication to ward councillors and the adoption of a default position that they should at least be informed and hopefully meaningfully consulted before action is taken that will affect their ward.

This will lead to better informed and more accepted decisions being made.”



RESOLVED a vote of thanks was passed for Mike Jackson, outgoing Chief Executive of Bristol City Council for his hard work during his tenure.

Meeting ended at 8.10 pm

CHAIR _____



Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Full Council

8 November 2022 at 6.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Lord Mayor Councillor Paula O'Rourke, Deputy Mayor Craig Cheney, Amal Ali, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Kerry Bailes, Jenny Bartle, Nicola Beech, Marley Bennett, Fabian Breckels, Andrew Brown, Craig Cheney, Jos Clark, Sarah Classick, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Carla Denyer, Kye Dudd, Tony Dyer, Richard Eddy, Emma Edwards, Jude English, Lily Fitzgibbon, Tessa Fitzjohn, Martin Fodor, Lorraine Francis, John Geater, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Katy Grant, Fi Hance, Tom Hathway, Gary Hopkins, Katja Hornchen, Jonathan Hucker, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Ellie King, Tim Kent, Heather Mack, Mohamed Makawi, Brenda Massey, Henry Michallat, Yassin Mohamud, Graham Morris, Paula O'Rourke, Barry Parsons, Steve Pearce, Ed Plowden, Guy Poultney, Kevin Quartley, Tom Renhard, Tim Rippington, James Scott, Sharon Scott, Steve Smith, Ani Stafford-Townsend, Lisa Stone, Christine Townsend, Andrew Varney, Mark Weston, David Wilcox, Chris Windows and Tim Wye

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Lord Mayor welcomed all attendees to the meeting and issued the safety information. It was noted that Mayor Rees gave his apologies for this meeting and Councillor Craig Cheney would be deputising.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were heard from Councillors Bradshaw, Cole, Goodman, Holland, Hume, Hussain and Mayor Rees.

3 Declarations of Interest

None received.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Councillor Gollop requested amendments to the 18 October Full Council minutes. The minutes will be reviewed and brought back to the 13 December meeting for approval.



5 Lord Mayor's Business

The Lord Mayor spoke on the following matters:

- The arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony and parade. A minutes' silence was observed by Full Council.
- Former Liberal Democrat Councillor Antony Wood, who served the Eastville Ward from 1998 to 2001, had recently passed away.
- Local campaigner Julie Boston had recently passed away. The Lord Mayor read a statement from Julie's family.

6 Public Petitions, Statements and Questions

Public Petitions:

There were no petitions received.

Public Statements:

The Full Council received and noted the following statements (which were also referred to the Mayor for his consideration/ information)

PS01	Haydn Gill	A Comprehensive Cycling Network
PS02	Deborah Hurst	GOLDEN MOTION
PS03	Sarah Harris	A4018 Proposals
PS04	Jackie Griffiths	A4018 Proposals
PS05	Cecilia Farren	Cycle Safety
PS06	Hilary Rydon	Golden Motion
PS07	Clive Stevens	Golden Motion
PS08	Trevor Brown	Cycling in Bristol
PS09	Paul Hilton	Cycling in Bristol
PS10	Rory Peliza	Make Bristol a place where anyone feels safe to cycle
PS11	Liv Fortune	Tribute to Julie Boston
PS12	Alison Wren	Silver Motion
PS13	Clare Freshwater-Turner	Slow Progress – Safe Crossing for Cranbrook Road
PS14	Caroline Wilson	Golden Motion
PS15	Christine Fraser	Silver Motion
PS16	Cristina Cooney	Make Bristol a place where anyone feels safe to cycle
PS17	Colin Smith	The Future of the Lord Mayor's Chapel
PS18	Mary Stevens	Make Bristol a place where anyone feels safe to



		cycle
PS19	Ashley Bligh	Newbridge Road
PS20	Emma Davidson	Newbridge Road
PS21	Karen Norman	Newbridge Road
PS22	Tom Merchant	Housing Officers in Estates Management are Still Stressed and Will Continue to Strike
PS23	Lindsay Wall	Unite the Union
PS24	Pete Yeates	Newbridge Road

Within the time available, statements PS01, PS05, PS11, PS12, PS15, PS16, PS17 and PS22 were presented by individuals present at the meeting.

Public Questions:

Full Council noted that the following questions had been submitted:

PQ01	Jonny Adcock	Whitehall Road and Easton Road junction
PQ02	WITHDRAWN	
PQ03	Neil Roper	Social Care
PQ04	James Crawford	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ05	Jay Jethwa	Idling Vehicles
PQ06	Vassili Papastavrou	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ07	David Angel	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ08	Ali Cameron	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ09	Cecilia Farren	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ10 & PQ11	Suzanne Audrey	FOI Requests and Climate Emergency
PQ12	Nicholas Davies	Cycle City
PQ13	Martin Fraser	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ14	Richard Jones	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ15	Rachel Horsington	Cycling Equalities
PQ16	Philip Bird	Nelson Street
PQ17	Johan Wadsten	Cycle Safety
PQ18	Dan Ackroyd	Mass Transit Plans
PQ19	Samuel Clayton	Cycling Security
PQ20	Cristina Cooney	Walking and Cycling Commissioner
PQ21	Karen Parker	Cycle Safety
PQ22	Tom Bosanquet	Cycling Infrastructure
PQ23	Claire Gronow	Citizen Assembly
PQ24	Dan Ackroyd	Brabazon Hangar



PQ25	Mary Rivers	Safe Cycling
PQ26	David Redgewell	Rail and Buses

Within the time available, the Deputy Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ01, PQ03, PQ07, PQ09, PQ16 and PQ22 also responding to supplementary questions.

7 Petitions Notified by Councillors

None received.

8 Petition Debate: Make Bristol a Place Where Anyone Feels Safe to Cycle

Full Council considered a report of the Director – Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition ‘Make Bristol a Place Where Anyone Feels Safe to Cycle’. The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Ian Pond and Toby Wells, the petition organisers, were invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

Full Council debated the petition.

Following the debate it was:

RESOLVED:

That the petition and the comments from the debate be noted and referred to the Mayor for response.

9 Information item: Mayoral Commission - Verbal Update from the new Disability Equality Commission (CPR14.5)

Full Council received an update report from the Disability Equalities Commission.

There was a debate and it was:

RESOLVED:

Full Council noted the report.

10 Information item: Mayoral Commission Update - report from Bristol Women's Commission (CPR14.5)



Full Council received an update report from the Bristol Women's Commission.

There was a debate and it was:

RESOLVED that Full Council:

- **Noted the report.**
- **Ensure Bristol City Council continues to support the Bristol Women's Commission to deliver on its programme of work.**
- **Continue to support the Women's Commission.**

11 Information item: Mayoral Commission Update - Report from Bristol Race Commission (CPR14.5)

Full Council received an update report from the Commission on Race Equality.

There was a debate and it was:

RESOLVED that Full Council:

- **Noted the report and contribution locally and nationally.**
- **Continue supporting implementation of the strategic work and implementation of the Commission on Race Equality.**

12 Information item: Annual Report of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Decisions

Following a short adjournment, it was then moved by the Lord Mayor that standing order CPR2.1(xi) be suspended to allow the meeting to go past the standard time limit so the remaining reports and golden motion could be heard. Following a vote, it was agreed to proceed for an additional 30 minutes.

Full Council considered the Annual Report of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Decisions.

Councillor Craig Cheney moved the report and the recommendations therein.

There was a debate, and it was:

RESOLVED: That Full Council note the report.

13 Annual Report of Audit Committee

Full Council considered the Annual Report of Audit Committee.



Councillor Andrew Brown, Audit Committee Chair, moved the report and the recommendations therein.

There was a debate, and it was:

RESOLVED: That Full Council note the report.

14 Motions

Motion 1 – Golden Motion: Setting a realistic housing target for Bristol

Councillor Tony Dyer moved the following motion:

Full Council notes:

1. Bristol City Council will this month begin public consultation on a new Local Plan which will guide development within the city for the next 10 to 20 years.
2. The Local Plan will include local policies which will set locally developed standards for net zero carbon, biodiversity, green space protection, local shopping streets, and so on. Many of these policies are far in advance of national policy in terms of dealing with the climate and ecological emergencies. The local plan will also look at how and where housing will be delivered.
3. Although it is a “Local” Plan it is subject to a “housing need” target that is subject to calculations set by central government.
4. Central government is currently insisting that the largest 20 urban areas, including Bristol, should include a 35% uplift to its housing need target.
5. The result of this is that Bristol has been set a housing need target of 67,000 homes to be delivered within the lifetime of the new Local Plan.
6. This produces an annual target of 4,467 homes per year over the next 15 years, far and above any single delivery year in Bristol’s recent history. It is a figure that has not been approached since the large-scale government investment in council housing of the 1950s. Even more challenging in the current economic climate where people’s inability to afford mortgages is already suppressing the housing market making it less attractive for developers.
7. Government legislation insists that authorities need to demonstrate a rolling five year supply of available land to meet their housing target. If they cannot, private developers will be able to override local plan policies that have been approved by locally elected councillors following public consultation.



8. There are over 16,000 families on the housing waiting list with many of them living in overcrowded and/or otherwise unsuitable accommodation, another 1,000 in expensive temporary accommodation with associated impacts on revenue budgets, whilst both visible and unseen homelessness continues to affect many individuals in our city.

Full council believes:

1. There is a clear need to prioritise the housebuilding efforts of the city to reduce the impact of the shortage of housing for affordable rent, and in particular social rent.
2. It is imperative that Bristol City has a new local plan with modern, relevant policies in order to unlock the highest quality development in the city. The adopting of a Local Plan will have far-reaching consequences for the future of the city at a critical time in our history as we seek to address the climate and ecological emergencies, and at a time of significant economic turmoil.
3. Bristol does not have the delivery capacity nor the land capacity to deliver 67,000 homes in the next 15 years.
4. It is appropriate to adjust the housing need figure to be based on more up-to-date evidence and detailed study rather than a top-down target imposed by central government.
5. The WECA Spatial Development Strategy is unlikely to be completed on a reasonable timescale, and that its absence should not curtail Bristol's efforts to bring a new Local Plan into effect.

Council resolves:

1. To express its full support for the proposal agreed by councillors and officers on the Local Plan Working Group to produce an evidence-led housing target for Bristol's Local Plan that is based on housing need figures for the West of England to be derived by expert consultants.
2. To continue, in the absence of a Spatial Development Strategy, to work collaboratively with our immediate neighbours in North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and B&NES, in order to establish mutually agreed principles for development that recognises the close relationship between all four authorities and the need for cross boundary co-operation to protect biodiversity, address flood risk, and tackle the climate and ecological emergencies as well as addressing locally assessed housing need.
3. To request the Mayor and Party Group Leaders, on behalf of Full Council, to write to central government requesting that they revoke the 35% uplift target as being incompatible with the principles of a locally developed plan designed to meet the needs of Bristol and its residents and approved by its elected representatives.
4. To confirm its support for the 'Project 1000' principles of delivering 1,000 affordable homes per year and that at least 70% of these homes should be for long term affordable rent, and especially social



rent, to help address the identified need for truly affordable homes for rent as evidenced by the number of families on the housing waiting list.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Jenny Bartle.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED (59 For, 0 against, 0 abstentions) and it was

RESOLVED:

Full Council notes:

- 1. Bristol City Council will this month begin public consultation on a new Local Plan which will guide development within the city for the next 10 to 20 years.**
- 2. The Local Plan will include local policies which will set locally developed standards for net zero carbon, biodiversity, green space protection, local shopping streets, and so on. Many of these policies are far in advance of national policy in terms of dealing with the climate and ecological emergencies. The local plan will also look at how and where housing will be delivered.**
- 3. Although it is a “Local” Plan it is subject to a “housing need” target that is subject to calculations set by central government.**
- 4. Central government is currently insisting that the largest 20 urban areas, including Bristol, should include a 35% uplift to its housing need target.**
- 5. The result of this is that Bristol has been set a housing need target of 67,000 homes to be delivered within the lifetime of the new Local Plan.**
- 6. This produces an annual target of 4,467 homes per year over the next 15 years, far and above any single delivery year in Bristol’s recent history. It is a figure that has not been approached since the large-scale government investment in council housing of the 1950s. Even more challenging in the current economic climate where people’s inability to afford mortgages is already suppressing the housing market making it less attractive for developers.**
- 7. Government legislation insists that authorities need to demonstrate a rolling five year supply of available land to meet their housing target. If they cannot, private developers will be able to override local plan policies that have been approved by locally elected councillors following public consultation.**
- 8. There are over 16,000 families on the housing waiting list with many of them living in overcrowded and/or otherwise unsuitable accommodation, another 1,000 in expensive temporary accommodation with associated impacts on revenue budgets, whilst both visible and unseen homelessness continues to affect many individuals in our city.**



Full council believes:

- 1. There is a clear need to prioritise the housebuilding efforts of the city to reduce the impact of the shortage of housing for affordable rent, and in particular social rent.**
- 2. It is imperative that Bristol City has a new local plan with modern, relevant policies in order to unlock the highest quality development in the city. The adopting of a Local Plan will have far-reaching consequences for the future of the city at a critical time in our history as we seek to address the climate and ecological emergencies, and at a time of significant economic turmoil.**
- 3. Bristol does not have the delivery capacity nor the land capacity to deliver 67,000 homes in the next 15 years.**
- 4. It is appropriate to adjust the housing need figure to be based on more up-to-date evidence and detailed study rather than a top-down target imposed by central government.**
- 5. The WECA Spatial Development Strategy is unlikely to be completed on a reasonable timescale, and that its absence should not curtail Bristol's efforts to bring a new Local Plan into effect.**

Council resolves:

- 1. To express its full support for the proposal agreed by councillors and officers on the Local Plan Working Group to produce an evidence-led housing target for Bristol's Local Plan that is based on housing need figures for the West of England to be derived by expert consultants.**
- 2. To continue, in the absence of a Spatial Development Strategy, to work collaboratively with our immediate neighbours in North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and B&NES, in order to establish mutually agreed principles for development that recognises the close relationship between all four authorities and the need for cross boundary co-operation to protect biodiversity, address flood risk, and tackle the climate and ecological emergencies as well as addressing locally assessed housing need.**
- 3. To request the Mayor and Party Group Leaders, on behalf of Full Council, to write to central government requesting that they revoke the 35% uplift target as being incompatible with the principles of a locally developed plan designed to meet the needs of Bristol and its residents and approved by its elected representatives.**
- 4. To confirm its support for the 'Project 1000' principles of delivering 1,000 affordable homes per year and that at least 70% of these homes should be for long term affordable rent, and especially social rent, to help address the identified need for truly affordable homes for rent as evidenced by the number of families on the housing waiting list.**



Meeting ended at 9.15 pm

CHAIR _____





Full Council

13 December 2022

Report of: Committee Model Working Group

Title: Committee Model Working Group – Update

Ward: Citywide

Member Presenting Report: Councillor Helen Holland
Chair of the Committee Model Working Group

Recommendation

That Full Council

1. notes the update from the Committee Model Working Group regarding the work to develop the arrangements for the Committee model of governance.

Summary

This report provides Full Council with an update on the work that has been undertaken by the Committee Model Working Group to develop the arrangements for the Committee Model of governance.



Policy

1. At an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 24 May 2022, Full Council noted the outcome of the governance referendum held on 5 May 2022 which will see a change in the way that the Council is run from the current Directly Elected Mayor Model of governance to a Committee Model of governance. At the meeting on 24 May 2022, Full Council agreed to establish a Working Group to develop the Committee Model of governance.

Consultation

2. Internal

This report has been prepared with input from the Committee Model Working Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

3. External

Public engagement has taken place details of which are reflected in this report.

Background

4. At the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 24 May 2022, Full Council noted the outcome of the referendum on how Bristol City Council is run and resolved to cease to operate a Directly Elected Mayor Model of governance and start to operate a Committee Model of governance with effect from 5 May 2024. Full Council also resolved to establish a cross-party Working Group to develop the Committee Model of governance, which would report back to Full Council before the end of 2022.
5. The Working Group was asked to report back to Full Council in December 2022 with details relating to the design principles for the structure of the Committee Model.
6. This report sets out the emerging thinking of the Working Group in terms of the design principles for the Committee Model.
7. Further details relating to the work of the Working Group were reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 27 October 2022.

Emerging design principles for the Committee Model

8. As a result of the fact-finding and evidence gathering over the last few months, the Working Group has identified the following themes that will form the basis for further discussions about the design principles for the Committee Model.
 - Leadership, functions, roles and structure of Committees
 - Potential role of scrutiny
 - Officer support and structure
 - Briefings and agenda setting procedures
 - Public engagement under the Committee Model
 - Equality, Diversity and Accessibility
 - Local decision making (e.g. Area Committees)

- Delegations to officers
- Working under the Committee Model in a Council with ‘no overall control’
- Engagement with external partners
- New governance arrangements to be kept under review

Further detail about each of these emerging principles is set out in the following paragraphs.

Leadership, functions, roles and structure of Committees

9. The structure and number of Committees for the Committee Model of governance has been a key part of the fact finding and evidence gathering by the Working Group and Members have reviewed examples from several other Councils. However, it is recognised that Bristol City Council will need to design its own structure. Consideration has been given to structures that mirror the current Cabinet Member portfolios, the themes in the Corporate Strategy and the Directorates within the Council but the recommended option is yet to be agreed.
10. The role and responsibility of a chair of a Committee under the Committee Model has been explored by the Working Group, in particular through the discussions with other Councils. Further work is required to fully scope out the roles and responsibilities of Chairs of Committees and this will inform the work of the Independent Remuneration Panel which will make recommendations to the Council in due course about the appropriate levels of remuneration for all basic and special responsibility allowances under the Committee Model.

Potential role of scrutiny

11. The role of scrutiny under the Committee Model has been explored by the Working Group, including via an evidence session with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, and it is clear that there are a number of different options available. It is acknowledged that there are certain scrutiny functions (e.g., health scrutiny) which will need to be explicitly built into the new governance arrangements. However, whether the new Model will include a wider scrutiny role, similar to the current form, will need to be the subject of further consideration by the Working Group.

Officer support and structure

12. The support that is provided to political groups by officers in the Council will need to be reviewed as part of the change in governance arrangements.

