

# Bristol City Council

## Minutes of the Full Council

12 March 2024 at 6.00 pm



### Members Present:-

**Councillors:** Mayor Marvin Rees, Amal Ali, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Kerry Bailes, Jenny Bartle, Nicola Beech, Marley Bennett, Mark Bradshaw, Fabian Breckels, Andrew Brown, Craig Cheney, Jos Clark, Sarah Classick, Asher Craig, James Crawford, Kye Dudd, Richard Eddy, Emma Edwards, Jude English, Tessa Fitzjohn, Martin Fodor, Lorraine Francis, John Geater, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, Zoe Goodman, John Goulandris, Tom Hathway, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Katja Hornchen, Jonathan Hucker, Philippa Hulme, Ellie King, Tim Kent, Mohamed Makawi, Henry Michallat, Patrick McAllister, Yassin Mohamud, Graham Morris, 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.

### 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were heard from Councillors Davies, Denyer, Dyer, Grant, Hance, Hussain, Jackson, O'Rourke, Mack and Massey.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

Full Council noted that on the 11th March 2024, a dispensation was agreed at the Value and Ethics Committee that would allow Members who are landlords or private renters to participate in Agenda Item 9: Living Rent Commission.

The following members declared an interest as either landlords or private renters:

Bennett, Breckels, Brown, Cheney, Clark, Classick, Dudd, Edwards, Geater, Gollop, Goodman, Goulandris, Hathway and Stone.



Councillors Don Alexander and Jos Clark declared an interest as allotment volunteers.

#### 4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

#### RESOLVED:

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.**

#### 5 Lord Mayor's Business

As this was the last Full Council of the Municipal Year, the Lord Mayor thanked Members for their service to the people of Bristol.

#### 6 Public Petitions, Statements and Questions

##### Public Petitions and Statements:

Full Council received and noted the following petitions and statements (which were referred to the Mayor for his consideration)

Ref No	Name	Title
PP01	Nico Scarlet	Fix Stapleton Road's bus seating!

Ref No	Name	Title
PS01	John Stansfield	Plant Based Treaty
PS02	Jen Smith	Delivering Better Value in SEND and Safety Valve application
PS03	Mitch Webb	Stapleton Bus Route
PS04	Maureen Lewis	Stapleton Bus Route
PS05	David Redgewell	Public Transport – Combined Authority
PS06	Lucy Holburn	Bus to Stapleton
PS07	Helen Struthers	Restoring a bus service to Stapleton
PS08	D. Price	Lack of a bus through Stapleton
PS09	Katrina Hood	Restore a bus service to Stapleton
PS10	Sally Collins	Bus service for Stapleton
PS11	Karen Harris and Gary Hughes	Stapleton bus routes



PS12	Fiona Castle	Safety Valve agreement
PS13	Lorna Lindfield	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS14	Danica Priest	Youth services in Knowle
PS15	Ana Sanchez	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS16	Elise Unger	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS17	Ann Tucker	Lack of any bus service through Stapleton, Bristol
PS18	Megs Smith	Call for debate around Green agenda and NetZero emissions
PS19	Dr Tamara Evans Braun	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS20	Ruth Day	Living Rent Commission
PS21	Tina Holmes	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS22	Hilda Bernhardsson	Bristol Fair Renting Campaign – rent controls
PS23	Tim Beasley	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS24	Caroline Dalcq	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS25	Neil Bennetta	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS26	Sue Crimlisk	Objection to proposed changes to allotments consultation
PS27	Harry Mac	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS28	[Withdrawn]	
PS29	Katy Ladbrook	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS30	Christopher Faulkner Gibson	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS31	Jai Breitnauer	Safety Valve
PS32	Rick and Louise Alexander	Bus service through Stapleton Village
PS33	Samara Flaherty	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS34	Melanie Riley	Bristol allotment price hike
PS35	Kelly Allen	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS36	Roger Bonner	Reinstating buses
PS37	David Adams	Proposed changes to Bristol Allotments
PS38	Annette Cath	East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood
PS39	Fiona Preece	Safety Valve

Within the time available, Petition PP01 and statements PS01, 05, 12, 14, 22, 23 and 39 were presented by individuals at the meeting.

### Public Questions

Full Council noted that the following questions had been submitted:

Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01	Agnes Sales	Climate Future Advertising



PQ02	Richard Pawley	Plant Based Catering
PQ03	Simon Hobeck	Totterdown Bridge
PQ04	Suzanne Audrey	Ecology
PQ05	Suzanne Audrey	Housing Density
PQ06	Hilary Saunders	Quaker Burial Ground
PQ07	David Redgewell	Bus Services
PQ08	Dan Ackroyd	Safety Valve
PQ09	Fiona Castle	Safety Valve
PQ10	Ivan Veiga	Safety Valve
PQ11	Catherine Veiga	Safety Valve
PQ12	Em Williams	Safety Valve
PQ13	Gillian Crea	Safety Valve
PQ14	Jenny Clarke	Safety Valve
PQ15	Scott Daniels	Safety Valve
PQ16	WITHDRAWN	
PQ17	Jen Smith	Safety Valve
PQ18	Eleanor Freeman	Safety Valve
PQ19	Tara Waite	Safety Valve

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ01, 02, 06, 07 and 09 and responded to supplementary questions.

