

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Full Council

17 January 2017 at 2.15 pm



Present:

Jeff Lovell, Lord Mayor; Marvin Rees, Bristol Mayor

Councillors: Donald Alexander, Nicola Beech, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Harriet Bradley, Mark Brain, Charlie Bolton, Fabian Breckels, Tom Brook, Clare Campion-Smith, Tony Carey, Craig Cheney, Barry Clark, Jos Clark, Stephen Clarke, Harriet Clough, Eleanor Combley, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Mike Davies, Carla Denyer, Kye Dudd, Richard Eddy, Jude English, Martin Fodor, Helen Godwin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Fi Hance, Margaret Hickman, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Steve Jones, Tim Kent, Sultan Khan, Gill Kirk, Cleo Lake, Mike Langley, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Matt Melias, Anthony Negus, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Celia Phipps, Ruth Pickersgill, Kevin Quartley, Liz Radford, Jo Sergeant, Paul Smith, Clive Stevens, Jerome Thomas, Mhairi Threlfall, Estella Tincknell, Jon Wellington, Mark Weston, Chris Windows and Mark Wright

Aldermen: N Barton, A Massey, J McLaren, B Price, W Payne, C Smith

1. Welcome and safety information

The Lord Mayor welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and made a safety announcement in relation to the fire/emergency evacuation procedure.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abraham, Alexander, Bradshaw, Hiscott, Johnson, Keen, and Whittle.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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



RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 13 December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

4. Declarations of interest

None.

5. Lord Mayor's business

Alderman Marmaduke Alderson and former city councillor Rosemary Mellor

The Lord Mayor informed members of the recent deaths of Alderman Marmaduke Alderson and former city councillor Rosemary Mellor.

Councillor Eddy then addressed the Full Council, paying tribute to the aforementioned.

The Full Council then observed a minute's silence in memory of Alderman Marmaduke Alderson and former city councillor Rosemary Mellor.

Chinese New Year

The Lord Mayor informed members that in celebration of the forthcoming Chinese New Year, he had arranged for a performance to be given by members of the Voice of Peace Chinese Choir during the refreshment break at today's meeting.

6. Public forum (public petitions, statements and questions)

Public petitions:

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Petition PP 01 – East Bristol pool

Petition organiser – Lisa Murfin

Petition PP 02 – Revert to name Council House instead of City Hall

Petition organiser – Paul Spilsbury

Petition PP 03 – Local Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Petition organiser – Charlotte Paterson



Public statements:

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

PS 01 - Judith Brown – Motion 1 – Sustainability and Transformation Plan

PS 02 - David Redgewell – Transport issues

PS 03 - Kaleb Debbage – Proposed development of the former Sorting Office site at Cattle Market Road

PS 04 - Rob Telford – Motion 2 – Living rent

PS 05 - Tess Green – Motion 2 – Living rent

PS 06 - Eleanor Vowles – Motion 2 – Living rent

PS 07 - Mavis Zutshi – Motion 1 – Sustainability and Transformation Plan

PS 08 - Charlotte Paterson – Sustainability and Transformation Plan

PS 09 - Edward Bowditch – MetroBus – south Bristol City Council

PS 10 - Christina Biggs – Devolution / transport issues

PS 11 - Nic Connor – Broomhill EPH

Within the time available, statements were presented by individuals present at the meeting.

Public questions:

The Full Council noted that the following question had been submitted:

PQ 01 – Council tax payments
- submitted by Michael Owen

7. Petitions notified by councillors

None submitted on this occasion.

8. Collection fund - estimated council tax and business rates surplus 2016-17

The Full Council considered a report seeking the determination of the estimated Collection Fund surplus as at 31 March 2017.



Councillor Cheney, Cabinet member for Finance, Governance and Performance moved the report and the recommendations set out therein.