Briefings and agenda setting procedures

13. The work that is done to support Members outside of formal Committee meetings in terms of informal briefings and agenda setting is an important function under any model of governance. Briefings for Councillors are likely to be carried out by a wider range of officers at different levels of seniority. Ensuring that all officers in the Council are familiar with the new governance arrangements and their responsibilities within those arrangements will be essential. Further work will be required to scope out these arrangements once the detail of the structure of

Committees and the roles and responsibilities of Chairs of Committees are known.

Public engagement under the Committee Model

14. A key consideration for the Working Group has been how to build on the current arrangements that the Council has in place for public participation in meetings. The Working Group has developed a strategy for public engagement as the new arrangements are developed and the first events took place in mid-November. A webpage and dedicated email address for the Committee Model Working Group have also been established. Further public engagement is planned for 2023 and this will include holding public meetings which will give the public the opportunity to engage directly with the Working Group as it develops the detail of the new arrangements.

Equality, diversity and accessibility

15. The Working Group has emphasised the need for equality and diversity as a design principle and the aspiration is that the new arrangements will be designed in such a way that will attract a diverse range of candidates to stand as Councillors. Improving equality of access to the Council's democratic processes will remain a key objective.

Local decision-making (e.g., Area Committees)

16. The Working Group are interested in how local-decision making will be structured under the Committee Model, building on the arrangements that are currently in place for Area Committees. The Working Group will also explore options for local ward level decision-making.

Delegations to officers

17. The Council needs to have arrangements in place to ensure the effective day-to-day management of the Council and this is achieved through delegations to officers. The Working Group generally accepts that the current levels of delegation are appropriate. However, further consideration is needed to ensure political oversight of delegations to officers and also to ensure that robust arrangements are in place for emergency decision-making.

Working under the Committee Model in a Council with 'no overall control'

18. The Working Group has seen how other Councils have put in place arrangements where there is a situation of no overall control, i.e., there is no party with a majority on the Council. Given the current political balance of the Council, the Working Group will need to reflect further on how the Council will function if it is in a situation of no overall control following the May 2024 elections.

Engagement with external partners

19. The Working Group recognises that the Council needs to maintain effective structures to engage with external partners within the City and beyond. Further work will be carried out during 2023 to consider what arrangements will be required under the Committee Model and how relationships with external partners will be maintained.

New governance arrangements to be kept under review

- 20.** Advice from other Councils as well as the LGA and Centre for Governance and Scrutiny is that a review of the new governance arrangements should be built in within 6-12 months of the start of the new arrangements. This provides an opportunity to see how well the new arrangements have embedded and whether any changes are required.

Next steps

- 21.** The next phase of work for the Working Group will be to build on the design principles and work on the detail of the new governance arrangements. During the next phase of work, details relating to a number of matters referenced in this report will be developed in more detail, including the structure of Committees, roles and responsibilities, terms of reference of Committees, delegations to officers and emergency decision-making.
- 22.** Work will also need to focus on the practical and resourcing arrangements that need to be put in place to support the Committee Model, for example staff support and revenue funding to resource the new arrangements. Further advice and support from other Councils that operate the Committee Model, the LGA, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and the Independent Remuneration Panel will also be required.
- 23.** It is also proposed that in this next phase of work the Working Group holds public meetings as it develops the detail of the arrangements for the Committee Model. It is anticipated that public meetings will take place on a monthly basis. Engagement with Scrutiny/Audit may also be required and an update to Full Council will be provided in the summer of 2023.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As set out in the report.

Financial

(a) Revenue

Not applicable

(b) Capital

Not applicable

Land

Not applicable

Personnel

Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A – Extract draft minute from a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 27th October 22.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

APPENDIX A**Extract draft minute from a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 27th October 22.****1. Bristol City Council governance arrangements update: Committee Model Working Group.**

Councillors Holland and Bartle presented the report on the progress of the Committee Model Working Group in developing proposals for a Committee model of governance for Bristol City Council. Terms of Reference for the Group were provided.

The emphasis on partnership working as outlined in the previous item on the One City approach was welcomed.

Thanks were given to those who had participated in the Working Group as well as those who attended the Member Briefing held on 12th October 2022.

Work undertaken included learning sessions with the Local Government Association, and a session with the outgoing Chief Executive (Mike Jackson). These sessions had proved useful.

Members were invited to discuss the report. The Chair noted that proposals for Scrutiny mechanisms would be of particular interest. Councillor Holland emphasised that the Working Group had not yet agreed on specific proposals as the work undertaken had focused on learning lessons and information gathering. The next planned meeting of the Working Group intended to look at decision principles more closely. Call-in was noted as a mechanism that would need careful consideration under a Committee model.

The Working Group had met with Sheffield Council to advise on a move to a Committee Model which had proved very useful. However, key differences between the two authorities were noted. This included that Sheffield had invested significant sums in making the transition and in Bristol the starting position was that the new model must be 'cost neutral.' Sheffield was also able to trial a new system before implementation but in Bristol the options for this were far more limited due to the legal parameters relating to the Mayoral model.

The decision not to make the minutes of the Working Group public was queried. Representatives of the Working Group confirmed they had considered and voted on this matter at their first meeting and agreed not to publish the minutes in order to allow for wide ranging discussions. While this was considered appropriate for the early stages, the Group was amenable to reconsidering this as work moved forward.

A Member queried whether the Communications Strategy for public engagement would be sufficiently supported and was advised that whilst officer time needed to be met from existing resources, plans were progressing well. The Board noted that a range of activities were underway,

including some 'focus group' style community events in November. A webpage and email address for the Committee Model Working had also been established.

The Working Group representatives were thanked for the report.

Resolved; That the OSMB noted the progress of the Committee Model Working Group.



Full Council

13th December 2022

Report of: Chair of Audit Committee

Title: Audit Committee Half Year Report to Full Council

Ward: N/A

Member Presenting Report: Councillor Andrew Brown – Chair of Audit Committee

Recommendation

The Council accepts the report of the Audit Committee and notes the key areas the Committee is monitoring to support improvements required in internal control, risk management and governance.

Summary

The report provides early insight to the work of the Audit Committee during 2022/23 to date and highlights key areas identified from their work.

The significant issues in the report are:

- The work of the Committee to date is included in the report at Appendix A
- Key issues being monitored by Audit Committee are included at section 2 of the report at Appendix A.



Policy

1. The Audit Committee's terms of reference are determined by Full Council. The City Council has a duty to ensure adequate and effective risk management, internal control and governance arrangements and the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its activities. The Audit Committee has a key role in assessing the extent to which this responsibility is being met and advising the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Consultation

2. **Internal**
Audit Committee Members including independent members
Internal Audit
3. **External**
None

Context

4. The Committee is the primary means by which Full Council obtains assurance that governance, risk management and control systems are in place and effective. The Committee has previously provided an Annual Report to Full Council however in reviewing their effectiveness the Committee have determined that more timely half yearly updates are also provided.

Proposal

5. The Council accepts the report of the Audit Committee and notes the key areas identified in section two of the attached report. The Committee will continue to monitor to support improvement in these areas.

Other Options Considered

6. *N/A*

Risk Assessment

7. The work of the Audit Committee mitigates against any failure by the Council to obtain independent assurance in relation to the governance processes underpinning:
 - an effective risk management framework and internal control environment
 - the effectiveness of financial and non-financial performance (to the extent it affects exposure to risk and poor internal control)
 - the Annual Governance Statement, and
 - the review and approval of the annual statement of accounts.

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

No equalities impact is relevant to this report

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – N/A

Financial – N/A

Land – N/A

Personnel – N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A - Audit Committee Half Year Report to Full Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Audit Committee Papers 2022/23



BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

**Half Year Update to Full Council
2022-23**

1. Introduction and Context:

- 1.1 The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It is the primary means by which Full Council obtains assurance that governance, risk management and control systems are in place and effective. The Audit Committee's responsibilities are additional and supportive to those of the Section 151 Officer.
- 1.2 The Value and Ethics Committee is a sub-committee of the Audit Committee set up to deal with matters relating to the ethical framework affecting Members of the council, their behaviour and compliance with the Member Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 This report provides details of the Committee's and sub-committee's work this year to date and provides early highlights to Full Council of key issues that require monitoring by or support from the Committee to engender improvements to the internal control, governance and risk management arrangements across the Council.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Details of the reports considered to date by the Committee are provided in Appendix 1. Key messages to bring to Full Council's attention from this work to date are included below:

Control Environment:

- 2.2 The Chief Internal Auditor has reported 'Reasonable Assurance' that in 2021/22 the Council's systems of internal control, governance and risk management were adequate and operating effectively. In noting this opinion, the Chief Internal Auditor acknowledged that the lasting impact of covid and other global and national events such as the Russia-Ukraine War and Brexit have created significant risk for the Council. Prioritising governance, internal control and risk management improvements to support delivery of the council's ambitions will be important to maintain this opinion. It was further noted that as an ambitious organisation, the Council inevitably has many priorities and transformation initiatives, but a robust prioritisation process is imperative so that the organisation only focuses on priorities that have sufficient resources to support them. A number of areas noted below were identified as requiring improvement by the Chief Internal Auditor. A core part of the Committee's work will include monitoring improvements in these areas:
 - Information Technology including IT Resilience
 - Compliance with Procurement Rules
 - Risk Management
 - Housing Management systems and processes
 - Management of Conflicts of Interest
 - Adult Social Care Direct Payments
 - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
 - Delivery of financial savings
- 2.3 Where the Chief Internal Auditor provides limited or no assurance in areas, the Committee receives updates from management about actions to improve control arrangements. These are monitored by the Committee. The Chief Internal Auditor advises that satisfactory progress is being made in the implementation of improvement actions resulting from these reviews. It is important to ensure priority continues to be given to improvements identified.

Governance:

- 2.4 The Committee contributed to the review of the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement to ensure it was reflective of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control arrangements and identifies actions to improve where appropriate. The statement concluded that governance arrangements are generally working as expected. However, three significant governance issues were identified in the statement and progress against these arrangements will again be monitored by the Committee. In summary the issues are:
- **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).** The in-year forecast deficit on the DSG is significant which when added to the brought forward balance means that the DSG was carrying a year end deficit of £24.6m. The main financial challenge continues to be the High Needs block, resulting from increases in EHCP assessments and need.
 - **Procurement Breaches.** The number of breaches of the Council's procurement rules during 2021/22 significantly increased from 2020/21. The 20/21 Value for Money report by the Council's external auditors has recommended urgent action be taken to address the high level of breaches. When the procurement rules are breached, there is an increased risk that the Council enters into a contract which is not Best Value and/or is not the best way of achieving organisational objectives. Breaches also reduce transparency and fairness of decision making, which can increase the risk of fraud, conflicts of interest and reputational damage.
 - **Savings.** The Council continues to face challenges in delivering required savings. Out of the £11.7m of savings planned for delivery within the 2021/22 budget only 46% was achieved on a recurrent basis. If these savings continue to be unachievable in the future the Council will need to identify other ways of delivering these savings which could result in significant impact on service delivery.
- 2.5 In addition, the Committee has reviewed the Annual Report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for 2021/22. No public reports had been made but the report detailed a number of cases which were upheld by the Ombudsman. In line with requirements, this report was referred to Full Council.
- 2.6 Regular reports from Internal Audit's Counter-Fraud Team demonstrate that fraud risks are understood and mitigated by a programme of fraud prevention activities. Where fraud occurs, it is investigated with appropriate action taken against offenders. The team prioritise whistleblowing referrals and improving arrangements to encourage people to report concerns.

Risk Management:

- 2.7 The Committee continues to monitor the development and maturity of the Council's risk management arrangements and has been provided with a detailed briefing in respect of the following risk related areas:
- Risk management processes and reporting procedures operated by the Council
 - ICT and Cyber related risks and how these are being managed. This is an area that the Committee is keen to monitor through the year and further reports are scheduled to be received by the Committee.
 - Procurement compliance risks which again, will be monitored by the Committee to ensure improvement is achieved.
- 2.8 In addition to having oversight of the Quarterly Risk Report in line with existing practice, officers are facilitating more detailed examination of particular risks chosen by committee

members in advance of each meeting

Value for Money:

- 2.9 The Committee received an Interim Report from the External Auditors on their Annual Report on the Council. Their work did not conclude there to be any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources in respect of 2020/21, but a number of improvement recommendations were made. Many of those are in areas included within this report. The Committee will monitor actions taken in response to their recommended improvements.

3. Audit Committee Effectiveness

- 3.1 The Committee annually undertakes a review of its effectiveness. Details of the most recent review and the actions resulting were included in our Annual Report to Full Council. In addition, the Committee is working to review further training needs of its members.
- 3.2 The Audit Committee would like to extend its continued thanks and appreciation to all the officers who have contributed reports and responded to questions from committee members. Audit Committee obviously has a vital role to play and this is greatly enhanced by a high standard of input from all those who contribute.

Appendix 1:

Reports Considered by Audit Committee During 2022/23 to date:

Audit Committee	
Meeting Date	Papers Considered
27 th June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Auditors Interim Annual Report on Bristol City Council 2020/21. Internal Audit Annual Report 2021/22 Fraud Annual Report 2021/22 Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Corporate Risk Report Update
26 th July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Financial Statements 2021/22 Estimated External Audit Fees 2020/21 Bristol Holding Limited Audit & Risk Committee Annual Assurance Report 2021/22. Q1 - Strategic Risk Report Internal Audit Exception Reporting including Management Action Tracking Terms of Reference for the External Review of Bristol City Council Internal Audit Service
26 th September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Audit Plan 2021/22 - Draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22 Risk Management Annual Report 2021/22 Annual Report of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 2021/22 Internal Audit Activity Report Audit Committee Annual Report to Full Council Q2 Corporate risk report
Values and Ethics (Sub) Committee	
27 th June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members Development Update Report Summary of Complaints Against Councillors (March 2021 – May 2022)



Full Council

13th December 2022

Report of: Service Director: Finance

Title: Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22

Ward: City Wide

Member Presenting Report: Deputy Mayor – Finance, Governance and Performance

Recommendation

Full Council note the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix A.

Summary

The Council is required to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual treasury indicators in accordance with Local Government regulations.

The significant issues in the report are:

- The Council has complied with treasury management legislative and regulatory requirements during the period and all transactions were in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.
- The 2021–2026 Treasury Strategy identified a medium term borrowing requirement of £260m to support the existing and future Capital Programme. The Council’s agreed policy is to defer borrowing while it has significant levels of cash balances (£237m at March 2022), noting if the financial environment changes and borrowing was deemed advantageous the Council may borrow over appropriate maturity periods.
- The Council’s long term debt at 31 March 2022 was £451m with an average annual interest rate of 4.48%. Investments were £237m at the 31 March 2022 with an average annual interest rate of 0.13%.



1. Policy

There are no policy implications as a direct result of this report.

Consultation

2. Internal

Audit Committee, Executive & Service Directors, and Deputy Mayor – Finance, Governance & Performance.

3. External

Link Asset Services – the Council’s external treasury management advisors

4. Context

The Council’s treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also requires reports to full Council mid-year and after the year end. The 2021/22 outturn report is set out as Appendix A.

The Code also requires the Council to nominate one of its Committees to have responsibility for scrutiny of its treasury management strategy, policy and activity. Council has delegated that responsibility to the Audit Committee. Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council. No treasury management activity is without risk; the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council’s treasury management objectives.

Treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”.

5. Proposal

Council note the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix A.

6. Other Options Considered

Not applicable

7. Risk Assessment

The principal risks associated with treasury management are:

Risk	Mitigation
Loss of investments as a result of failure of counterparties	Limiting the types of investment instruments used, setting strict lending criteria and only lending to high quality counterparties, and limiting the extent of exposure to individual counterparties
Increase in the net financing costs of the authority due to borrowing at high rates of interest / lending at low rates of interest	Planning and undertaking borrowing and lending in light of assessments of future interest rate movements, and by undertaking most long term borrowing at fixed rates of interest (to reduce the volatility of capital financing costs)

8. Public Sector Equality Duties

None necessary for this report

9. Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

The Council is under a duty to manage its resources prudently and therefore due consideration must always be given to its borrowing and lending strategy. A wide range of local authority financial activities, including borrowing, lending, financial management, and the approval of types of investment vehicle are governed by legislation and various regulations. The Council is obliged to comply with these.

(Legal advice provided by Tim O’Gara - Service Director: Legal and Democratic Services)

Financial

(a) Revenues

The financing costs arising from planned borrowing are provided for in the revenue budget and medium term financial plan. Any additional operating costs arising

from capital investment must be contained within the revenue budget of the relevant department.

(b) Capital

Not Applicable

(Financial advice provided by Jon Clayton – Capital and Investments Manager)

Land

Not applicable

Personnel

Not Applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A – Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22

Purpose of the report:

1. Under the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) the Section 151 Officer is required to produce an outturn report on activities in the year to account for how the Strategy, set at the start of the year has been implemented. This report meets the requirements of both the Code and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

Background

2. The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also requires reports to full Council mid-year and after the year end.
3. The Code also requires the Council to nominate one of its Committees to have responsibility for scrutiny of its treasury management strategy, policy and activity. Council has delegated this responsibility to the Audit Committee. Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council. No treasury management activity is without risk; the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council's treasury management objectives.
4. Treasury management is defined as:

"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
5. The Council's investment priorities will be security first, portfolio liquidity second and then yield, (return).

The Economy and Interest Rates for 2021/22

6. *The Bank of England use interest rates to manage inflation and this has a subsequent effect on the economy and the rates at which the Council can borrow and invest at.*
7. **UK. Economy.** Over the last two years, the coronavirus outbreak has done significant economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left Bank Rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings until raising it to 0.25% at its meeting on 16th December 2021, 0.50% at its meeting of 4th February 2022 and then to 0.75% in March 2022.

The UK economy experienced several false dawns through 2021/22, but with most of the

economy now opened up and nearly back to business-as-usual, the GDP numbers have been robust (9% y/y Q1 2022) and sufficient for the MPC to focus on tackling the second-round effects of inflation, now that the CPI measure has already risen to 6.2% (as at March 22) and is significantly exceeding this in the summer of 2022.. *(Note further information on the recent changes to inflation in 22/23 will be reported in the Treasury Management mid-year report and finance monitoring reports).*

Gilt yields fell towards the end of 2021, but despite the war in Ukraine gilt yields have increased in early 2022. At 1.38%, 2-year yields remain close to their recent 11-year high and 10-year yields of 1.65% are close to their recent six-year high. These rises have been part of a global trend as central banks have suggested they will continue to raise interest rates to contain inflation.

