

Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability
Policy Committee



7 November 2024 at 5.00 pm

Members Present:-

Councillors: Martin Fodor (Chair), Ellie King (Vice-Chair), James Crawford, Kye Dudd, Abi Finch, Tim Kent, Henry Michallat and Izzy Russell

21 Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and explained the emergency evacuation procedure.

22 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Cllr Tait.

23 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting



An error in the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Policy Committee held on 26th September 2024 was identified under item 11, in which the variance figure for 2024-25 Capital was noted as £300k rather than £133k. This was to be corrected for the final version.

The minutes were otherwise approved as an accurate record.

Updates against matters arising from the last meeting were provided.

25 Chair's Announcements

The Chair acknowledged the concern raised over the limited number of items on the agenda. Delays to some expected items included the need for a corporate Capital review of spend and future capital budgets and challenges linked to procurement regulations.

Member briefings had been scheduled for immediately following the Policy Committee.

26 Public Forum

The Committee noted that the following public questions had been received with written responses provided.

1. Cllr Don Alexander Policy Committee agenda and work programme
2. Suzanne Audrey Loss of established trees

Written responses to the questions were provided and circulated.

An additional Public Forum Statement regarding the loss of trees was also submitted by Suzanne Audrey.

It was noted that a statement regarding the agenda and work programme had also been submitted by Dan Ackroyd, but this was unfortunately missed from inclusion in the published pack. It was agreed that this statement would be circulated directly to Members.

The Committee NOTED the Public Forum.

27 Quarterly Performance Progress Report – Q1 2024/25



The Committee considered a report (agenda item 7) which presented the Q1 2024-25 performance against the Business Plan relevant to the Environment and Sustainability Policy Committee.

The Chair noted that there were no decisions to be taken on this report, which was for the Committee's information.

The Strategic Intelligence and Performance Advisor presented the report.

The key points raised as part of the discussion of this item included:

1. A Member highlighted the importance of tracking performance of Bristol Waste metrics. Some information had been included in the report (paragraph 7). This issue was suggested and noted for consideration as part of the review of metrics.
2. A Member noted the recycling rates as an area for improvement. A public information campaign around the process and its benefits was suggested. The Chair noted that while the recycling rates were positive for a core city, year on year improvement had not been seen. Useful information on the topic was available on the Bristol Waste website.
3. A Member noted the reference to fly tipping. It was noted that fines had recently been increased to the legal maximum, but this had not affected the rates. It was raised that it would be useful to consider the push factors around this, as well as information from the enforcement teams around littering. The Chair stated that updates around the work of the Enforcement Team was due to be circulated to all councillors.
4. The wording for the metric in regard to the 'removal' of fly tipping was queried. Figures on how quickly fly tipped items were removed and the levels of prosecutions were highlighted as useful for the committee to consider. Fly tipping prevention was discussed, including consideration of push factors.
5. The Chair drew attention to item 5 regarding funding received from WECA to deliver the Ecological Action Plan.

The Committee RESOLVED to note:

1. The performance against the Business Plan relevant to this Committee, including Appendix A2 and related issues raised, and measures to address performance issues to be implemented by relevant services.

28 Finance Update Report

The Committee considered a report (agenda item 8) which presented the financial forecast at the end of Period 5, 2024/25.



The Chair noted that there were no decisions to be taken on this report, which was for the Committee's information.

The Finance Business Partner for Growth and Regeneration presented the report.

The key points raised as part of the discussion of this item include:

1. It was noted that Capital and Revenue expenditure were on track, i.e. no variance.
2. It was flagged that a column may be missing from Section B (p24). This will be checked and circulated if necessary.
3. Members queried the progress of discussions around the 2025-26 budget. It was noted that the Government's budget announcement to increase National Insurance contributions was being discussed. Employee costs were a significant proportion of the Bristol Waste Company (BWC) budgets and the NI increase could have a significant impact. It was noted that pay negotiations were ongoing between BWC and the unions. Any changes to the Bristol Waste contract would need to be carefully considered.
4. Potential sources of revenue were discussed.

The Committee RESOLVED:

1. To note the contents of report, on the provisional P5 outturn position for budgets within the remit of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