## 7 Petitions Notified by Councillors

Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Ref No	Name	Title	Number of signatures
CP01	Cllr Bennett	Restore a bus service to Stapleton	816
CP02	Cllr Ali	Prevent Payment Parking	60

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

Full Council considered a report of the Director – Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition ‘Objections to Bristol City Council’s Changes to Allotment Rules and Rent’. The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Holly Wyatt, 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.**

## **9 Living Rent Commission**

Full Council considered a report on the Living Rent Commission.

Councillor Tom Renhard moved the report as the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery & Homelessness.

There was a debate, and it was:

**RESOLVED: Full Council noted the Bristol Living Rent Commission report recommendations.**

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

Full Council considered the External Audit Annual Report 2021/22 and 2022/23.

The Lord Mayor moved the report.

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

Full Council considered a report on the Audit Committee Annual Review of Effectiveness.

Councillor Andrew Brown moved the report as Chair of the Audit Committee.

Following debate for items 10 and 11, it was:

**RESOLVED: Full Council noted 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.**

**RESOLVED: Full Council noted the Audit Committee Self-Assessment Report for 2023/24. Full Council considered the issues raised in this report in setting up future Council committees.**

## **12 Parental Leave Policy**

Full Council considered a report on the Parental Leave Policy.



The Lord Mayor moved the report and Councillor Steve Smith seconded the report.

There was no debate, and it was:

**RESOLVED: Full Council endorsed the Parental Leave Policy for Councillors.**

### **13 Pay Policy Statement**

Full Council considered a report on the Pay Policy Statement.

The Lord Mayor moved the report and Councillor Steve Smith seconded the report.

There was a debate, and it was:

**RESOLVED (35 FOR, 16 AGAINST, 4 ABSTENTIONS): Full Council adopted the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 to take effect from 1 April 2024.**

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

Full Council considered a report on the Appointment of Interim Director of Finance.

The Lord Mayor moved the report and Councillor Steve Smith seconded the report.

There was no debate, and it was:

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

### **15 Motions**

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 30 minutes time limit for motions. Following a vote it was agreed to proceed up until 9.30pm

#### **GOLDEN MOTION (LABOUR): The Caring Economy**

Councillor Amal Ali moved the following motion:

**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.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Katja Hornchen.

Councillor Lisa Stone then moved the following amendment:

‘That the motion be amended to read as follows:

**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 and their loved ones. Likewise, carers face a number of challenges because we undervalue caring at a cost to care workers.
- 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. We undervalue caring at the cost of those who may be cared for, those whose personal allowances and care package limitations fail to provide time for dignified interactions and the support they need. We undervalue caring at the cost of the planet: investing in the care sector could create 2.7 times as many jobs as the same investment in construction and produce 30% less greenhouse emissions.
- 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 2024 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. In addition, call on members of the committee to create a strategy using Bristol City Council assets to ensure provision is provided in the locations it is needed with a long-term city-wide plan.

- Ensure all Bristol City Council employee contracts include paid time allowances and flexible working conditions to recognise and support those with caring responsibilities and childcare needs.
- Call on Party Group Leaders to lobby their national party leaders 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 new committee that will oversee strategic CIL to instruct appropriate officers to explore allocating future Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy raised in regeneration areas towards capital costs of 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 their national party group leaders to do so and to also actively lobby all national party leaders to adopt the TUC strategy for the Care Workforce including: decent pay and conditions developed with those in the workforce, secure contracts, a minimum wage of £15 per hour, sick pay and pay for all hours worked; skills training and progressive pathways across the health, social care, education and early years sector.
- Recognise and ensure childcare is articulated as infrastructure and have it included in local and strategic plans referenced as such in Bristol's upcoming economic strategy.
- Lobby national leaders for investment in free early education, childcare and social care as economic infrastructure reinforcing the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill.



- 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.
- Call on Party Group leaders to collectively write to all parties and ask them that should they form the next government, to ensure that they provide councils with sufficient resources to implement the National Care Service, in particular fair wages, more support for carers ‘free for people with lifelong disabilities.’ and ensuring ‘Disabled and older people will have a new right to choose where they live’ which will mean not taking costs of care into account during the assessment process.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Christine Townsend.

**Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was CARRIED (39 FOR, 12 AGAINST, 2 ABSTENTION).**

The Lord Mayor then invited Councillor Amal Ali, as mover of the original motion to speak.

**Following final remarks, upon being put to the vote, the original motion was CARRIED (40 FOR, 12 AGAINST, 1 ABSTENTION) and it was**

**RESOLVED:**

**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 and their loved ones. Likewise, carers face a number of challenges because we undervalue caring at a cost to care workers.**
- **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. We undervalue caring at the cost of those who may be cared for, those whose personal allowances and care package limitations fail to provide time for dignified interactions and the support they need. We undervalue caring at the cost of the planet: investing in the care sector could create 2.7 times as many jobs as the same investment in construction and produce 30% less greenhouse emissions.**
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## 16 Special Urgency Decision DSG Safety Valve

Full Council considered a report on a decision taken under Special Urgency Provisions.

The Lord Mayor moved the report.

There was a debate, and it was:

**RESOLVED: Full Council noted the use of special urgency provisions (APR 16) in relation to a decision that was been taken by Cabinet in respect of the Safety Valve Programme Report on the 5 March 2024.**

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