USA. There were a number of “hawkish” comments from Federal Reserve officials in March 2022 as part of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting that had markets pricing in a further 225bps of interest rate increases in 2022 on top of the initial move to an interest rate range of 0.25% - 0.5%.

The upward pressure on inflation from higher oil prices and potential knock-on impacts on supply chains all indicate for tighter policy (CPI was estimated at 7.8% across Q1), but the impact to real disposable incomes and the possibility of a recession points to the opposite.

EU. With euro-zone inflation having jumped to 7.5% in March it indicates that the European Central Bank will accelerate its plans to tighten monetary policy. It is likely to end net asset purchases and the market is now anticipating possibly three 25bp interest rate hikes in the calendar year followed by more in 2023.

While inflation has hit the headlines recently, the risk of recession has also been rising. Among the bigger countries, Germany is most likely to experience a “technical” recession because its GDP contracted in Q4 2021, and its performance has been subdued in Q1 2022. However, overall, Q1 2022 growth for the Eurozone was expected to be 0.3% q/q with the y/y figure posting a healthy 5.2% gain.

China. After the effort to restrict the virus outbreak in Q1 of 2020, economic recovery was strong in the rest of the year; however, 2021 has seen the economy negatively impacted by further outbreaks of Covid-19 in large cities with official GDP numbers c4% y/y.

World growth. World growth is estimated to have expanded 8.9% in 2021/22 following a contraction of 6.6% in 2020/21.

Deglobalisation. Until recent years, world growth has been boosted by increasing globalisation i.e. countries specialising in producing goods and commodities in which they have an economic advantage and which they then trade with the rest of the world. This has boosted worldwide productivity and growth, and, by lowering costs, has also depressed inflation. However, the rise of China as an economic superpower over the last 30 years, which now accounts for 18% of total world GDP (the USA accounts for 24%), and Russia’s recent invasion of Ukraine, has unbalanced the world economy. In addition, after the pandemic exposed how frail extended

supply lines were around the world, both factors are now likely to lead to a sharp retrenchment of economies and an increase in inflation.

It is, therefore, likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a reversal of world globalisation and will likely lead to a reduction of world growth rates.

Central banks’ monetary policy. During the pandemic, the governments of western countries have provided significant fiscal support to their economies which has resulted in a big increase in total government debt in each country. It is therefore important that bond yields stay low while debt to GDP ratios slowly reduce under the impact of economic growth. This provides governments with a good reason to amend the mandates given to central banks to allow higher average levels of inflation than we have generally seen over the last couple of decades. Both the Federal Reserve and Bank of England have already changed their policy towards implementing their existing mandates on inflation, (and full employment), to hitting an average level of inflation. Greater emphasis could also be placed on hitting subsidiary targets e.g. full employment before raising rates. Higher average rates of inflation would also help to erode the real value of government debt more

Treasury position as at 31 March 2022:

8. The table below indicates the balance of borrowing and investments at the beginning and end of the year and average borrowing cost and investment returns for each period:

	31 March 2021		31 March 2022	
	£m	Average Rate %	£m	Average Rate %
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) - PWLB ¹	331	4.63	331	4.63
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) – LOBOS ²	70	4.09	70	4.09
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) – Market	50	4.04	50	4.04
Short Term Borrowing	-	-	-	-
Total borrowing	451	4.48	451	4.48
Investments	207	0.30	237	0.13
Net Borrowing Position	244		214	

¹Public Works Loan Board

²Lender option Borrower option (LOBO)

9. The total borrowing excludes accrued interest of £5m (£5m at 31/3/21) and the outstanding finance on PFI and service contracts of £125m at 31 March 2021 (£133m at 31/3/21).

10. In addition to the Treasury investments above (£237m), the authority also has

- long term service investments costing £13m primarily relating to the holdings in Bristol Port Company (£3m) and a property fund to support Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation (£10m), and
- long term service loans costing £28m, primarily relating to loans to wholly owned subsidiaries £24m and external organisations (£4m).
- These investments and loans support the delivery of council functions, provide service benefits and have a positive social impact.

11. The Net debt has decreased by £30m from £244m to £214m primarily due to;

- Funding of the capital programme financed by Prudential borrowing +£43m as set out in Appendix 1 para 3.
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) – (£7m)
- Net change in Reserves and provisions +£16m
- Other changes to working capital and balances (£82m)

Long Term Borrowing – Strategy and outturn

12. The 2021–2026 Treasury Strategy (approved 23rd February 2021) identified a net medium term borrowing requirement of £260m to support the existing and future Capital Programme with the debt servicing costs predominately met from revenue savings from capital investment and the economic development fund. The £260m was planned to be borrowed in the following periods, 21/22, £100m, 22/23 - £75m, 23/24 - £30m, 24/25 - £35m and 25/26 - £20m.
13. The Council’s Strategy is also to defer borrowing while it has significant levels of liquid treasury investments, £237m at March 2022 (£207m at March 2021). However, the Strategy also considers where the financial environment changes and borrowing is deemed advantageous the Council will seek to borrow over appropriate maturity periods. Deferring borrowing reduces the “net” revenue interest cost of the Authority as well as reducing the Councils exposure to counter party risk for its investments. The Council recognises that utilising investments in lieu of borrowing clearly has a finite duration and that future borrowing will be required to support capital expenditure (see 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy approved by Council 23rd February 2021).

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s57091/Appendix%204%20-%20Treasury%20Management%20Strategy%20202122.pdf>

14. Borrowing activity in year was in accordance with the Strategy approved at the beginning of the year:
- **Borrowing** – No borrowing was undertaken during the year as the authority maintained higher levels of investments, on average circa £240m, that was higher than anticipated for a variety of reasons including the advance receipt of grants, and the time taken to progress capital schemes where the source of financing was external borrowing.
 - **Rescheduling** – No debt rescheduling activity was undertaken in 2021/22. As set out in the Treasury Mid-Year report the total life cycle cost of rescheduling loans on a discounted cash-flow basis has been reviewed with no loans providing a positive cash-flow benefit to the authority. This would in part be due to the large early repayment penalties that the authority would incur, circa £213m penalty to repay the £331m of PWLB loans early as at 31st March 2022 (the penalty at 31/03/21 was £270m).

Annual Investment Strategy and Outturn

15. Investment returns remained low during 2021/22 due to the low interest rate environment that persisted throughout the year. Most local authority lending managed to avoid negative rates and one feature of the year was the continued growth of inter local authority lending. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was that Bank Rate would remain at 0.1% until it was clear to the Bank of England that the

emergency level of rates introduced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer necessary

The Bank of England and the Government also maintained various monetary and fiscal measures, supplying the banking system and the economy with large amounts of “cheap” credit so that banks could help “cash-starved” businesses to survive the various lockdowns and the associated negative impacts on their cashflow. The Government also supplied large amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand to borrow, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates remained low until towards the turn of the year when inflation concerns indicated central banks, not just the Bank of England, would need to lift interest rates to combat the second-round effects of growing levels of inflation (CPI was 7% in March 2022).

While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2008-09. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.

Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

16. Security of capital remained the Council’s main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council’s policy for assessing institutions to which the council might lend. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).
17. Treasury Investments held by the Council - the Council maintained an average balance of £240m (£194m 2020/21) of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds received an average return of 0.13% (0.30% 2020/21). The comparable performance indicator is the Sterling Overnight Index average (SONIA) 7-day LIBID rate, which was 0.14% so approximately in line with benchmark

Compliance with Treasury Limits and Treasury Related Prudential Indicators

18. The Council can confirm that:

- All treasury related transactions were undertaken by authorised officers and within the limits and parameters approved by the Council;

- All investments were to counterparties on the approved lending list
- The Council operated within the Prudential Indicators within Appendix 1.

Performance Indicators set for 2021/22

19. One of the key requirements in the Code is the formal introduction of performance measurement relating to investments, debt, and capital financing activities. Whilst investment performance criteria have been well developed and universally accepted, debt performance indicators continue to be a more problematic area with the traditional average portfolio rate of interest acting as the main guide. The Council's performance indicators were set out in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy.
20. The following performance indicators have been set:
- Debt / Borrowing – Average rate of borrowing for the year compared to the average available.
No borrowing undertaken during the year
 - Investments – Internal returns above the 7 day LIBID rate
Average rate for the year 0.13% vs. annual average 7 day LIBID of negative 0.04%
(The Bank of England now recommend the use of the SONIA rate mentioned above). This rate was positive 0.14%)

Consultation and scrutiny input

21. The report has been discussed with the Council's external treasury management advisers and internally with Strategic & Service Directors, and Deputy Mayor – Finance, Governance & Performance.

Risk Assessment

22. The principal risks associated with treasury management are:

Risk	Mitigation
Loss of investments as a result of failure of counterparties	Limiting the types of investment instruments used, setting strict lending criteria and only lending to high quality counterparties, and limiting the extent of exposure to individual counterparties
Increase in the net financing costs of the authority due to borrowing at high rates of interest / lending at low rates of interest	Planning and undertaking borrowing and lending in light of assessments of future interest rate movements, and by undertaking most long term borrowing at fixed rates of interest (to reduce the volatility of capital financing costs)

Public sector equality duties:

23. There are no proposals in this report, which require either a statement as to the relevance of public sector equality duties or an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Environmental checklist / eco impact assessment

24. There are no proposals in this report which have environmental impacts

Legal and Resource Implications

25. Legal- the Council is under a duty to manage its resources prudently and therefore due consideration must always be given to its borrowing and lending strategy. A wide range of local authority financial activities, including borrowing, lending, financial management, and the approval of types of investment vehicle are governed by legislation and various regulations. The Council is obliged to comply with these.

Advice provided by Tim O’Gara (Service Director: Legal and Democratic Services)

Financial

(a) Revenue

26. The financing costs arising from planned borrowing are provided for in the revenue budget and medium term financial plan.

Advice given by Jon Clayton (Capital and Investment Manager)

(b) Capital

27. There is no direct capital investment implications contained within this report.

Land

28. There are no direct implications for this report.

Personnel

29. There are no direct implications for this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22

Background Papers:

30. Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s57091/Appendix%204%20-%20Treasury%20Management%20Strategy%20202122.pdf>

**Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service 2021/22 (Incorporating
Outturn Prudential Indicators)**

Introduction

1. This report summarises:
 - The capital activity during the year
 - What resources the Council applied to pay for this activity;
 - The impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement);
 - The reporting of the required prudential indicators;
 - Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
 - A summary of interest rate movements in the year;
 - The detailed debt activity;
 - The detailed investment activity;
 - Local Issues

The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2021/22

2. The Council undertakes capital expenditure to invest in the acquisition and enhancement of long-term assets. These activities may either be:
 - Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
 - If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

3. The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

	2020/21 Actual £m	2021/22 Original Budget £m	2021/22 P9 - Final Budget £m	2021/22 Actual £m
Non-HRA capital expenditure	127* ¹	210	151	119* ¹
HRA capital expenditure	39	111	53	39
Total capital expenditure	166	321	204	158
Resourced by:				
Capital receipts	35	86		17
Capital grants	74	106		65
HRA Self Financing	22	40		29
Prudential borrowing	30	77		43
Revenue	4	12		3
Service Concession Contract – Waste Vehicles* ¹	1	-		1
Total Resources	166	321		158

*1 – Technical accounting adjustment required for Waste Service Concession Contract in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

4. The Council's underlying need to borrow is called the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's debt position. It represents 2021/22 and prior years' net capital expenditure that has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
5. Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address this borrowing need, either through borrowing from external bodies, or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
6. Reducing the CFR – Whilst under treasury management arrangements actual debt can be borrowed or repaid at any time within the confines of the annual treasury strategy, the Council is required to make an annual revenue charge to reduce the CFR – effectively a repayment of the Non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing need. There is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR.
7. This statutory revenue charge is called the Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP. The total CFR can also be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

8. The Council's 2021/22 MRP Policy (as required by CLG Guidance) was approved on the 25th February 2021.

9. The Council's CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator. Accounting rule changes in previous years has meant that PFI schemes are now included on the balance sheet, which increases the Council's borrowing need, the CFR. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

CFR	General Fund 31 March 2021 Actual £m	General Fund 31 March 2022 Actual £m	HRA 31 March 2021 Actual £m	HRA 31 March 2022 Actual £m	Total CFR 31 March 2022 Actual £m
Opening balance	625	641	245	245	886
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	30	43	-	-	43
Less MRP/VRP	(5)	(5)	-	-	(5)
Less application of Capital Resources	(1)	(2)			(2)
PFI, Service Concession and finance lease adjustments	(8)	(8)	-	-	(8)
Closing balance	641	669	245	245	914

Treasury Position at 31 March 2022

10. Whilst the Council's gauge of its underlying need to borrow is the CFR, Finance can manage the Council's actual borrowing position by either:

- Borrowing to the CFR; or
- Choosing to utilise some temporary internal cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing or
- Borrowing for future increases in the CFR (borrowing in advance of need).

11. The figures in this report are based on the principal amounts borrowed and invested and so may differ from those in the final accounts by items such as accrued interest.

	31 March 2021		31 March 2022	
	Principal £m	Average Rate % ²	Principal £m	Average Rate % ²
Fixed Interest Rate Debt	331	4.63	331	4.63
Variable Interest Rate Debt	-	-	-	-
Market Debt – LOBO ¹	70	4.09	70	4.09
Market Debt	50	4.04	50	4.04
PFI / Service Contracts	133	-	125	-
Total Debt	584	4.48	576	4.48
Debt administered of behalf of Unitary Authorities (Ex Avon Debt)	(39)	-	(38)	-
Revised Debt	545	4.48	538	4.48
Capital Financing Requirement	886		914	
Over/(Under) borrowing	(341)		(376)	
Investment position				
Investments (Fixed & Call)	207	0.30	237	0.13
Net borrowing position (excl leasing arrangements)	244	-	214	-

1 Lender option Borrower option (LOBO) , 2 reflect the average rate for the year taking account of new loans and repayments.

12. The fixed Interest rate debt is apportioned between the General Fund and HRA as set out in the table below.

Fixed Interest Rate Debt	31 March 2021		31 March 2022	
	Principal £m	Average Rate%	Principal £m	Average Rate%
General Fund	211	4.26	211	4.26
HRA	245	4.68	240	4.68
Total	456	4.48	451	4.48

13. The maturity structure of the debt portfolio (excluding accrued interest) was as follows:

	Approved Min Limit%	Approved Max Limit%	31 March 2021		31 March 2022	
			Actual £m	%	Actual £m	%
Under 12 Months	0	20	-	-	5	1
1 to 2 years	0	20	5	1	-	-
2 to 5 years	0	40	20	4	32	7
5 to 10 years	0	40	34	8	22	5
10 years and over	25	100	392	87	392	87
Total			451	100	451	100

14. The Council hold £70m of LOBOS with maturities averaging 39 years. Inherent within these loan instruments are options (averaging an option every 3.5 years) that could give rise to the debt being repaid early. These loans are regularly reviewed with the current and expected structure of interest rates. The risk of the lenders exercising their options was currently low for the short to medium term based on the interest rates as at the 31st March 2022. Therefore, the maturity of these loans in the above table is based on their maturity date, 10 years and over.

However, with the current rising interest environment it is anticipated that there may be opportunities to refinance these loans over the short to medium term.

15. The Council will continually review these loans in accordance with economic forecasts and will update the maturity structure of the debt portfolio accordingly and assess the future re-financing risks and opportunities exposed to the authority and report any changes within future monitoring reports.

16. The authority's borrowing strategy is to delay borrowing and use its existing resources to support the Capital Programme to reduce its exposure to counterparty risk and the net interest cost of the authority (cost of carry). The authority, as planned, did not undertake further borrowing while the authority maintained higher levels of investments than originally anticipated. This was due to a variety of reasons including the receipt of grants in advance and the time taken to progress capital schemes where the source of financing was external borrowing.

17. If it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in bank rate, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then further borrowing would have been considered. Most likely, further fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be over the short to medium term.

18. Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2021/22 and the two subsequent financial years until the turn of the year, when inflation concerns increased significantly. This change in interest rate forecasts is reflected in the table below (para 24)

Prudential Indicators and Compliance Issues

19. Some of the prudential indicators provide either an overview or specific limits on treasury activity. These are shown below:

20. **Gross Borrowing and the CFR** – In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement over the medium term. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	31 March 2021 Actual £m	31 March 2022 Actual £m
Gross borrowing position	451	451
CFR (excluding PFI)	753	789

21. **The Authorised Limit** - The Authorised Limit is the “Affordable Borrowing Limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once agreed the authorised limit cannot be breached. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2021/22 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its Authorised Limit.
22. **The Operational Boundary** – The Operational Boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the Boundary is acceptable subject to the Authorised Limit not being breached.
23. **Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream** - This indicator identifies the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

	2021/22 £m
Authorised Limit	1,000
Operational Boundary	693
Average gross borrowing position (including PFI)	580
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream:	
General Fund	6.60%
HRA	9.00%

Borrowing Rates in 2021/22

24. Gilt yields fell sharply from the spring of 2021 through to September and then picked back up before falling again through December. However, by the turn of the calendar year markets became focussed inflation, following the opening of economies post the pandemic, and rising commodity and food prices resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

At the close of the day on 31 March 2022, all gilt yields from 1 to 5 years were between 1.11% – 1.45% while the 10-year and 25-year yields were at 1.63% and 1.84%.

The margin over gilt yields for the City Council to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) is the is a gilt plus 80 basis points.

At the end of March rates were forecast to rise in short dated gilt yields and PWLB rates over the next three years as Bank Rate was forecast to rise from 0.75% in March 2022 to 1.25% during the next financial year. Medium and long dated yields were also forecast to rise

modestly over the short to medium term but recognised concerns around the impact from Quantitative Tightening when Bank Rate hits 1% and inflation post the pandemic.

