

# Summons to attend meeting of Full Council



**Date:** Tuesday, 12 March 2024

**Time:** 6.00 pm

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

**To: All Members of Council**

**Issued by:** Oliver Harrison, Democratic Services

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**Date:** Friday, 1 March 2024

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# Agenda

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

(Pages 9 - 12)

## 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 the Previous Meeting

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.

(Pages 13 - 23)

## 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 (usually 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 8 March 2024 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 6 March 2024 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](mailto: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 11 March 2024**.

## **8. Petition Debate: Objections to Bristol City Council's Changes to Allotment Rules and Rent**

Recommendation: That Full Council debates the petition and refers it to the Mayor / relevant Cabinet member for a formal response. **(Pages 24 - 26)**

## **9. Living Rent Commission**

Recommendation: That Full Council note the Bristol Living Rent Commission report recommendations. **(Pages 27 - 39)**

## **10. External Audit Annual Report 2021/22 and 2022/23**

Recommendation: That Full Council note Grant Thornton's Interim Auditors Annual Report for 2021/22 and 22/23, focusing on their value for money assessment, along with an action plan agreed by management. **(Pages 40 - 95)**

## **11. Audit Committee Annual Review of Effectiveness**

Recommendations: **(Pages 96 - 165)**  
That Full Council note the Audit Committee Self-Assessment Report for 2023/24.

That Full Council consider the issues raised in this report in setting up future Council committees.



## 12. Parental Leave Policy

Recommendation: That Full Council endorses the Parental Leave Policy for Councillors.

**(Pages 166 - 171)**

## 13. Pay Policy Statement

Recommendation: That Full Council adopts the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 to take effect from 1 April 2024.

**(Pages 172 - 180)**

## 14. Appointment of Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Recommendation: That Full Council confirms the designation of Tony Kirkham as Interim Section 151 Officer with effect from 1 April 2024.

**(Pages 181 - 184)**

## 15. Motions

Note:

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.

**(Pages 185 - 210)**

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 (LABOUR): The Caring Economy**

##### **This Council notes:**

- The UK is one of the most expensive countries in the world for childcare. Parents continue to face huge difficulties finding the right care for their children. Likewise, carers face a number of challenges.
- The West of England Combined Authority has adopted a local industrial strategy, and Bristol City Council is in the early stages of developing an economic strategy. Research has found that a 2% investment in care produces double the number of jobs for women and almost as many jobs



for men as the same investment in construction.

- Following a campaign from Labour MPs, the Government now recognises childcare as a form of infrastructure, meaning the Community Infrastructure Levy could be spent on capital costs for childcare provision.

**This Council believes:**

- Further action needs to be taken to ensure that children across Bristol get the best start in life, regardless of the post-code and economic background they were born into.
- Early years intervention is crucial for improving life outcomes. The council and its partners should continue to prioritise the outcomes of Bristol’s children and young people and embed their interests in all its work.
- Childcare remains far too expensive, and it is unacceptable that in 2023, some parents are unable to go back to work due to childcare costs.
- Likewise, action needs to be taken to support carers, both through the council, through its partners, and throughout Bristol.
- Bristol needs a National Care Service introduced, that follows the principles outlined in the Fabian Society’s pamphlet ‘A National Care Service for all’

**This Council resolves to:**

- Call on members of the Strategy and Resources Committee to continue to protect maintained nurseries as a priority and reject any proposals to reduce funding for them in budgets put forward to Full Council in future. Furthermore, work alongside the Schools Forum to explore reforming the budget setting model by moving to a benchmarked model based on final summer term registrations from each September, giving nurseries the flexibility they need to maintain the best possible provision for our children.
- Call on Party Group Leaders to write to the Government to ask it recognises state nursery provision a statutory service and provide additional funding to local government to fund this, and lobby the Government to follow the lead of the Welsh Government and exempt nursery schools in Bristol from paying business rates.
- Call on the Children and Young People committee to explore other ways of making childcare more accessible in Bristol.
- Call on the Mayor to instruct appropriate officers to explore allocating future Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy raised in regeneration areas towards capital costs of new establishing new childcare centres and / or nursery schools.
- Call on the Mayor to request West of England Combined Authority explores options of using its investment fund to offer grants to new childcare providers and subsidise the salaries of new employees in the childcare sector. Should this not be viable, call on Party Group Leaders to lobby the Government to do so, with council officers supporting these efforts.



- Recognise childcare as infrastructure and have it included referenced as such in Bristol’s upcoming economic strategy.
- Call on the Mayor to instruct officers to adopt the asks of the Caring Economy campaign and request officers report back to Full Council on its progress in future.

**Motion Submitted 29 February 2024**  
**Proposed by Councillor Amal Ali**

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**SILVER MOTION (KNOWLE COMMUNITY PARTY): 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 29 February 2024**

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Signed



Proper Officer  
Friday, 1 March 2024