Councillor Barry Clark seconded the report

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED (35 members voting in favour, 9 against, and with 15 abstentions):

- 1. That an estimated surplus at 31 March 2017 on the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund of £4.604m be declared for 2016/17 and shared between this Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and the Avon Fire and Rescue Service in proportion to their 2016/17 precepts on the Collection Fund.**
- 2. That an estimated surplus at 31 March 2017 on the Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) element of the Collection Fund of £13.173m be declared for 2016/17 and shared between this Council, the Secretary of State and Avon Fire and Rescue Service in proportion to current year demands (Bristol 49%, Secretary of State 50%, Avon Fire and Rescue Service 1%).**

9. Removal of council tax discounts on discretionary unoccupied and unfurnished properties

The Full Council considered a report seeking approval of proposals regarding changes to existing council tax discretionary discounts.

Councillor Smith, Cabinet member for Homes and Communities moved the report and the recommendation set out therein.

Councillor Negus seconded the report.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED (57 members voting in favour, none against, and with 1 abstention):

That approval be given to the proposals for the removal of the discretionary 10% and 5% discount for unoccupied and unfurnished properties.

ADJOURNMENT – At this point the Lord Mayor advised that the Full Council meeting would adjourn for a 20 minute refreshment break.



10. Revised criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/women

The Full Council considered a report seeking approval of revised criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/women.

Councillor Mead, Chair of the Audit Committee moved the report and the recommendation set out therein.

Councillor Stevens, Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee seconded the report.

Following debate, it was

RESOLVED (54 members voting in favour, 1 against, and with 1 abstention):

That the following criteria be approved (as per paragraph 10 of the report) for the future appointment of Honorary Aldermen/women:

An individual will be eligible for nomination and appointment to the role of Honorary Alderman/woman provided that he/she is no longer a serving councillor with Bristol City Council and has provided eminent service to the Council throughout a long and distinguished period of public service by:

a. Serving for a minimum period of two electoral terms as a Bristol City councillor (i.e. having been elected twice as a councillor).

AND

b. Holding a significant position of public responsibility with Bristol City Council, for a minimum period of one calendar year or one municipal year, as either:

- Lord Mayor;**
- Elected Mayor;**
- Deputy or Assistant Mayor;**
- Leader of the Council;**
- Executive Member;**
- Any other position attracting the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance under the Council's approved members allowance scheme (excluding attendance at the Appeals Committee).**

OR

c. Long service as a Bristol City Councillor for an aggregate period of at least 10 years.



11. Corporate Parenting Panel annual report 2016

The Full Council considered the Corporate Parenting Panel's annual report 2016.

Councillor Champion-Smith, Cabinet member for People and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel moved the report and the recommendations set out therein.

Councillor Massey seconded the report.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED (55 members voting in favour, none against, and with 1 abstention):

- 1. That the Mayor and all Bristol City councillors, as Corporate Parents, support the actions identified to further promote good outcomes for children in care and care leavers in 2017.**
- 2. That progress and the challenges be noted.**
- 3. That the Mayor and councillors, in exercising the responsibilities of office, will take action to provide opportunities that support children in care and care leavers and promote the achievement of good outcomes.**

12. Annual report from Youth Mayors and Youth Council

The Full Council considered the annual report from the Youth Mayors and Youth Council.

The Mayor introduced this item.

The Youth Mayors and members of the Youth Council in attendance then presented their report.

Following debate, it was

RESOLVED:

That the annual report and key points from the Youth Mayors' and Youth Council report be noted and acknowledged, these being:

- 1. A request for continued support for Bristol City Youth Council, Youth Mayors and the UK Youth Parliament.**
- 2. That on one evening per month, Bristol City Youth Council be permitted to host other youth participation groups and youth forums at City Hall.**
- 3. A request for support for the next youth council elections which will take place on 11 February 2017 and to encourage Bristol's schools and young people to get involved.**



13. Motions

Motion 1 – Bristol Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) – protect our NHS and social care services

Councillor Kirk moved the following motion:

“Full Council notes that:

1. The government is dividing the NHS in England into 44 areas or 'footprints', each of which has a 'Sustainability and Transformation Plan' (STP).
2. Government requires these STPs to deliver collective cuts of at least £2.5bn nationally this year, and £22bn within the next five years, to wipe out the NHS' 'financial deficit' by implementing 'new models of care'.
3. The former head of NHS commissioning, Julia Simon, has denounced the STP process as 'shameful', 'mad', 'ridiculous' and the plans as full of lies [1].
4. Locally it is envisaged that there will be a cumulative funding gap of about £305 million by 2020-21 and that the STP will need to change service provision to eliminate it [2].
5. Demands for the area STPs have been imposed by NHS England, with short deadlines, and senior health staff and managers have been expected to pull complex plans together, without the time or resources to carry out proper consultation with clinical staff, councillors or the public. This has led to a lack of transparency, and loss of trust in a process that has been imposed top down. The documentation made publicly available has been lacking detail and though an initial report on the STP has been made to council scrutiny committees there has been insufficient clarity about the power of democratically elected councillors to adapt, amend or influence the plan and its implementation.
6. Although closer integration between health services and the local authority is in principle a sound idea likely to result in better outcomes for residents, it cannot be achieved whilst at the same time making the huge cuts demanded by central government. It will be impossible for the STP for the area to make these cuts without measures which will seriously impact on the health and welfare of the local population. Pressure on acute services will not be reduced unless councils get the extra investment in social care, public health and early interventions to prevent ill health.

This Council believes:

1. That the cuts demanded by central government of £305 million are unfeasible and that there is no safe way of implementing such reductions.



2. That the only way to provide adequate integrated health and social care is through adequate funding.
3. That central government should increase NHS funding to at least 10.1% of GDP, to match the average of other EU countries.
4. That the government must address the crisis in social care funding, to allow councils to provide the adult social care needed to keep people well in their own homes and reduce the unnecessary costs of keeping people in acute hospitals when they could be supported in the community.
5. The STP does not have democratic accountability. BCC will have no accountability for the STP as it is 'owned' by Health. We are named as a delivery partner but our only entitlement is to question and scrutinise. We are expected to participate in a cost cutting process that will negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of our citizens, with no democratic power to change it, to pass it or reject it. This disempowers democratically elected councillors and the public.
6. Although the authors of the local STP have tried to minimise the impact of these cuts, published the plan in full and opened it to democratic scrutiny, any consultation on the plan or on individual elements of the plan is essentially meaningless if there is no option to refuse the cuts. The only way to resist these cuts, which will seriously damage the health of the people of Bristol, is for the people of the City to learn what is being planned and to be able to respond vigorously.

Full Council resolves to ask the Mayor to:

1. Write to thank the BNSSG STP group for their efforts in trying to meet impossible demands.
2. Write to the relevant government Ministers to make them aware of this motion and of our opposition to their unreasonable funding cuts.
3. Write to the City's MPs asking for their support. Particularly in pressing for cross party talks to resolve long term issues of health and social care funding and in calling for an increase to NHS funding.
4. Empower the appropriate Scrutiny bodies (being the Health & Wellbeing Board, and People and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny in the case of Bristol) to identify the health impacts of changes outlined in the proposed plan, and to collaborate with neighbouring Councils by establishing a formal joint Scrutiny process to be set up as a matter of urgency.
5. Publicise likely impacts on key services and our opposition to these funding cuts to the people of Bristol and encourage them to make their views known and campaign against the national cuts to the NHS."

[1] <http://www.gponline.com/shameful-pace-stp-rollout-risks-financial-m%elt-down-warns-former-nhs-commissioningchief/article/1410546>

See also <http://www.nationalhealthexecutive.com/Health-Care-News/just-16-of-finance-directors-think-sustainable-stps-achievableby-2021>



[2] https://www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/media/medialibrary/2016/11/bnssg_stp_10-2016_M722a8w.pdf

Councillor Hance seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED (48 members voting in favour, 10 against, and with 1 abstention) and it was

RESOLVED:

Full Council notes that:

- 1. The government is dividing the NHS in England into 44 areas or 'footprints', each of which has a 'Sustainability and Transformation Plan' (STP).**
- 2. Government requires these STPs to deliver collective cuts of at least £2.5bn nationally this year, and £22bn within the next five years, to wipe out the NHS' 'financial deficit' by implementing 'new models of care'.**
- 3. The former head of NHS commissioning, Julia Simon, has denounced the STP process as 'shameful', 'mad', 'ridiculous' and the plans as full of lies [1].**
- 4. Locally it is envisaged that there will be a cumulative funding gap of about £305 million by 2020-21 and that the STP will need to change service provision to eliminate it [2].**
- 5. Demands for the area STPs have been imposed by NHS England, with short deadlines, and senior health staff and managers have been expected to pull complex plans together, without the time or resources to carry out proper consultation with clinical staff, councillors or the public. This has led to a lack of transparency, and loss of trust in a process that has been imposed top down. The documentation made publicly available has been lacking detail and though an initial report on the STP has been made to council scrutiny committees there has been insufficient clarity about the power of democratically elected councillors to adapt, amend or influence the plan and its implementation.**
- 6. Although closer integration between health services and the local authority is in principle a sound idea likely to result in better outcomes for residents, it cannot be achieved whilst at the same time making the huge cuts demanded by central government. It will be impossible for the STP for the area to make these cuts without measures which will seriously impact on the health and welfare of the local population. Pressure on acute services will not be reduced unless councils get the extra investment in social care, public health and early interventions to prevent ill health.**

This Council believes:



- 1. That the cuts demanded by central government of £305 million are unfeasible and that there is no safe way of implementing such reductions.**
- 2. That the only way to provide adequate integrated health and social care is through adequate funding.**
- 3. That central government should increase NHS funding to at least 10.1% of GDP, to match the average of other EU countries.**
- 4. That the government must address the crisis in social care funding, to allow councils to provide the adult social care needed to keep people well in their own homes and reduce the unnecessary costs of keeping people in acute hospitals when they could be supported in the community.**
- 5. The STP does not have democratic accountability. BCC will have no accountability for the STP as it is 'owned' by Health. We are named as a delivery partner but our only entitlement is to question and scrutinise. We are expected to participate in a cost cutting process that will negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of our citizens, with no democratic power to change it, to pass it or reject it. This disempowers democratically elected councillors and the public.**
- 6. Although the authors of the local STP have tried to minimise the impact of these cuts, published the plan in full and opened it to democratic scrutiny, any consultation on the plan or on individual elements of the plan is essentially meaningless if there is no option to refuse the cuts. The only way to resist these cuts, which will seriously damage the health of the people of Bristol, is for the people of the City to learn what is being planned and to be able to respond vigorously.**

Full Council resolves to ask the Mayor to:

- 1. Write to thank the BNSSG STP group for their efforts in trying to meet impossible demands.**
- 2. Write to the relevant government Ministers to make them aware of this motion and of our opposition to their unreasonable funding cuts.**
- 3. Write to the City's MPs asking for their support. Particularly in pressing for cross party talks to resolve long term issues of health and social care funding and in calling for an increase to NHS funding.**
- 4. Empower the appropriate Scrutiny bodies (being the Health & Wellbeing Board, and People and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny in the case of Bristol) to identify the health impacts of changes outlined in the proposed plan, and to collaborate with neighbouring Councils by establishing a formal joint Scrutiny process to be set up as a matter of urgency.**
- 5. Publicise likely impacts on key services and our opposition to these funding cuts to the people of Bristol and encourage them to make their views known and campaign against the national cuts to the NHS.**



[1] <http://www.gponline.com/shameful-pace-stp-rollout-risks-financial-m%eltdown-warns-former-nhs-commissioningchief/article/1410546>

See also <http://www.nationalhealthexecutive.com/Health-Care-News/just-16-of-finance-directors-think-sustainable-stps-achievableby-2021>

[2] https://www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/media/medialibrary/2016/11/bnssg_stp_10-2016_M722a8w.pdf

Meeting ended at 5.26 pm

CHAIR _____