Forecast Interest rates as at 7th February 2022

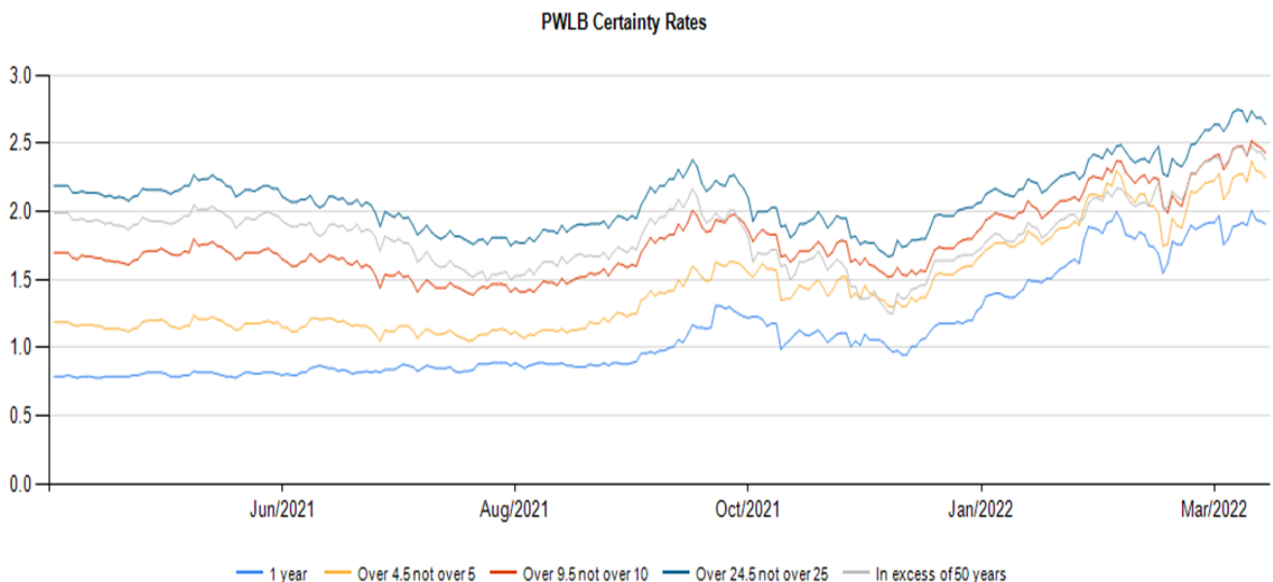
Period	Bank Rate %	PWLB Borrowing Rates % (including certainty rate adjustment)			
		5 year	10 Year	25 year	50 year
Mar 2022	0.75	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.20
Mar 2023	1.25	2.30	2.40	2.60	2.40
Mar 2024	1.25	2.30	2.40	2.60	2.40
Mar 2025	1.25	2.30	2.40	2.60	2.40

The latest forecast indicates that rates will rise faster and higher than originally forecast, as detailed in the table below, with further details to be included in the Treasury Management mid-year report.

Forecast Interest rates as at 15th September 2022

Period	Bank Rate %	PWLB Borrowing Rates % (including certainty rate adjustment)			
		5 year	10 Year	25 year	50 year
Oct 2022	2.25	2.80	3.00	3.40	3.10
Mar 2023	2.75	3.10	3.30	3.50	3.20
Mar 2024	2.50	2.90	3.10	3.40	3.10
Mar 2025	2.25	2.80	2.90	3.20	2.90

The impact on PWLB rates during the financial year ending the 31st March 2022 is highlighted in the graph below.



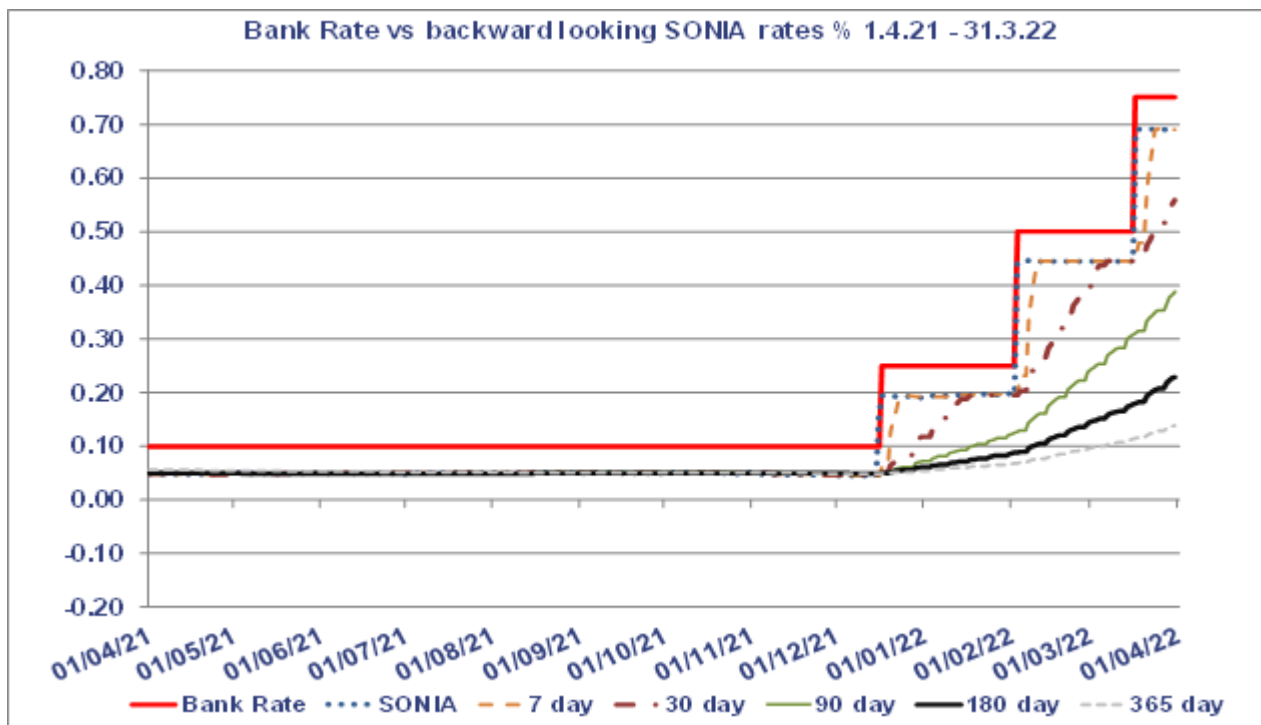
25. **Summary of Debt Transactions** – The authority did not have any loans scheduled to be repaid during year and to avoid increased counterparty risk along with low investment returns no borrowing was undertaken during the year. (So internal borrowing was used utilising the Council’s cash balances)

26. The average rate of interest for the debt portfolio is 4.48%.

Investment Rates in 2021/22

27. Investment returns remained close to zero during 2021/22. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was that Bank Rate would remain at 0.10% and remain at this level until it was clear to the Bank of England that the emergency level of rates introduced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer needed.

The impact on investment rates is highlighted in the graph below.



	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
High	0.75	0.69	0.69	0.56	0.39	0.23	0.14
High Date	17/03/2022	18/03/2022	25/03/2022	31/03/2022	31/03/2022	31/03/2022	31/03/2022
Low	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Low Date	01/04/2021	15/12/2021	16/12/2021	16/12/2021	16/12/2021	07/06/2021	13/12/2021
Average	0.19	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.06
Spread	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.51	0.34	0.18	0.09

28. The Council's investment policy is governed by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 23rd February 2021. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Local Issues

29. **Ethical and Equitable Investment Policy** – A refreshed “Ethical Equitable Investment Policy” was approved by Cabinet on the 18th January 2022. The Council approved their first policy, known as the Ethical Investment Policy on the 15th December 2011 that was subsequently updated in February 2015. It should be noted that there have been no breaches during the year.

Regulatory Framework, Risk and Performance

30. The Council's treasury management activities are regulated by a variety of professional codes and statutes and guidance:

- The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act), which provides the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits on this activity;
- The Act permits the Secretary of State to set limits either on the Council or nationally on all local authorities restricting the amount of borrowing which may be undertaken (although no restrictions have been made);
- Statutory Instrument (SI) 3146 2003, as amended, develops the controls and powers within the Act;
- The SI requires the Council to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- The SI also requires the Council to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services;
- Under the Act the DLUHC has issued Investment Guidance to structure and regulate the Council's investment activities.
- Under section 238(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the Secretary of State has taken powers to issue guidance on accounting practices. Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision was issued under this section on 8th November 2007 and further amendments have been made since, the most recent being February 2018. It should also be noted that this provision is currently being reviewed and consulted upon as referred in previous treasury reports.

31. The Council has complied with all of the above relevant statutory and regulatory requirements which require the Council to identify and, where possible, quantify the levels of risk associated

with its treasury management activities. In particular its adoption and implementation of both the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management means both that its capital expenditure is prudent, affordable and sustainable, and its treasury practices demonstrate a low risk approach.

32. The Council has ensured that the principles of security, liquidity and yield (in that order) have been adhered to within the treasury operation. This implies that the safeguarding of the principal investment with a suitable high quality counterparty remains the Council's highest priority followed by liquidity (i.e. ease of access to the principal amount deposited) and yield (i.e. return) on investment.

Full Council Committee

13th December 2022



Report of: Service Director: Finance

Title: Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2022/23

Ward: City Wide

Member Presenting Report: Deputy Mayor – Finance, Governance and Performance

Recommendation

That the Mid-Year Treasury Management report for 2022/23 is noted.

Summary

This report meets the treasury management regulatory requirement that the Council receive a Mid-Year Treasury review report. It also incorporates the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of the capital expenditure plans.

The significant issues in the report are:

There are no policy changes to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement; the details in this report update the position in light of the updated economic position and budgetary changes. The authority has a net borrowing requirement of £608m over the next five years but is not planning on undertaking any new borrowing during the financial year while the Council hold's adequate treasury investments to meet the liquidity requirements of the Council.

However, the Council will undertake borrowing earlier should market opportunities arise to borrow at fixed rates lower than forecasts to reduce the interest rate risk exposure to the authority due to the significant borrowing needed over the medium term to support the financing of the Council's current capital programme.

Policy

1. There are no policy implications as a direct result of this report. It should be noted that new regulations have been implemented to only allow Council's to borrow to fund capital investment in assets to deliver services and have made clear that authorities are not allowed to borrow to invest in assets primarily for yield. In addition, should the Council have any capital schemes where the intention is to invest in assets primarily for yield, regardless of the source of funding, this would preclude the Council from accessing borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board, the Council's primary source of debt financing.

Consultation

Internal

2. Audit Committee, Strategic & Service Directors.

External

3. The Council's Treasury Management advisers

Purpose / Context of the report:

4. This report meets the treasury management regulatory requirement that the Council receive a mid-year treasury review report. It also incorporates the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of the capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators (PIs).
5. That the mid-year report is structured to highlight:
 - The economic outlook;
 - The actual and proposed treasury management activity (borrowing and investment);
 - The key changes to the Council's capital activity (the prudential indicators {PIs}).

Background

6. Treasury management is defined as:
"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
7. The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Treasury management operations aim to ensure that cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.
8. The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. The management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

Introduction

9. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised in 2021) has been adopted by this Council. The primary requirements of the Code are:

-
- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council’s treasury management activities;
 - Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives;
 - Receipt by the Full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a **Mid-year Review Report** and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year;
 - Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions;
 - Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For Bristol City Council the delegated body is Audit Committee.
10. This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:
- An economic update for the 2022/23 financial year to 30 September 2022;
 - A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
 - A review of the Council’s investment portfolio for 2022/23;
 - A review of the Council’s borrowing strategy for 2022/23;
 - A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken or planned during 2022/23;
 - The Council’s capital expenditure and prudential indicators;
 - A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23.

Key Changes and updates to the Treasury and Capital Strategies

11. There are no policy changes to the TMSS; the details in this report update the position in light of the latest economic position and budgetary changes.

The 2022–2027 Treasury Strategy (approved 15th February 2022) identified a medium term net borrowing requirement of £608m to support the existing and future Capital Programme with the debt servicing costs met from revenue savings from capital investment and the economic development fund. The Council’s agreed policy is to defer borrowing while it has significant levels of treasury cash balances (£196m at September 2022, £120m estimated for March 2023). However, the Council will undertake long term borrowing when rates are deemed advantageous to reduce the Council’s exposure to interest rate risk. No borrowing has been undertaken during the year and it is currently planned that no new borrowing will be undertaken during the remainder of the year while treasury balances remain elevated.

Analysis of Debt and Investments

12. A summary of the of the Council’s debt and Investment position as at 30th September 2022 (including forecast at 31st March 2023) compared with 31st March 2022 is shown in the table below:

Debt & Investments	31 st March 2022		31 st September 2022		31 st March 2023	
	Actual		Actual		Forecast	
	£m	Rate% ^{*b}	£m	Rate% ^{*b}	£m	Rate% ^{*b}
Long Term Debt – PWLB Fixed	331	4.63	331	4.63	331	4.63
Long Term Debt – Market LOBO ^{*a}	70	4.09	70	4.09	70	4.09
Long Term Debt – Market Fixed	50	4.04	50	4.04	50	4.04
Estimated “New” Short Term Borrowing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Debt	451	4.48	451	4.48	451	4.48
Investment	237	0.08	196	1.01	120	1.75
Net Borrowing Position	214	-	255	-	331	

*a Lender option Borrower option, *b reflects the average rate for the year taking account of new loans and repayments.

We are currently achieving a return of 1.01% on our investments for the period to 30 September 2022. The return for the year is expected to rise to, circa 1.75% due to anticipated base rate rises from the current 3.00%^{*09/11/2022} to 4.5%.

The authority’s advisors are forecasting the base rate to peak at 4.5% in June 2023 before falling back in gradual rate cuts to 2.5% over the medium term. Long term interest rates (PWLB) are expected to fall from their levels in September of 5% to circa 3.20% over the medium term.

Economic Update

13. The first half of 2022/23 saw:

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was revised upwards in Quarter 1 of 2022/23 to +0.2% from (0.1%), which means the UK economy has avoided recession for the time being;
- Signs of economic activity losing momentum as production fell due to rising energy prices;
- Core Price Inflation (CPI) inflation eased from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August and then rose to 10.1% in September. Domestic price pressures are showing little sign of abating in the near-term, with Inflation expected to remain elevated at over 10% in the near term until mid 2023 when inflation is expected to fall sharply;
- The unemployment rate fell to a 48-year low of 3.6% due to the shortfall in labour supply;
- Bank Rate increased by 100bps, taking Bank Rate to 2.25% with further rises anticipated (subsequently raised to 3% on 3rd November 2022);
- Gilt yields rose significantly and sterling fell following the “mini budget” on 23rd September.

14. The UK economy grew by 0.2% in Quarter 1 2022/23, below pre-pandemic levels.

There are signs of higher energy prices creating downward effects in economic activity. Both industrial production and construction output fell in July 2022 for a second month in a row.

With the drag on real activity from high inflation having grown in recent months, GDP is at risk of contracting through the autumn and winter months.

The fall in the composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) to a 20-month low of 48.4 in September indicates to a fall in GDP of around 0.2% in Quarter 3.

Consumer confidence is low, retail sales volumes fell by 1.6% in August, which was the ninth fall in 10 months. This has left sales volumes in August just 0.5% above their pre-Covid level and 3.3% below their level at the start of the year.

The labour market remains exceptionally tight. Data for July and August provided further evidence that the weaker economy is leading to a cooling in labour demand. Labour Force Survey (LFS) employment rose by 40,000 in the three months to July (the smallest rise since February). The unemployment rate fell from 3.8% in June to a new 48-year low of 3.6%. The number of vacancies has started to level off from recent record highs but there have been few signs of a slowing in the upward momentum on wage growth. In July, the rate of average earnings growth rose from 5.2% in June to 5.5%.

15. Core Price Inflation (CPI) inflation eased from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August. The easing in August was mainly due to a decline in fuel prices reducing fuel inflation from 43.7% to 32.1%. With the price of oil continuing to fall we would expect to see fuel prices fall further in the coming months.

However, utility price inflation is expected to add 0.7% to CPI inflation in October when the Ofgem unit price cap increases to, typically, £2,500 per household (prior to any benefit payments). The direction of travel for energy price inflation is dependent on what Central Government do once the price cap expires.

Nonetheless, the rise in services CPI inflation from 5.7% in July to a 30-year high of 5.9% in August suggests that domestic price pressures are showing little sign of abating. A lot of that is being driven by the tight labour market and strong wage growth. CPI inflation is expected to peak close to 10.4% in November and, with the supply of workers set to remain unusually low, the tight labour market will keep underlying inflationary pressures strong.

16. There have been significant changes in the leadership and Cabinet of the government.

The government announced a mini budget on the 23rd of September with significant fiscal loosening from its proposed significant tax cuts, including the utility price freeze, reversal of national insurance and cuts income and Corporation tax.

The majority of these proposals were reversed following the change in Chancellor on the 14th of October. This was following the financial markets reaction to this mini budget and fear that the government had no fiscal anchor on the back of these announcements. The pound weakened against all major currencies adding further upward pressure to interest rates along with the Bank of England having to intervene to calm markets.

The pound fell to a low of \$1.035 on the Monday following the government's "fiscal event", it has since recovered to around \$1.13.

17. The Monetary Policy Committee has increased interest rates seven times in as many meetings in 2022 and has raised rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis. The Federal Reserve and European Central Bank raised rates by 75 basis points (bps) in their most recent meetings, the Bank of England's latest being 50 basis points rise looks relatively dovish. However, the UK's status as a large importer of commodities, which have jumped in price, means that households in the UK are now facing a much larger squeeze on their real incomes.

Since the fiscal event on 23rd September, we now expect the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to increase interest rates further and faster, from 2.25% to a peak of 4.50% in June 2023. The combination of the government’s fiscal loosening, the tight labour market and inflation expectations means we expect the MPC to raise interest rates by 50bps at the policy meetings in December (to 3.50%) followed by further 75 basis point rise in February and March (to 4.25%). Note interest rise to 3% on 3rd November

If Bank Rate climbs to these levels the housing market looks very vulnerable, which is one reason why the peak is lower than the peak of 5.50% - 5.75% that has been priced into the financial markets.

18. Throughout 2022/23, gilt yields have been on an upward trend. They initially rose as part of the global surge in bond yields triggered by the strong rise in Core Price Inflation in the United States in May.

The rises in two-year gilt yields (to a peak of 2.37% on 21st June) and 10-year yields (to a peak of 2.62%) took them to their highest level since 2008 and 2014 respectively. However, the upward trend was exceptionally sharp at the end of September as investors demanded a higher risk premium and expected faster and higher interest rate rises to offset the government’s extraordinary fiscal stimulus plans. The 30-year gilt yield rose from 3.60% to 5.10% following the “fiscal event”, which threatened financial stability by forcing pension funds to sell assets into a falling market to meet cash collateral requirements. In response, the Bank did two things. First, it postponed its plans to start selling some of its quantitative easing (QE) gilt holdings until 31st October. Second, it committed to buy up to £65bn of long-term gilts to “restore orderly market conditions” until 14th October. The Bank of England restarted Quantitative Easing although for financial stability reasons rather than monetary policy reasons.

Since the Bank’s announcement on 28th September, and the “U-turn” of the mini budget, the 30-year gilt yield has fallen back from 5.10% to 3.90%. The 2-year gilt yield dropped from 4.70% to 3.50% and the 10-year yield fell back from 4.50% to 3.60%.

19. After a “bumpy” start to the year, the stock market (FTSE 100) climbed in the first half of Q2 2022/23 before falling to their lowest levels since July 2021. The FTSE 100 is 5.2% below its level at the start of the quarter. The decline has, in part, been driven by the rise in global real yields and the resulting downward pressure on equity valuations as well as concerns over economic growth leading to a deterioration in investor risk appetite.

Interest rate forecasts

20. The Council’s treasury advisor, Link Asset Services, has provided the following forecast:

Link Group Interest Rate View 08.11.22		Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
BANK RATE		3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings		3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings		4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings		4.70	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB		4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10
10 yr PWLB		4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20
25 yr PWLB		4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB		4.30	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20

PWLB rates are certainty rates, gilt yields plus 180bps

The latest forecast on 8th November sets out a view that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some time while the Bank of England seeks to reduce inflation and government

is providing a package of fiscal loosening to try and protect households and businesses from the ultra-high wholesale energy prices.

The increase in Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates reflects a broad sell-off in sovereign bonds internationally along with investors reduced appetite due to the current position of the UK public finances. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) have tightened short-term interest rates with a view to trying to slow the economy sufficiently to keep the secondary effects of inflation – as measured by wage rises – under control.

Investment Portfolio 2022/23

21. In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. As set out in the "Economic Update" interest rates are anticipated to rise and peak at 4.5% by June 2023 at which point will fall back over the medium term to 2.5%.

Given this environment and the likelihood that Bank Rate will rise quickly over the coming months the Council will ladder their investments on a short-term basis taking account of these anticipated rate rises that will also reduce the counterparty risk exposed to the authority by having a shorter dated investment portfolio.

22. The Council held £196m of Treasury investments as at 30th September 2022 (£237m at 31 March 2022) with an average maturity of 56 days. These investments are predominately with local authorities, money market funds and UK banks. The investment portfolio yield for the first six months of the year was 1.01%. The standard comparator for investment performance is the benchmark SONIA¹, which for the period was 1.22%.
¹SONIA – Sterling Over Night Index Average rate is a recognised reference rate to benchmark short-term investment interest rates.
23. The Chief Financial Officer confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2022/23.
24. The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is the method by which treasury management investment are chosen.

Borrowing

25. The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. The Council's CFR at 31 March 2023 is estimated to be £970m. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing).
26. The balance of borrowing between external and internal is generally driven by market conditions and forecasts of future cash flows and interest rates. At the 31st March 2022 the Council had external borrowings of £576m and has utilised £376m of internal cash in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate but will require on-going monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevails.
27. However, internal borrowing is a temporary measure that takes advantage of low interest rates and will ultimately be replaced by more expensive external borrowing as the cash used is required elsewhere. The timing and amount of new external borrowing is therefore dependent

on capital spending decisions, future cash flows and forecasts of interest rates.

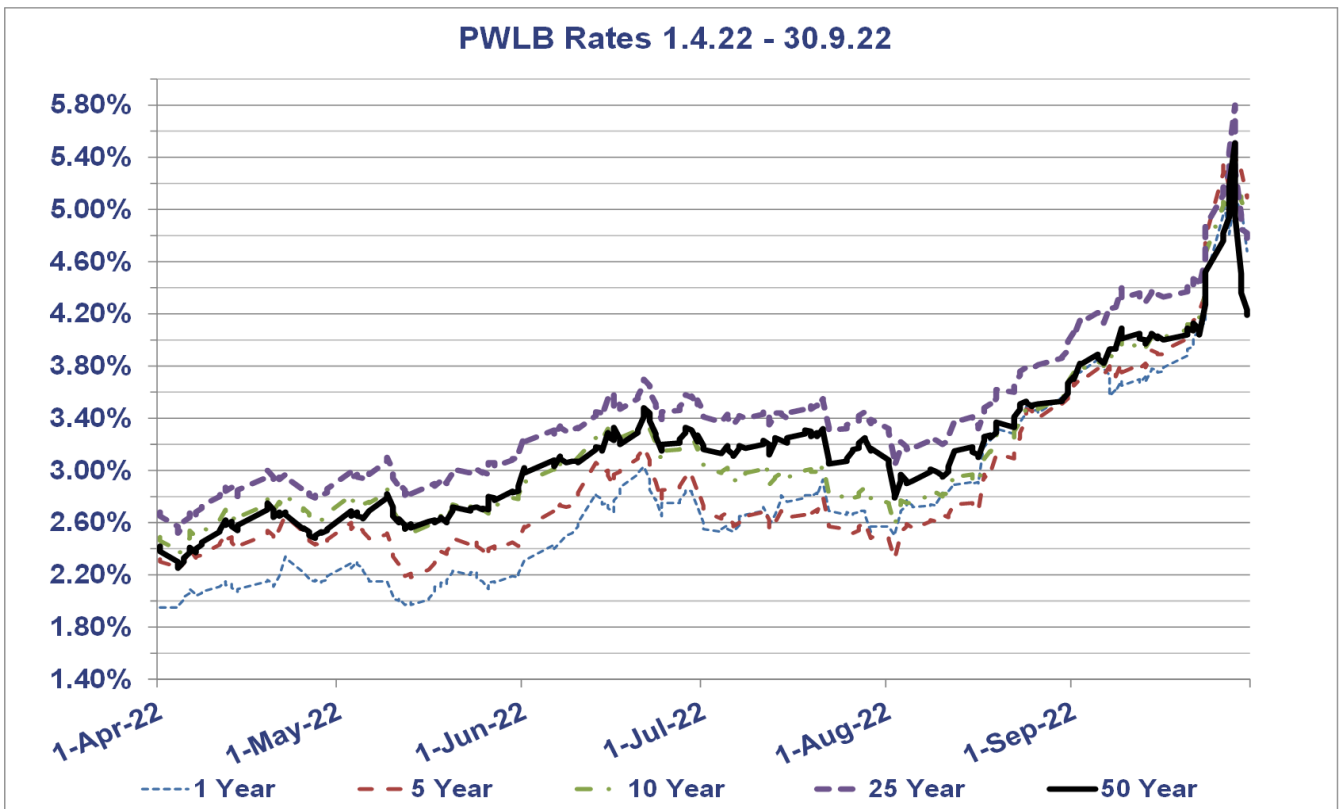
- 28. The Council does have an underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure requirements, along with the Council expecting to hold significant treasury investments for the remainder of the year to meet liquidity requirements. The Council is therefore not planning on any further borrowing for the remainder of the year. This will reduce the net financing costs of the authority along with reducing the Council's exposure to counterparty risk.

However, should there be a risk that borrowing costs will rise quicker and remain elevated for longer than expected then the Council will consider borrowing to reduce the Council's internal borrowing position and reduce its interest rate risk exposure.

- 29. PWLB rates were on a generally rising trend throughout the year, before they rose exceptionally towards the end of September following the mini budget.

The 50-year PWLB rate for new long-term borrowing started 2022/23 at 2.40%, increasing to 5.51% before falling back to 4.20% in September. (Please note, it is estimated that PWLB rates will trend downwards through 2023 and 2024).

The graph and table below show the movement in PWLB certainty rates for the first six months of the year.



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	2.25%
Date	01/04/2022	13/05/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022
High	5.11%	5.44%	5.35%	5.80%	5.51%
Date	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022
Average	2.81%	2.92%	3.13%	3.44%	3.17%
Spread	3.16%	3.26%	2.99%	3.28%	3.26%

Debt Rescheduling

30. Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate and following the various increases in the margins added to gilt yields which have impacted PWLB new and repayment borrowing rates since October 2010. The authority's debt portfolio is made up of long dated loans (PWLB £331m, Market Debt (LOBOS) £70m and Market Debt (Fixed) (£50m) averaging 31 years. The estimated penalty to repay the PWLB loans early is £66m, taking the total cost to £397m. In respect of the market loans, where indicative prices have been provided, a similar level of penalty has been quoted.
31. The total life cycle cost of rescheduling loans on a discounted cash-flow basis has been reviewed with no loans providing a positive cash-flow benefit to the authority. This would in part be due to early repayment penalties that the authority will incur. For these reasons no debt rescheduling has been undertaken during the first six months of the year and none is currently anticipated for the remainder of the year. However, now that the whole of the yield curve has shifted higher there may be better opportunities in the future, although only prudent and affordable debt rescheduling will be considered.

Ethical Equitable Investment Policy

32. An Ethical Investment Policy is incorporated within the Treasury Management Practice Statements (TMPS). The City Council currently invest surplus funds with Banks and Building Societies either directly or via the Money Markets in the form of instant access cash deposit accounts, money market funds or on fixed term deposit and with other local authorities. The City Council's ethical equitable investment policy is based on the premise that the City Council's choice of where to invest should reflect the ethical values it supports in public life. The City Council will not knowingly invest in organisations whose activities include practices which directly pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the mission and values of the City Council.

The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

33. This part of the report is structured to update:
- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
 - How these plans are being financed;
 - The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
 - Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

There are no policy changes to the TMSS; the details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and budgetary changes already approved.

34. This table shows the latest estimates for capital expenditure:

Capital Expenditure by Service	2022/23 Approved Programme £m	2022/23 Period 6 Forecast £m
Non-HRA	177	175
HRA	123	73
Total	300	248

35. The latest capital monitoring report for the end of September 2022 sets out a capital forecast of £248m detailed within the period 6 monitoring report presented to Cabinet in November 2022.

Financing of the Capital Programme

36. The table below draws together the capital expenditure plan and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing need may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

Capital Expenditure	2022/23 Approved Programme £m	2022/23 Period 6 Forecast £m
Total spend	300	248
Financed by:		
Capital receipts	73	57
Capital grants	85	86
Revenue / Reserves	34	3
HRA – Self Financing	30	30
Prudential Borrowing – Increase in Capital Financing Requirement	78	72
Total financing	300	248

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) & Operational Boundary

37. The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose and it also shows the expected debt position over the period. This is termed the Operational Boundary.

Capital Financing Requirement	2022/23 Original Estimate £m	2022/23 Latest Estimate £m
CFR – non housing	745	725
CFR – housing	249	245
Total CFR	994	970

External Debt (Operational Boundary)	2022/23 Approved Indicator £m
Borrowing	516
Other long term liabilities*	124
Total debt 31 March	640

* On balance sheet PFI schemes and finance leases etc.

38. The revised Capital Financing Requirement is based on the actual CFR as at 31 March 2022 (£914m) increased by in-year capital expenditure financed by borrowing (£72m) and reduced by the minimum revenue provision (MRP) for repayment of debt and the repayment of the debt facilities within other long term liabilities (£16m).

Limits to Borrowing Activity

39. The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2022/23 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.

	2022/23 Original Estimate £m	2022/23 Latest Estimate £m
Gross borrowing	516	451
Plus other long term liabilities*	124	125
Gross borrowing & long term Liabilities	640	576
CFR* (year-end position)	994	970

* Includes on balance sheet PFI schemes and finance leases etc.

40. The Chief Finance Officer reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator.
41. A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Authorised limit for external debt	2022/23 Approved Indicator £m
Total Borrowing	1,010

Proposal

42. That the Mid-Year Treasury Management report for 2022/23 is noted.

Other Options Considered

43. None

Risk Assessment

44. Borrowing and lending activity is reported to the Mayor.
The principal risks associated with treasury management are:

Risk	Mitigation
Loss of investments as a result of failure of counterparties	Limiting the types of investment instruments used, setting lending criteria for counterparties, investing in only high quality low risk counterparties and limiting the extent of exposure to individual counterparties
Increase in the net financing costs of the authority due to borrowing at high rates of interest / lending at low rates of interest	Planning and undertaking borrowing and lending in light of assessments of future interest rate movements, and by undertaking most long term borrowing at fixed rates of interest (to reduce the volatility of capital financing costs)

Public Sector Equality Duties

45. a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to;
 - o remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - o take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons'

-
- disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- - tackle prejudice; and
 - - promote understanding.

b) There are no proposals in this report, which require either a statement as to the relevance of public sector equality duties or an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

The Council is under a duty to manage its resources prudently and therefore due consideration must always be given to its borrowing and lending strategy. A wide range of local authority financial activities, including borrowing, lending, financial management, and the approval of types of investment vehicle are governed by legislation and various regulations. The Council is obliged to comply with these.

(Legal advice provided by Tim O’Gara - Service Director - Legal and Democratic Services)

Financial

(a) Revenue

The financing costs arising from planned borrowing are provided for in the revenue budget and medium-term financial plan. Any additional operating costs will have to be contained within the revenue budget of the relevant department.

(Financial advice provided by Jon Clayton - Capital and Investments Manager)

(b) Capital

The latest economic forecasts and implementation of the Treasury management strategy indicate that sufficient funds will be available to fund capital expenditure over the medium term while adhering to prudential indicators.

Land

Not applicable

Personnel

Not applicable

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None



Full Council

13th December 2022

Report of: Chair of the HR Committee

Title: HR Committee Annual Report for the Civic Year 2021/22

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Councillor Francis

Contact Telephone Number: 01179222000

Recommendation

That members note the Human Resources Committee Annual Report.

Summary

The report sets out the work of the committee in the last civic year.

The significant issues in the report are:

- This is the Committee's first Annual Report.
- The report summarises the work of the Committee in the last civic year and the key issues that the Committee considered.



Policy

1. The terms of reference for the Committee require the production of an Annual Report, which will be considered by Full Council.

Consultation

2. Internal

The draft report has been prepared in conjunction with the Party Leads on the Committee.

3. External

None.

Context

4. The Committee is required to produce an Annual Report for presentation at Full Council. The report is provided at Appendix A. Members are invited to comment on the report and approve it for consideration at Full Council at its December meeting.

Proposal

5. That members note the Human Resources Committee Annual Report.

Other Options Considered

6. None.

Risk Assessment

7. Not required because this report is a summary of the work of the committee in the previous civic year.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
 - i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --

- remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

8b) Not required because the report is a report on the work of the Committee.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

Not sought because this report is a summary of the work of the Committee.

Financial

(a) Revenue

Not applicable.

(b) Capital

Not applicable.

Land

Not applicable.

Personnel

Not applicable because this report is a summary of the work of the Committee.

Appendices:

Human Resources Committee – Annual Report – 2021/22

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None.



BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021-22**

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 The Human Resources Committee is a non-executive committee of the Council. The committee is the primary means by which Full Council obtains assurance in relation to workforce management in the Council. The committee also has a number of non-executive powers which are set out in its terms of reference. The Human Resources Committee's primary responsibilities relate to the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Directors. The Chief Executive is responsible for all other staffing matters and the day-to-day management of the organisation as the Head of Paid Service.

2. Terms of Reference:

- 2.1 The Committee's approved Terms of Reference for 2021/22, which are published on the Bristol City Council website, can be summarised as
- The employment and remuneration of the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), Executive Directors and Directors.
 - Full Council has delegated to the Committee the power to determine the terms and conditions on which employees hold office including procedures for their dismissal (s.112 Local Government Act 1972) and functions relating to local government pensions (regulations under s.7, 12 and 24 Superannuation Act 1972).
 - The oversight and scrutiny of the wellbeing, performance and employment practices of the council and its workforce, and the implementation of its equality policies relating to employees.

3. Membership and Meetings of the Committee:

- 3.1 The Committee was chaired during 2021/22 by Councillor Tim Wye. The Committee comprised of nine members as indicated in the table below. Councillor Pearce was the Vice Chair.

Tim Wye (Chair)
Steve Pearce (Vice Chair)
Richard Eddy
Sarah Classick
Paula O'Rourke
Lorraine Francis
Farah Hussain
Kerry Bailes
Lesley Alexander

- 3.2 The Committee met formally on five occasions during 2021/22. All meetings were quorate and held at City Hall.
- 3.3 In addition to the Committee Members, the Head of Human Resources and the Head of Organisational Development and Internal Communications supported the work of the Committee. Other officers, as appropriate, attended Committee meetings.
- 3.4 A range of reports were considered during the year, the details of which are provided in Appendix 1. Additionally, at each meeting, the Committee's work programme was reviewed for continued relevance and progress against actions required by the Committee was monitored. Public forum was also received at some meetings.

4. The Work and Activity of the Human Resources Committee in 2021/22:

- 4.1 The specific objectives of the Committee relate to overseeing arrangements in the following areas.
- Terms and conditions of employment including remuneration of the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Directors
 - Oversees and scrutinises the wellbeing, performance and employment practices of the Council, and the implementation of its equality policies relating to the workforce

Key Messages from the Work of the Committee

- 4.2 This annual report captures key messages from the work of the Committee during the full year.

A new committee and terms of reference

- 4.3 The Human Resources Committee was re-constituted for the civic year 2021/22 and started its work with a revised set of terms of reference, which were developed by the previous Committee. The committee started its work with seven councillors who were new to the work of the Committee. Officers provided induction to new members of the Committee on its role and responsibilities. A feature of the new terms of reference was the reporting annually on the work of the Committee to Full Council. Previous members of the committee felt it was important that the work of the Committee should be reported to Full Council in the same manner as the other committees' report.

Trade Unions

- 4.4 The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee met with the trade union branch secretaries informally before each meeting to discuss the agenda. This was a new arrangement introduced by the Chair of the Committee. Trade unions were also offered the opportunity to speak to the committee at each meeting.

Covid 19 and Return to Workplaces

- 4.5 The pandemic has had a significant impact on all areas of the Council's work with redeployment of staff and policy and procedure updates to enable service delivery under emergency conditions. The Committee received regular reports on the organisational response and the return to the workplace and including the introduction of the zones to the Council's headquarters buildings.

Equalities and Inclusion

- 4.6 The Committee received reports from officers on the work taking place in the organisation. The Committee received reports on the work of the Staff Led Groups, a pay gap report in relation to Gender, Race, Disability and LGB. This highlighted the action that is being taken to close pay gaps. The Committee also received an annual report on recruitment and the impact on improving workforce diversity. The Committee were satisfied that the organisation is taking robust action to improve workforce diversity and address the areas for improvement are being addressed. Some members of the committee also met with two Chairs of the Staff Led Group, which provided members with a level of independent assurance.

Health, Safety and Well-Being

- 4.7 As part of the new terms of reference, the Committee received an annual report from the Head of Health, Safety and Well-being. This was welcomed by all members of the Committee as a positive addition to its work. The Committee also received an annual report on sickness absence trends and issues. This highlighted the impact of sickness absence on workforce wellbeing.

Pay for senior officers

- 4.8 The Committee approved the local application of national pay settlements for the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Directors. The 2022/23 Pay Policy Statement was considered and recommended to Full Council in March 2022. Members of the Committee have divergent views on the Pay Policy Statement. The Committee noted the Senior Coroner's pay award and received regular updates on other national pay negotiations. The committee also noted how the Council has significantly changed the pay ratio from 1:20, lowest to highest paid, to 1:10.

Travel Policy reform

- 4.9 The Committee were invited by officers to contribute their views on the proposed reforms to the Travel Policy. The views contributed to the development and direction of the policy. The Committee were pleased to see the commitment to reduce car mileage and promote alternative and active travel but recognised the importance of supporting essential workers as well. The Committee welcomed the introduction of an employee salary sacrifice scheme for ultra-low emission motor vehicles.

Workforce Strategy

- 4.10 A key element of the Committee's work is overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the Council's Workforce Strategy. The Workforce Strategy is being refreshed and the Committee contributed its views on areas for development. The strategy will be a key feature of the 2022/23 work programme.

Annual Pensions report

- 4.11 The Committee received their annual report on the work of the Avon Pension Fund. Councillor Pearce presented his report to the Committee. Concerns were expressed by the Committee in relation to the Fund's ethical investment strategy, follow-up from which will feed into the work of the Committee in 2022/23.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Committee's has discharged its obligations under its terms of reference.
- 5.2 The Committee believes the organisation is making progress in the areas that fall within its purview.
- 5.3 The Committee would like to record its thanks to former Head of Human Resources Mark Williams and to Reward and Analytics Manager Mark Jefferson for their support in its work.
- 5.4 The Committee welcomed the appointment of Steph Griffin as Director of HR and Organisational Development from 1st October 2022 and James Brereton as Head of Human Resources from 1st July 2022.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Reports considered by the Human Resources Committee in 2021/22

Meetings	Agenda items
22 nd July (AGM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme • Workforce Strategy - overview • Selection Committee – Size & Composition • Return to the Workplace • COVID Recovery and Update • Gender/Race/Disability/LGB Pay Gap
23 rd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sickness – thematic review • COVID Recovery and Update • Proposals for Employee Travel Policy • Information report on HR policy consultations, national pay negotiations and Coroners Pay settlement.
16 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Pulse Survey Findings • Apprentice Annual Report • Health Safety & Wellbeing Annual Report • Staff Led Groups Annual Report • COVID Recovery and Update
17 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay Settlements for Chief Executives and Chief Officers • Pay Policy Statement • COVID Recovery and Update • Update on Council Wide Change Programmes (Common Activities, Management and Capacity Review, Succession Planning)
28 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Pension Fund annual report • Recruitment - thematic review • Refresh of Workforce Strategy • Proposals and timescales for New Trade Union Facilities Time Agreement

Motions received for 13 December Full Council

Golden Motion (Liberal Democrat)

TAKING BACK PUBLIC CONTROL OF OUR BUSES

Full Council notes that:

1. A comprehensive bus service, providing a reliable and economical means of travel to all parts of the city for work, child support, health care, leisure, and other purposes is of vital importance to the city's residents.
2. There are multiple economic and social benefits of maintaining an effective and accessible bus service including
 - a. providing a reliable means of travel for commuters and consumers contributing to the local economy.
 - b. allowing those who would otherwise be isolated more freedom to access safe and social ways to participate in community and city life, improving their wellbeing and aiding independent living. This includes, but is not restricted to, those with physical or other disabilities, the elderly, and those on low incomes.
 - c. reducing traffic, congestion, and air pollution through the removal of private vehicles from the roads.
3. The Bus Services Act 2017 allows for alternative models to the provision of bus services where these were previously required to be operated solely by private companies whose working relationship with local authorities was strictly limited. The revised options are Enhanced Partnership, Advanced Quality Partnerships, and Bus Franchising.
4. Bus Franchising offers the opportunity for public direction of innovation of fares, routes, and bus quality.
5. Bus Franchising is being implemented or explored by a number of city and regional authorities across the country including the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Full Council believes that

1. There are significant speed and cost advantages in implementing a more comprehensive mass transit solution based on buses as opposed to alternatives that are dependent on costly and disruptive infrastructure.
2. Implementing bus franchising would provide the opportunity to comprehensively re-think and re-design how the bus service can best serve our citizens, the city, and the region.
3. Services provided under a franchising model would be better designed to meet the needs of the city rather than those of the bus operator(s).
4. Bus Franchising could provide the improvements and innovation required to achieve modal shift, increasing bus usage and reducing private car journeys.
5. Bus Franchising would strengthen the West of England Combined Authority's position in discharging its responsibilities for planning and transport across the region.
6. The West of England Combined Authority's previous dismissal of franchising in favour of developing an Enhanced Partnership was not the result of a comprehensive review of its potential benefits.
7. The Enhanced Partnership model is compromised by the power of veto that the region's major bus provider will have over decision-making.

Full Council resolves to

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the WECA Mayor requesting that he commissions a comprehensive feasibility study of all aspects of adopting and financing a system of franchising bus services in the region. The commission should also consider how the existing knowledge and experience of each member Authority could also be maximised in the consultation and design of such an approach.
2. Request that the Mayor seeks consensus from the leaders of the other WECA authorities, and the WECA Mayor, in order to facilitate the delivery of a feasibility study as soon as possible.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Andrew Brown

Date of submission: 01 12 2022

Motion proposed by: Councillor Andrew Brown (Liberal Democrats)

Motion submitted: 1st December 2022

VALUING THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

This council is facing a considerable financial shortfall and there is general concern that even more valued community services will be closed. In some cases, a much better solution is to encourage the community to take over the service with an asset transfer or to let the community become involved in managing the venture or facility.

Too often the option of community management is considered late in the day after the salami slicing council department has made the task twice as hard.

Cllrs from all parties will no doubt have examples from their own wards of ventures that are working or others that could be given a chance. I have added in notes a list of the ventures within Knowle ward as an example.

Asset transfers give the new owners access to grants that the council could not and are able to tap into enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer. Customers become more flexible and forgiving of small errors.

This Council has the services of a very good specialist officer to deal with asset transfers but there is concern that the back-up is not always as positive as it should be and a short consideration of asset transfers by Communities Scrutiny has led to the need for a second report. This could be done by extending time available to Communities Scrutiny or even better by a scrutiny enquiry day.

In the meantime, some positive factors that should provide encouragement:

1. We should look at the community value and not just a narrow and potentially misleading financial calculation as it affects the council in the short term.
2. we should look at how partners (e.g. police and NHS) can be involved.
3. we should be encouraged if the income is commercial from the public and not purely grants.
4. we must have the option of a responsive licensing facility prior to actual CAT.
5. we should be encouraged if a recognised problem is being tackled that has not been effectively up until now.
6. help in kind in early stages should be considered by the council.

This Council therefore calls for the Administration to show a more positive attitude towards asset transfers and community management and taking into account points 1-6, calls for action to follow a scrutiny enquiry and that a regular review be set up to consider progress and potential new opportunities.

NOTES

Examples from Knowle Ward:

1. Arnos Vale Cemetery - compulsorily purchased for £1 from "developer" and handed to trust formed by campaigners. Huge grants attracted and successful commercial and community activity. Voted one of the best cemeteries in the country.
2. The Park Daventry Road - old Merrywood school on closure 20+ years ago given to trust that brought together charities investing in training, education and community

benefit. Turbo charged by asset transfer and recently completed a new £10M + new community building and a key partner in new secondary school opening shortly on part of the site. A good example of council cooperation.

3. Redcatch community centre - some 20+ years ago a group of local people took over a dilapidated unwanted council building and with grants and local effort turned it into a massively popular, high quality community centre with low hourly charges. All volunteer, no wages taken by anybody involved. Asset transfer followed and used as an example by officers of a successful CAT in report to scrutiny.
4. Jubilee pool - council failed to run this much-loved community facility efficiently. Despite unfriendly conditions imposed by Mayor and severe challenges of energy costs memberships has doubled and there is a trading profit. Cat completed 30/9/22.
5. Redcatch Community Garden - took over redundant bowling green 5 years ago. Have attracted grants, despite failure of council to extend license efficiently and attract 200,000 visits a year for training, social activity and environmental and horticultural education. Asset transfer finally after much delay getting started.
6. Redcatch Park Pavillion- parks department a few years back aborted investment plans for urgent repairs and said they wanted to asset transfer instead. Partnership formed between community garden and The Park football club who needed extra facilities because of Daventry Rd developments. Parks department have failed to progress CAT or even licence and sports changing facilities unusable. In the biggest irony, the football club had previously done exactly the sort of renovation needed and the lowest bidder for the aborted scheme is a local sponsor of the club and stands ready to do the work for them for free. One of the most successful sporting organisations in Bristol with an emphasis on disabled and female teams frozen out.
7. There are many other community organisations, including our parks group, that have transformed Redcatch Park, that do excellent work and what binds the vast majority of them together is a desire to benefit the local community, roll up their sleeves and contribute positively. Being held back by the council is very frustrating.

Proposed by Councillor Gary Hopkins (Knowle Community Party)

Received 25 November

MAKING BRISTOL A CPR-FRIENDLY CITY

“This Council was saddened to learn of the sudden death – by cardiac arrest - of Sam Polledri in Millennium Square last February. It was even more tragic to discover that this loss might have been averted if there had been public access to a defibrillator and general knowledge on how to use such a machine.

Consequently, Council welcomes the training now being given to Members on CPR and defibrillation by the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity to highlight this issue. However, a great deal more can and must be done.

In order to make Bristol a leading local authority in this field, and mirroring the work already undertaken in Swansea, Council calls on the Mayor to support and help develop the following proposals:-

- (i) Support and collaborate in a partnership as exists in Swansea with a charitable partner who can fundraise and organise the installation and maintenance of public access defibrillators and raise public awareness around their use
- (ii) Request that the Licensing Committee explore the option of making basic CPR/Defib skills a condition for granting drivers a license to operate a taxi in Bristol
- (iii) Ask the Local Plan Working Group to examine whether new building developments above a pre-determined size should be required to also include an accessible defibrillator
- (iv) Work with One City partners to make available basic CPR and / or defibrillator training in our local schools, colleges, and universities
- (v) Agree to install a defibrillator – available 24/7 – outside City Hall to not only provide an additional life-saving resource but also demonstrate a genuine commitment to this worthwhile cause.”

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Steve Smith (Conservative)

Date of submission: 28th November 2022

REJECTING POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY

“This Council is disappointed that, once again, the Labour Administration seems to be considering or toying with the highly controversial idea of moving the Central Library to another location.

It is appreciated that this possibility has arisen against a backdrop of having to make substantial Budget savings and the need to look at reducing the amount currently being spent on the Library Service.

Whilst the proposal forms an element of a wholesale evaluation of our branch libraries, and remains subject to further consultation, Council wishes to register at this early stage its emphatic opposition to any reform which threatens the future of our main public lending library or results in it being evicted from its current site.

Previous attempts, including the leasing/loss of two floors to the Cathedral Primary School under the former Mayor George Ferguson were fiercely opposed and the potential loss of the remaining building would not be acceptable to library users and the wider community.

The Central Library is already situated in an iconic, purpose-built setting, which is part of Bristol’s cultural heritage.

Accordingly, Council calls on the Mayor to confirm that he will ensure that this ill-conceived relocation plan will not be part of his latest library review.”

Motion to be moved by Cllr Richard Eddy (Conservative)

Date of Submission: 28th November 2022

A FAIRER DEAL FOR INVESTING IN BRISTOL'S SUBURBS

“This Council welcomes the Conservative Government’s ‘Levelling Up’ initiative which seeks to address long-standing economic and social disparities across communities, counties and within cities.

Council further endorses the two schemes for inclusion in the latest round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) concerning the commercial regeneration of Filwood (South Bristol) and the bid to build the Bristol Cycling Centre (Bristol North West). Locating a major sporting facility in a part of the city (Avonmouth/Lawrence Weston) will raise the status of a very deprived area and reverses a trend in recent years to divest these places of important public amenities.

However, Council believes that much more needs to be done to invest in the city’s suburban Wards. To this end, Council calls on the Mayor to give a commitment that for the remainder of his term in Office, he will seek to prioritise future national, regional and local funding applications for more projects based in and around the periphery of the city.

Council recognises that real change and the delivery of thriving, local neighbourhoods is dependent upon greater capital investment in our secondary retail centres. Echoing the primary objective of the Levelling Up agenda, if we are to ensure that all Bristolians live healthier, happier lives and are enabled to fulfil their potential, there must be a genuine, more equitable or fairer distribution of resources than has previously been the case under the current Labour Administration.”

To be moved by Cllr Graham Morris (Conservative)

Date of Submission: 28th November 2022

PROMOTING BETTER FINANCIAL EDUCATION

“This Council notes the concern which has been expressed by many professionals and finance institutions over the standard of financial education given under the National Curriculum or through Academy schools.

Critics of the existing system of training have argued that much more comprehensive, ‘bespoke’ and relevant material needs to be given to all age ranges. They maintain that children and young people should be taught more than the basic mathematics involved in understanding different forms of credit and debt.

As citizens of a highly competitive consumer society, with easy access to all kinds of complicated investment and saving instruments, the next generation must also be equipped with the tools or methodologies required to evaluate risk.

Council is aware that various schemes for teaching these essential skills have been run by individuals like the moneysaving expert Martin Lewis and some of the high street banks. However, much more systematic work is required.

Accordingly, the Mayor is asked to liaise with his Director of Education & Skills to establish, examine, and evaluate the current level of financial literacy being taught in state-funded schools. Following such an audit, Headteachers should be consulted on how this provision can be improved and built upon.”

Motion to be moved by: Cllr John Geater (Conservative)

Date of Submission: 28th November 2022

BRISTOL'S BUS CRISIS

This Council notes:

- First Bus have announced a range of cuts to services over the last year, with 1,450 route cancellations announced this month.
- Some areas, such as Stapleton, have lost their bus services entirely. Others are now only served by infrequent services.
- Passengers have had to put up with frequent, last-minute bus cancellations for months – with buses regularly disappearing off the real-time update boards and the First app without appearing.
- The crisis is caused by a shortage of bus drivers in the region. Approximately 200 drivers are needed to restore lost services.
- Many of these drivers were recruited to higher paying roles driving HGVs and vans, resulting in a shortage of trained bus drivers.
- Covid-19 has also had a significant impact on the sector, as demand for bus services is approximately 75% of pre-Covid levels.

This Council believes:

- Bristolians deserve a reliable bus service that serves every neighbourhood.
- Privatisation of bus services has been a failure, with commuters facing higher fares, fewer services, and more disruption.
- As a public service, buses across the UK should be publicly owned and publicly run.
- While public ownership is a long-term solution to the crisis, it is not an immediate one. Further action needs to be taken in the short term.

This Council resolves for Party Group Leaders to:

- Write to First Bus asking for firm commitments that the routes that recently had the frequencies cut will be restored on 2 April 2023.
- Ask First to provide concrete timescales for when they expect enough new drivers will be trained and recruited to reinstate lost routes and services.
- Call on WECA to audit areas that have lost a bus service completely, or at certain times (e.g. evenings or Sundays) and provide subsidy options to restore bus connections to these communities.
- Call on WECA to extend the elderly and disabled peoples bus passes so they are valid for all journeys at all times.
- Call on the Government to intervene to fund a pay uplift for bus drivers to attract more people to the sector. This could be achieved by increasing subsidies to bus companies, provided the increased funding was spent solely on wage increases for bus drivers.
- Call on the Government to relax visa restrictions for bus drivers, similar to the agriculture workers' scheme.
- Call on the Government to end the ban on councils and Combined Authorities establishing new municipal bus companies, so services can be brought into public ownership.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Marley Bennett (Labour)

Date of Submission: 30th November 2022

FOOD SUSTAINABILITY MOTION

This Council notes

- Livestock is responsible for 14% of global greenhouse gases.
- Meat consumption has dropped by 17% in the decade leading up to 2019,
- However, the Government's Food strategy for England recommended cutting meat consumption by a further 30% in a decade.
- As well as reducing meat consumption, work to promote local food growing and reducing food waste is needed to make our food system more sustainable.
- The Labour administration in Bristol is already leading the way on this, as is evident in it being awarded Gold Status for Food Sustainability.

This Council believes:

- We can build on this good work by further encouraging people to make more carbon-friendly food choices.
- Gradual steps are needed if we are to encourage people to take up more sustainable diets and blunt instruments like total bans may cause people to simply not use Council / council-procured catering.

This Council resolves to:

- Explore with Council catering services to only offer plant-based options on one day a week – in a system like 'Meat Free Mondays' Through the One City network, encourage schools, universities, and businesses to do the same.
- Encourage any events on Council-landed, or council-funded events, to offer vegan and vegetarian options.
- Reach out to local schools to encourage them to review their cooking courses to include a wider range of sustainable options and promote plant-based cooking.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Katja Hornchen (Labour)

Date of Submission: 30th November 2022

Democracy Motion

This Council notes that the Conservative Government's Elections Act replaced the Supplementary Vote system used to elect Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners with First Past The Post.

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer, and greener.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs, Parliaments, and other bodies better reflect the age, gender mix and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.

MPs (and other representatives) better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation, and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken. PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. So why not English Local Government or Westminster?

The Elections Act also brought in compulsory photo ID for people wanting to vote, despite the fact that three and a half million people in this country do not have any photo ID, while those forms of ID that are acceptable have been rigged to disadvantage and deter younger voters.

In contrast the Welsh Senedd passed the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill on 21 January this year which delivered the following:

- The right of Local Councils to scrap First Past the Post and instead elect Councillors using the Single Transferable Vote
- Votes at 16 - extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds and to all foreign citizens legally resident in Wales.
- Automatic Voter Registration - The bill also paves the way for an overhaul of Wales' outdated and ineffective system of voter registration. The bill could lead to a new system where registration officers can identify people missing from the register and let them know they'll be added.

English voters are already disadvantaged compared to voters in Northern Ireland, where STV has been used to elect Councils for decades, Scotland, where the same move was made in 2007, and now Wales is making the same changes.

This Council agrees to join the campaign by the Electoral Reform Society to demand the same rights for English voters that are already enjoyed by voters in Northern Ireland where STV has been used for years, Scotland, where STV came in for Council elections in 2007 and in Wales where Councils will, inevitably, make the move to fair voting.

This Council also commits to working with other Councils, Core Cities, and others to amend and if necessary repeal the Elections Act in order to:

- Reverse the scrapping of the Supplementary Vote system that ensures more votes count in Metro Mayor and PCC elections;
- Demand the list of acceptable photo ID for voters in the Elections Act is amended so younger and poorer voters are not excluded; including fully funding the cost of providing voter ID cards for voters with no other valid forms of ID
- Allow:
 - English Councils to switch to STV if they so chose
 - Votes at 16 for all UK elections
 - Automatic Voter Registration enabling registration officers to identify people missing from the register and let them know they'll be added.

Finally this Council acknowledges that British democracy is broken and calls on all UK political parties to embrace electoral reform for all elections so everyone can vote for the candidates or parties they truly believe in, safe in the knowledge that their vote will always count. Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for all UK elections.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Fabian Breckels (Labour)

Date of Submission: 30th November 2022

RIGHT-TO-BUY EXTENSION MOTION

This Council notes:

- During the Queen's Speech, the former Prime Minister announced the Government intends to extend the right-to-buy scheme to make it applicable to tenants of housing associations.
- There is already a shortage of social housing in the United Kingdom.
- Right-to-buy has depleted Council housing stock, as the homes being sold were not replaced, resulting in a lower levels of social housing.
- 40% of council homes have been transferred to the private rented sector through right-to-buy.
- The UK Housing Review 2022 branding right-to-buy as a 'strategic failure.'
- Unlike the existing right-to-buy scheme, the Government has promised to replace every social home sold off. However, no plan yet exists for how it will do this. Even if a plan is drafted, it is unlikely that social housing stock will be replaced at a rate nearly fast enough to keep up with the number of homes being sold.
- The Government has not yet announced how it will fund the discounts for extending right-to-buy to housing associations.

This Council believes:

- The planned extension of the right-to-buy scheme will deplete Bristol's social housing stock and exacerbate the housing crisis.
- That we should stand shoulder-to-shoulder with housing associations in opposing the extension of right-to-buy.
- Measures to support homeownership should not come at the cost of depleting social housing stock.
- Therefore, there should be no further extension to the right-to-buy scheme. If the Government insists on pushing ahead with the scheme, all funding for it should be covered centrally and increased funding should be given to Councils and registered providers to build more social housing.

This Council Resolves to:

- Call on Party Group Leaders to write to the new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, on behalf of all party groups represented within the Council, outlining the views in this motion and to ask them to stop any immediate extension of the right-to-buy scheme.
- Co-ordinate with housing organisations to write an open letter to the Government to ask it to stop the planned expansion of the right-to-buy scheme.
- Instruct Council officers to submit a plan to government of possible ways to boost affordable home ownership rates without depleting social housing stock.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Tom Renhard (Labour)

Date of Submission: 30th November 2022

ENDORSEMENT OF THE PLANT BASED TREATY

Full Council notes that:

1. In November 2018 Full Council declared a Climate Emergency and Bristol committed to becoming carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030. [1]
2. The sixth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2021 in its Working Group 1 Assessment Report [2] that it is “virtually certain” that heat waves have become more frequent and more intense since the 1950s, with human-caused warming being “the main driver” and some of the heat extremes seen over the past decade would have been “extremely unlikely to occur” without the climate crisis.
3. The earth's average surface temperature is projected to hit 1.5C above pre-industrial levels around 2030, a decade earlier than the IPCC predicted just three years ago.
4. Between 2014 and 2021 there has been faster growth of atmospheric concentrations of methane. Growth since 2007 is largely driven by emissions from fossil fuels and agriculture, with 32% of methane emissions attributed to animal agriculture.
5. The UN recommends 45% cuts to methane by 2030 [3] in order to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
6. Data derived from the IPCC 2014 5th assessment [4] reveals animal agriculture emissions as 35% of energy production, a figure which excludes deforestation emissions attributed to the growing of crops for farmed animals.
7. The Amazon rainforest is now a carbon source rather than a carbon sink as a direct result of deforestation, with around 80% of the deforestation caused by animal agriculture. [5]
8. The 2019 Land Use report by Ritchie, H. and Roser, M. (2019)[6], calculated that 78% of farmland is used to farm animals yet supplies just 18% of global calories and 37% of protein.
9. A global initiative is underway calling for a Plant Based Treaty [7] that through its three Rs, Relinquish, Redirect and Restore aims to halt the accelerating expansion of animal agriculture, incentivise and promote a plant-based food system, rewild critical ecosystems in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and work to mitigate the climate crisis with fair, equitable transition plans.
10. The Plant Based Treaty has been welcomed by 20 Members of the UK Parliament through EDM 434 [8] which calls on the Government “to be a world leader in recognising the negative impact of industrial animal agriculture on climate change and commit to developing a global strategy to transition towards more sustainable plant-based food systems.”

11. Several local authorities across the UK have already made a commitment to move towards a plant-based future, including Lewisham Borough Council (fully plant-based in all corporate events), Enfield Borough Council (does not serve meat at any meetings or events), Faversham Town Council (fully plant-based at events), Hythe Town Council (fully plant-based at all council functions), Leeds City Council (two meat free days per week in schools), Oxfordshire County Council (fully plant-based in all meetings & events), and Cambridge City Council (fully plant-based at meetings & promoting PB at events).

Full Council believes that:

1. The rapid, strong, and sustained reduction in the three greenhouse gases, namely Carbon Dioxide, Methane and Nitrous Oxide and zero deforestation is a climate imperative.
2. The Paris Climate Agreement is silent on the impact of animal agriculture, one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases, and that needs to be collectively addressed by other means.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Formally endorse the call for a Plant Based Treaty and write to the UK government to call for a global Plant Based Treaty.
2. Help mitigate the climate, ocean, and biodiversity crisis by addressing our food system, including promoting the benefits of locally grown, plant-based foods. For example, encouraging council-run schools to have regular, meat-free days.
3. Lead by example and follow other local authorities in making a commitment to plant-based food at all council meetings and events, where food is served.

Motion proposed by: Councillor Andrew Varney (Liberal Democrats)

Motion submitted: 1st December 2022

INCREASE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE EV CHARGE POINTS

Full Council notes that:

1. Sales of new petrol, diesel and “mild-hybrid” cars are due to be banned from 2030.
2. Sales of new “plug-in hybrid” cars are due to be banned from 2035.
3. Bristol has a lack of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points.
4. Much of the housing stock of Bristol does not have private off-road parking provision where residents can instal their own charging facilities.
5. The EV chargepoint scheme provides grants towards the costs of installing charging points for private use for those who own flats or are in rented accommodation – but requires that the applicant(s) has/have sole use of a private parking space.
6. The Government amended Building Regulations in June 2022 so all new build residential and non-residential property and those undergoing major renovation must provide an electric vehicle charge point.
7. Figures from Friends of the Earth suggest that Bristol currently has only 125 publicly accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Points – against a target of 1,627 (derived from the national target of 300,000.)
8. The council has installed – or facilitated the installation of – 84 public charge points, and currently have planned projects to provide a) 150 charge points distributed across 15 wards/10 streets, and b) 10 “ultra-rapid” charging bays as part of the eVan hire scheme. Both these projects are due to be completed in 2023/24.
9. Council notes the funding received by other authorities to develop their EV infrastructure. For instance, in March 2020 Nottingham City with Nottinghamshire and Derby City Councils were granted over £16m funding by the Department for Transport. The Department of Transport recently announced a pilot project to fund 1,000 public charging points across 9 council areas – but that this does not include Bristol.

Full Council believes that:

1. The lack of a substantial network of public charging points imposes a barrier to people switching from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles.
2. That the provision of public charging points will speed the transition to electric vehicles, and that this will help meet climate change objectives as well as improve air quality within the city.
3. The impact of the lack of a public charging infrastructure is most acute in areas of the city which have terraced or flatted housing and/or higher proportions of rented accommodation, where installation of private charging points is not practical. This is likely to most disadvantage those who are younger or on lower incomes.
4. It is unreasonable for government to expect councils to fully fund the required infrastructure costs, but that the council should be more ambitious in their ambitions given the relevant imminency of the ban on fossil-fuelled cars.
5. Re-affirms its commitment to encourage the use active travel or public transport wherever possible irrespective of the power-source of private vehicles.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Set a target of providing 750 public charging points – in addition to those already in place or planned - by 2030, to support our efforts in tackling the climate emergency.
2. Require the Mayor to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other relevant Ministers, to seek further funding towards achieving this target, and meeting the higher target of 1,627.
3. Requests the Local Plan Working Group review the existing local EV charging points policy and consider whether it needs further revision.
4. Establish a cross-departmental working group to identify potential locations, funding streams and supply chains of public EV charging points with a focus on areas of high-density housing where private provision would be excessively difficult. This group should also engage with major landowners to develop their provisions (for instance supermarkets, large private car parks, retail centres). This group should have a focus on delivery in accordance with the Energy Savings Trust's best practice guides.

Motion proposed by: Councillor Jos Clark (Liberal Democrats)

Motion submitted: 1st December 2022

A CITYWIDE BAN ON DIGITAL BILLBOARDS

This Council notes:

- There is a growing pressure from commercial advertisers for new digital advertising screens across the city alongside highways, on footpaths, and on walls of prominent or vacant sites.
- There is also a switch to digital advertising on phone boxes (advertising is their main source of income - not the phone calls in the age of mobile phones) and bus shelters.
- Despite the revenue provided by Bus Shelter advertising in providing a public amenity in support of sustainable transport, the impact of illuminated and digital adverts on bus shelters is out of place in residential streets.
- Existing billboards may not have planning permission but there has been no consistent approach to removing them via enforcement.
- Many advertising companies are switching to digital billboards which allow them to sell many more advertising slots and increase profits as well as reducing the cost of changing advertising. These digital screens show static but alternating digital adverts which can be updated remotely.
- The law governing display advertising restricts objections to ground of highway safety and amenity only.
- Recent planning appeals have been made in response to rejection of digital advertising on some sites, and with stronger declared policies the planning response could be clearer and some of the initial applications and appeals could be avoided.
- That the Council adopted a new Advertising & Sponsorship Policy in 2021 for advertising sites it controls which restricts ads for High Fat Sugar Salt products, gambling, alcohol and payday loans. (1)
- The high energy consumption of digital billboards adds a growing impact to the city's carbon footprint, (2) The Council's One City Climate Strategy from February 2020 resolved to "[Develop] a citywide shared understanding and commitment to responsible consumption (including lower carbon food and reduced flying), which acknowledges the generally lower impact of lower income households; and [Create] advertising standards and restrictions to support responsible consumption."
- The bright illumination from digital billboards at all hours can also affect local wildlife and local residents, including severe mental health impacts. (3)
- Billboards are subject to objections and controversy every time an application is made, local residents do not want such billboards in their neighbourhoods"
- That many outdoor advertising spaces (both council-controlled and private) contain adverts for high carbon industries such as airlines, airports, SUVs and fossil fuel companies.
- That the French city of Grenoble removed over 326 advertising spaces from its city from 2015 onwards. (4)

This council believes:

- New digital advertising screens are unpopular with Bristol residents as evidenced by the high volume of objections received to planning applications for new digital advertising screens. (5)
- Advertising drives consumption and predominantly represents major consumer goods companies; most adverts are for national and international brands not local businesses so this is limited benefit to the local economy.

- Billboard advertising is a danger to road safety; its purpose is to distract attention. (6)
- Envy and body shame are a phenomenon associated with the prevalence of corporate advertising
- Mental health issues relating to body image are a growing and persistent issue affecting many young people and adults. (7)
- The greatest climate impact in our city is the impact on consumption of goods and services; constant pressure to consume is driven by continuous, pervasive advertising. Extra emissions resulting from advertising products is calculated to have added 186million tonnes of CO2e in 2019 (8)
- When travelling or relaxing outdoors residents have no choice if confronted by digital billboards; the council does not have to enable this negative experience
- There are unequal standards of amenity across the city and some areas have traditionally been better protected than others; the council could set a uniform, high standard of amenity to redress this unequal amenity and ensure fairer standards across the whole city.
- While there are pressures for commercialising council assets the council need not be either a driver of digital advertising through its own walls and structures, nor an enabler through weak policies.

This council therefore calls on the Mayor:

- To introduce a new, high standard of amenity across the whole city, excluding digital billboards and taking enforcement action against unlawful billboard sites.
- To set the highest road safety standards across the city with a declared presumption against distracting digital billboards on the whole road network.
- To end council-initiated billboard sites on walls or other structures.
- To introduce these changes through the local plan and public announcements on property policies.
- To enforce existing restrictions in its Advertising & Sponsorship Policy regarding excludes on ads for junk food, alcohol, payday loans and gambling across council-owned advertising sites.
- To update the Council's Advertising & Sponsorship Policy to include restrictions on highly polluting products including as airlines, airports, fossil fuel companies, SUVs, petrol diesel and hybrid vehicles.
- To work towards Bristol becoming a billboard free city, with space left purely for local noticeboards, signage or public information and creative arts and flags.
- Until that time, commit to ensuring the use of renewable energy in all City Council contracts.
- To report back on progress within a year.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Martin Fodor (Green)

Date of submission: 1/1/2022

Notes:

1. <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s58004/Appendix%20Ai%20-%20Advertising%20and%20Sponsorship%20Policy.pdf>
2. A large digital advertising screen requires the same electricity as 32 average UK households. A double sided bus stop advertising screen requires the same electricity as three UK households (Source: Energy Consumption in the UK 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021>)
3. Living Next to Digital Billboards report, 2021: <https://adfreecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/living-next-to-digital-billboards-M32.pdf>)
4. The Daily Telegraph: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11250670/Grenoble-to-replace-street-advertising-with-trees-and-community-spaces.html>
5. A 2021 survey of residents living or commuting past the new large advertising screens on the M32 in Eastville show a high level of concerns with the advertising screens including degradation of their neighbourhood and social cohesion, a feeling that the commercial interests of advertisers were being prioritised over residents' mental health and wellbeing, impacts of light pollution from the digital screens including through people's bedroom windows, climate impacts of the consumerism model promoted on billboards and distractions to drivers with road safety implications. (Adblock Bristol (2021) Living Next to Digital Billboards report, <https://adfreecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/living-next-to-digital-billboards-M32.pdf>)
6. Oviedo-Trespalacios et al. (2019), The impact of road advertising signs on driver behaviour and implications for road safety: A critical systematic review. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2019.01.012>)
7. How outdoor advertising impacts health and wellbeing, Adblock Bristol (2022) <http://adfreecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/How-outdoor-advertising-impacts-health-and-wellbeing.pdf>)
8. Advertised Emissions report, 2021 - <https://www.purposedisruptors.org/advertised-emissions>

PLANT BASED SOLUTIONS MOTION

A motion for a debate at Bristol City Council on plant-based solutions.

This council:

Notes:

- A recent study found that it will be impossible for the EU to cut its methane emissions in line with what the science says is needed (45% reduction by 2030) without cutting emissions in the meat and dairy sector. [1]
- Producing a kilo of beef creates, on average, 12 times more CO₂e than a kilo of tofu or other soya based proteins; [2]
- Producing a litre of dairy milk uses, on average, at least four times as much land as producing a litre of plant milk. [3]
- Savings to the NHS will come from healthier, plant-based diets. Sustain estimates that meat over-consumption costs the NHS directly £1.2 billion, and 45,000 deaths annually. [4]
- A 2018 Oxford University study concluded that adopting a plant-based diet is the single biggest thing we can do to reduce emissions.
- Henry Dimbleby, in the National Food Strategy concluded that a 30% reduction in meat consumption is necessary for future food security. The National Food Strategy also states that obesity alone accounts for 8% of annual health spend in the UK, or £18bn. [4]
- In June 2021, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommended that the consumption of beef, lamb and dairy should be reduced by at least 20% by 2030.
- Sir David Attenborough has said that we 'must reduce our meat & dairy consumption for the sake of the planet', & that the planet 'simply cannot sustain billions of meat eaters'.
- That a growing number of councils have made a commitment to plant-based catering or a shift away from meat:
 - o Lewisham Borough Council - fully plant-based in all corporate events
 - o Enfield Borough Council - does not serve meat at any meetings or events
 - o Faversham Town Council - fully plant-based at events
 - o Hythe Town Council - fully plant-based at all council functions
 - o Leeds City Council - two meat free days per week in schools
 - o Oxfordshire County Council - fully plant-based in all meetings & events
 - o Cambridge City Council - fully plant-based at meetings & promoting PB at events

Believes:

- We should act in line with the One City Climate Strategy which identifies consumption in the city as the leading source of global heating emissions to be tackled;
- Without meat and dairy consumption, global farmland use could be reduced by more than 75% – an area equivalent to the US, China, European Union and Australia combined – and still feed the world. Loss of wild areas to agriculture is the leading cause of the current mass extinction of wildlife. [5]
- What we do with land is important from a climate perspective because of its 'opportunity cost'. If land wasn't being used for livestock farming it could be used for something that is beneficial for the climate, like reforestation, which removes carbon from the air.

Therefore Council Calls on the Mayor to:

- Write to the government supporting UK endorsement of the Plant Based Treaty and invite all Party Group Leaders to sign the letter

And asks Council officers to explore options to:

- Ensure that food provided at all council catered events and meetings is entirely plant-based, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisations.
- Ensure that Council school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least two days per week
- Work on outreach to schools and young people to actively influence and inform of food choices and their impact on the environment, health and animal welfare.
- Encourage and empower students to make informed decisions about the food available in their school.
- Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of school and community projects.
- Recognise the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
- Use City Council Civic events to promote and showcase plant-based food options, alongside displayed information about the climate benefits and relative cost of different protein/food sources.
- Ensure that there are plant-based food options available at all City Council run events which involve catering (ie minimum from at least one caterer), where reasonably possible.
- Ensure that when events occur on City Council open spaces, and where catering is provided, that plant-based options are available (ie minimum from at least one caterer), secured through the use of terms and conditions of hire (where reasonably possible).
- Secure through a contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers that plant-based food and drink options are to be available at kiosks on City Council open spaces and Council run cafes (where reasonably possible). Similarly when possible via future contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers for Council run cafes, specify that vegetable/legume rich plant-based options are listed prominently on menus, above non plant-based options in line with Flexitarian principles.
- Report back to Full Council regarding progress on the actions above.

Motion submitted by: Cllr Martin Fodor (Green)

Submitted: 1 December 2022

Footnotes

1. http://changingmarkets.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CE_Delft_210502_Methane_reduction_potential_in_the_EU_Def.pdf
2. www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/climate-impact-meat-vegetarian-vegan-diets
3. www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/plant-vs-dairy-comparing-their-climate-impacts
4. <https://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/faqs>

5. National Food Strategy (published July 2021) -
<https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/National-Food-Strategy-Recommendations-in-Full.pdf>
6. <https://josephpoore.com/Science%20360%206392%20987%20-%20Accepted%20Manuscript.pdf>

ENERGY CRISIS AND COST OF LIVING

Full Council notes that:

1. We must take action to address the energy crisis and its impact on fuel poverty especially when the energy price cap rises again in January 2023.
2. We must be ready to protect our citizen from this crisis which will plunge people into poverty at no fault of their own.
3. We must protect the most vulnerable in our community who may be left out.
4. We must support the volunteers and action groups who will offer their help, with a well organised and well-informed action plan.
5. That this is a huge problem that needs to be addressed and that having a actionable plan by this winter may not be conceivable. However, this problem is not going away.
6. There is a strong link between lifting people out of poverty and making real terms cost savings, especially in education, welfare, and criminal justice.
7. If you convince people who can afford implementing energy saving actions that are cost neutral, a model to facilitate change is created that can then be funded for lower income homes in the future.

Full Council believes that:

1. Support for households so far is very welcome - but it simply does not go far enough. Leaving people in a position where they need to decide on eating or heating.
2. People are struggling to pay their bills and intervention is needed immediately.
3. The support so far has not extended to businesses, schools, and other public institutions such as hospitals and care homes, who will not be able to afford electricity therefore either going under or seeing periods of closures.
4. Bristol is fortunate in having the Bristol Energy Network (BEN) which has the skills and expertise to resurrect their approaches around education and support outlined in the resolution.

Full Council Resolves to:

1. Work with WECA and the Skills and Carbon Reduction Initiative (under the green recovery fund) to seek funding for a direct-action campaign with the “No Cold Homes” Bristol partnership including Bristol Energy network.
2. Work with BEN and the No Cold Homes partnership to support them in delivering their programme of education and ‘DIY’ approach to low cost, impactful measures open to homeowners and tenants. (e.g. draft-proofing, perplex secondary glazing etc).

3. In conjunction with Bristol's energy suppliers to develop a campaign to encourage take up for those not claiming the Government's Warm Homes Discount, which will open again in Nov 2022.
4. Provide a dedicated tab and a web page on the Cost-of-Living Hub, with regularly updated details of all support available, including details of the Warm / Welcome Spaces Programme
5. Work with Bristol's energy suppliers to widely advertise the discounts and grants available to fixed or low-income Bristolians.

Motion proposed by Councillor Lisa Stone (Green)
Motion submitted 1.12.2022

Notes:

Reference - Warm Home Discount Scheme: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
About Us - Enough is Enough (wesayenough.co.uk)

The warm home discount scheme: if you live in England and Wales, you qualify if you either:

- get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit - known as 'core group 1'
- are on a low income and have high energy costs - known as 'core group 2'

ENDING INVESTMENT IN FOSSIL FUELS BY AVON PENSION FUND

This council notes:

1. In 2015, Full Council supported a Green motion and resolved that the Avon Pension Fund (APF) should consider divestment from fossil fuels and diversification into clean technologies like renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy storage; Council agreed that the Mayor should contact Avon Pension Fund and ask for a report on the issue;
2. There is widespread and heightened concern from scientists that declared worldwide fossil fuel reserves, if exploited, constitute a threat to the stability of the global climate; there is growing recognition that fossil fuel reserves are therefore a class of asset held by investors which have growing risks of being 'stranded' i.e. left with reducing value due to the fact not all claimed reserves now have the value being imputed to them, due to the need for them to remain in the ground;
3. An ever growing number of public and private sector funds, endowments and investment portfolios are choosing to divest from fossil fuels worldwide, including several local government pension funds. MPs called for their own funds to be divested.
4. Clarifications of the fiduciary duty of fund managers confirms that they should take into account a range of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and have a clear statement of investment policies;
5. The Avon Pension Fund uses investment provided by the Brunel Pensions Partnership, which is a leading local government pension partnership offering low carbon investment opportunities. This fund is only seeking to meet the 2015 Paris climate targets which are now known to be inadequate to secure climate stability.
6. Staff union Bristol Unison have given their clear support for divestment of the funds from fossil fuels, in a motion seconded by the Branch Secretary and presented to the Avon Pension Fund, as have other Unison branches also in the same fund.
7. Since 2016, the APF has enhanced its environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) to recognise and assesses climate change risks, undertake annual carbon footprinting studies, and review low carbon indices and the sustainability of assets; in 2017, the APF increased its allocation towards renewable energy infrastructure; in 2019, Councillor Pearce (who sits on the APF committee for the council) is already arranging a briefing on APF's ESG, divestment, and exposure for members.
8. In 2020 the Bristol Mayor declared the city would seek to promote divestment of the pension fund through signing the international C40 cities' declaration that we are "taking Divest/Invest action for a fairer, fossil-fuel-free green recovery. This commits to:
"Take all possible steps to divest city assets from fossil fuel companies and increase investments in climate solutions"
"Call on pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies and increase financial investments in climate solutions."

This council believes:

1. The long term future of the APF is as a fund that is divested from fossil fuels and one that ensures a wide range of investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency technologies, energy storage and smart energy technologies, and other types of investments that will benefit the city and its future residents;
2. Council recognises that a carbon neutral city will create substantial, valuable new jobs in the future sustainable economy.

3. That the investment strategy and policies of the APF should rapidly be brought into line with this vision of the future inclusive prosperity and sustainability of the city and should not be bound by the 2015 Paris targets;
4. The council should actively call on APF to commit to move funds over the next five years from any holdings that are not seen to be ending fossil fuel exploration, production and processing
5. Bristol's participation in the C40 group of cities, where pension divestment is a headline commitment, mandates the City Council to take a regional lead on this issue;
6. The process of divestment and diversification is also important and should be managed in a way that ensures just transition to new employment, supporting skills development for new sectors and a range of opportunities - with backing from WECA.
7. Now is the time for action; the current strategy of 'engagement' with high emission companies, is not showing to be swift, or effective enough.
8. The council should work with staff to debate and explain the need for funds to support new investments meeting commitments to social and environmental justice, learning from the successful engagement of the Environment Agency Pension Fund, which is also part of the Brunel Pensions Partnership.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. Ask the Mayor and Councillor Pearce to meet with the head of the Avon Pension Fund to discuss the divestment of funds over the next 5 years and the review of the fund's ESG policies;
2. To support the promotion of investment in clean technologies that support renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart energy and energy storage among other investments that are in line with such policies, the City Leap agenda, and the city's goals for 2030;
3. Use its full influence and voice on the Avon Pension Fund committee, and its relationship with the representatives of the other authorities which are the core members of the fund (Bath and North East Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and North Somerset Council, plus WECA) to advocate urgently for divestment from all fossil fuel stocks in the existing pension fund over a three year period
4. To liaise with fund members in the city and council unions about the case for changes to their pensions while ensuring a just transition for workers in sectors that will change, and how this helps achieve a carbon neutral city by 2030.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Heather Mack (Green)

Date of Submission: 1/12/2022

A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME TRIAL FOR BRISTOL

This council notes:

1. The drastic impacts of the Covid Pandemic on employment and household incomes in the city;
2. The threat to income and employment from automation and artificial intelligence, which could affect a great many more jobs in future;
3. The development of universal basic income (UBI) trials in other countries, which offer a non-means-tested sum paid by the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status, which has been widely debated in recent months;
4. That a trial of UBI was promised by the Labour party had the party won the last general election;
5. The resolutions of other local authorities including Sheffield, Birmingham, Lewes, and Brighton and Hove [with cross party support] calling for trials of UBI;
6. A network of Universal Basic Income Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus. One is operating in Bristol.
7. Birmingham City Council has issued a briefing on UBI. (1)
8. UBI has been Green Party Policy since about 1973 and more recently taken up by other parties. (2)

This council believes:

1. That the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities;
2. A UBI is the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on people's incomes as it does not discriminate between employment status, caring responsibilities, age, or disability when providing basic support;
3. There is a danger of increasing numbers of people facing poverty as a result of the coronavirus crisis;
4. Testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to help address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, loss of community, and breach of planetary boundaries through:
 - i. Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their jobs;
 - ii. Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
 - iii. Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
 - iv. Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;
 - v. Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce strain on the environment in line with the One City Climate Strategy;
 - vi. Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy.
5. The success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them; and,

6. Given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Bristol is ideally placed to pilot a UBI.

This council calls on the Mayor to:

1. Send a joint letter with the other party leaders to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, and all local MPs, asking for a trial of Universal Basic Income in the city citing the above reasons.

Motion proposer: Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend (Green)

Motion submitted: 1 December 2022

Sources

- 1) Birmingham City Council's official UBI briefing - see https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=nb28HJzZZy8R6UE9qsv3LHJckreeBwn50Tbzg0riXhiHQcf3zr1WGQ%3D%3D&rUzwRPf%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnl%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJff55vVA%3D&FgPIIEJYlotS%2BYGoBi5oIA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3D&fbclid=IwAR3v5XWzNYc_KENecR4_O6k4xSFL847QcMyKppBD6IUO5x2gLp5E3Gdl3_M
- 2) <https://www.bristol247.com/opinion/your-say/otherpartieswillriudiculegreenpolicies/>

SUPPORT FOR A £15 MINIMUM WAGE

Council notes:

1. Bristol City Council is proudly a Living Wage Employer. However, as of 19 October 2022, UK inflation has risen 10.1% in 12 months. As a result, the Living Wage no longer meets the true cost of living.
2. 14.5 million people in the UK are in poverty. 10% of full-time working-age adults are in poverty, rising to a third of working-age adults in families where there is only part-time work. These are the highest rates since records began. 90,000 people a year die in poverty in the UK.
3. Higher minimum wages and empowered trade unions are essential to securing a high standard of living for all.

Council resolves:

1. To support the introduction of a minimum wage of at least £15 an hour, for all workers no matter their age, to help tackle the cost of living crisis;
2. To support all trade union campaigns for £15 an hour, and stand in solidarity with them in fighting for higher wages and working conditions;
3. To raise the minimum wage of council employed staff to £15 per hour by the 2024 financial year;
4. To lobby central government for the funding required to meet this rise;
5. To look into supporting this rise through a reduction in the salaries of the highest earning staff;
6. To strongly encourage all suppliers to Bristol City Council to pay their staff a minimum of £15 per hour by the 2024 financial year;
7. To use the power and influence of Bristol City Council to encourage all employers, especially the major employers within the city, to pay their staff a minimum of £15 per hour by the 2024 financial year.

Motion proposed by Councillor Barry Parsons (Green)

Motion submitted 1/12/2022

MOBILISE COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Full Council notes:

1. That this council unanimously declared a climate emergency in November 2018 following a Green Motion to Council
2. The motion committed the city to achieve net zero carbon impact by 2030 and there are now 8 years left to this target date
3. A new low risk model called Community Municipal Investments [CMI] was developed by Leeds University and Abundance Investments platform with UK Government and EU support. This had the support of 4 local authorities including Bristol City Council. [1]
4. This concept is now proven to mobilise local and other investment and channels local savings into local projects with low risk and a modest returns. [2]
5. The same process can be repeated again annually for further funds to be raised to support new projects.
6. The council has been progressing a package of low carbon opportunities called City Leap since May 2018. City Leap is nearing the end of a procurement process after restarting the process in 2020 and the joint venture has been suggested as a vehicle to deliver community funded investments alongside the projects it funds.
7. Municipal Bonds can also be used to raise capital for local projects and the LGA offers a platform for this form of investment to be supported.

Full Council believes:

1. That offering local savers a way to support the city's journey to carbon neutrality mobilises community engagement in the process of change, attracts significant sums for named projects, and should be developed. 72% of people want to lend savings to help councils develop Climate Emergency Plans [3]
2. That offering security and a modest rate of interest through municipal bonds is an established way to develop local infrastructure [4]. This could complement other projects such as the successful Bristol Energy Cooperative.
3. That CMIs can help us fund and develop a series of practical projects for a low carbon transition in partnership with others which will be popular with local savers.
4. The Mayor should recognise that CMIs and Green Municipal Bonds as part of the package of investments that will create positive economic opportunities and carbon neutrality while building community wealth.
5. Bristol should join the other councils using CMIs to develop local opportunities for local investors [5]
6. We need to create a lending facility for private individual who want to upgrade their homes and save energy on as low an interest rate as possible.

Full Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to work with the City Leap joint venture to begin development of Community Municipal Investments for the city.
2. That the Mayor promote CMI as a way residents and institutions can be engaged and actively involved in contributing to a zero carbon city.

3. To work up a Green Bond scheme for the city to fund carbon saving infrastructure projects.
4. To request officers to identify carbon saving projects suited to CMI and Green Bond investments in conjunction with partners including the City Leap joint venture.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Lisa Stone (Green)

Date of submission: 1/12/2022

References:

1. The report supported by Bristol:
<https://baumaninstitute.leeds.ac.uk/research/financing-for-society/>
2. Initial proposed interest rate is 1.2%. See: Your questions answered on Green Community Bonds | Abundance Blog
<https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-your-questions-answered-25218ed4d2cb>
3. Survey by One Poll, 2020, cited by the Local Government Association.
4. https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-the-new-option-for-your-low-risk-money-a9cc5d72e03a?source=post_internal_links-----1-----

5. These are: Leeds Council, Warrington, and West Berkshire. Eg Invest now:
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wbcmi>; <https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/invest-now/warrington-2025>

PRESERVING BRISTOL'S TRANSPORT AND DESIGN POWERS FOR THE FUTURE

This Council notes:

- There is a climate emergency and Bristol needs to change rapidly to adapt to and mitigate the existential threats caused by climate chaos;
- We will need to play a difficult balancing act to preserve what makes our city great whilst recognising that “do nothing” is not an option;
- The design of the City's places and movement will play a critical part in this adaptation and mitigation;
- We have specialist officer expertise in the Strategic City Transport and City Design teams that help the Council make good decisions to re-design our future City;
- The Mayor's controversial proposal to abolish these teams, with minimal detail provided as to their future form or ongoing functions;
- That outsourcing the delivery of some transport projects will actually cost more than keeping them in-house;
- The Temple Quarter Regeneration will shape the city for decades;
- The commitment made by the Cabinet Member for Transport to publish the report on Workplace Parking Levy has not been fulfilled, despite his reasoning that it was such an important decision that it should be put before Full Council;
- The recent WECA (West of England Combined Authority) Audit report that identified significant weaknesses in its operations.

This Council believes:

- Decisions that impact on the Council's future need to be taken transparently and informed by expertise;
- The Council needs expert support to fulfil its statutory Planning and Transport duties, in collaboration with other authorities;
- Although there is a good Transport Strategy in place, very little progress has been made in delivering it in a rounded and balanced way, for example the city needs parking and cycling strategies, but these have not been progressed despite repeated promises to bring them forward.
- Restructuring the expertise of planners in City Design and Transport departments without clear future arrangements has the potential to affect severely the Council's ability to make informed and quality decisions, which will inevitably impact on regeneration plans such as Temple Quarter;
- The capacity of the Council to continue to exercise these functions needs to be underpinned by a clear options and risk analysis and be referred for proper scrutiny, including to the Committee Model Working Group;
- There are different potential funding models that need to be explored to support the effective continuation of the teams, such as reviewing the capital recharge rate for staff and demand management options.
- Bristol needs capacity to be able to negotiate strategically with WECA, as recommended by the WECA auditors.

This Council resolves

- To call on the Mayor to pause and clarify what the alternative proposals are for fulfilling these functions in sufficient time for this to be fully considered by councillors, including the Committee Model Working Group;
- That the proposals for ongoing staffing budgets should be considered as part of a budget process led by Full Council, rather than the Cabinet in isolation;
- To call on the administration to make the Workplace Parking Levy report available to Full Council as promised, so its potential to raise valuable revenue can at the very least be considered;
- To call on the Mayor to ensure problems with WECA's functioning are resolved before any further significant functions are transferred;
- To call on the Mayor to include in any firm proposals careful consideration of how Bristol will retain capacity to negotiate strategically with WECA, and the other Unitary Authorities involved

Motion proposed by: Councillor Ed Plowden (Green)

Motion submitted: 1 December 2022