

# Member Forum - Questions & Statements from Councillors



**Date:** Tuesday, 14 November 2017

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, City Hall

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**Date:** 14 November 2017



## **1. Questions and replies**

Questions received from councillors are set out in the enclosed document, together with the replies from the Mayor, or relevant Cabinet member where appropriate.

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## **2. Councillor statements**

None submitted on this occasion.



# Member Forum

## 14 November 2017

### Questions and replies



#### Procedural note:

##### **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:**

- Councillors are entitled to submit up to 2 written questions each.
- The questions submitted and written replies are attached.
- Councillors are also entitled to ask a maximum of 2 supplementary questions at the forum.
- If a councillor has submitted 2 questions on 2 separate topics, they may ask both of their supplementary questions on just one of the topics if they so wish, or may ask one question on each of the 2 separate topics. All supplementary questions must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- Via the group leaders / whips, questions have been submitted in priority order.
- At the forum, the asking of questions will be rotated between the political groups that have submitted questions, taken in priority order.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Cllr Fabian Breckles**

**Subject:** Planning

1. Bristol city centre continues to be bombarded with applications for student accommodation; why is it so easy for student developers to build there and what is our response?
2. The Mayor and recently Thangam Debbonaire MP have both previously raised the issue of legislative changes which would see student developers charged business rates. How does the Mayor plan to work with Bristol's four MPs, and others in Westminster, to shape policy in this area?

**REPLY:**

1. The Council's existing Local Plan, agreed in 2011 steered specialist student accommodation towards the city centre. The approach sought to:
  - protect the amenity and character of residential areas adjacent to the city centre;
  - relieve pressure on the local housing stock;
  - address demand for specialist student accommodation;
  - ensure student accommodation is located in the most sustainable location.

Given the continuing strong market for student accommodation, we are reviewing other opportunities, through our Local Plan Review, to significantly widen the benefits of this type of development whilst seeking to mitigate negative impacts on communities. The Council is working closely with the Universities to ensure any future growth in student numbers can be planned for sustainably.

2. I previously raised this issue with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The DCLG have confirmed that there are no plans to review or change current regulations until 2020 and we will continue to call for it, working with our MPs.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Mark Weston**

**BRISTOL ARENA**

1. To date, how much strategic CIL has been put into or reserved for the promised Bristol Arena?
2. When does the Mayor intend to release the value-for-money study into this priority project?

**REPLY:**

- £8million CIL was reserved by cabinet in March 2016 for pedestrian access and other infrastructure works for Arena Island (this was not allocated to the Arena project budget itself).
- We'll look release around the time of the cabinet decision, expected in January next year.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Martin Fodor**

**Subject: Residents Parking Scheme**

After months of work in our wards, repeated complaints from constituents, and constant chasing at the Council, we have now been offered a process for possible new Residents Parking Schemes.

However the suggested process is extraordinarily lengthy and restrictive in its requirements and conditions and appears deliberately designed to make it next to impossible to get approval for a new parking scheme, no matter what difficulties residents are facing. It requires councillors to undertake an immense professional campaign in their wards, reaching every household in order to “measure the demand for an RPS in the area to ensure there’s widespread support for a scheme in the community”, and create a proposed scheme boundary, yet prohibits them from asking residents if they want an RPS in the first place. It suggests a scheme has to cover many 000s of people, even where it may be an extension to an existing scheme that’s needed. It suggests questions that don’t open the conversation to whether a nearby scheme being proposed would change people’s minds who currently think one is not yet needed - a real pitfall we know emerges around the edge of existing schemes, and in Redland we already have 2 areas where residents are desperate for schemes caused by existing areas. It contains timescales wherein even with the strong and clear support of a community an RPS could take as long as 3 or 4 years to implement. It neglects to take into account the imminent clean air zone proposals which could create a new wave of commuter parking outside a zone wherever it has its charging gate. And it doesn’t even state the proportion of residents needed to be in favour of an RPS, something requested time and time again by councillors. Finally it says there is no current financial possibility of a scheme so the entire process you expect ward councillors to develop with their residents may be pointless.

**My question is this:**

**1. Could you explain this situation, or if you are so against new RPS why not accept some accountability and rule them out altogether instead of wasting councillor, officer and residents time with this lengthy exercise?**

**REPLY:**

One of my key pledges was no extension of Residents’ Parking Schemes and review existing schemes, which has now been carried out.

It would be wrong for me to ignore my pledge and not insist that any new or extended schemes do not have the overwhelming support of your community is a standing requirement. Our ability to pay for the installation is clearly another one.

The steps described in the new RPS guidance document are to help councillors carry out this work if they wish to proceed.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Gary Hopkins (Knowle)**

**Subject: Management Failure**

Despite doing some excellent work the Libraries task and finish "group" was severely handicapped by the administration changing its decision making timetable at the last minute and failing to disclose key information.

The latest meeting of the Parks "task and finish group" was cancelled by the Labour chair with no notice to the great annoyance of several members. This is particularly galling as the subject is to be debated in full council today.

The excuse that finally emerged was that the promised information from the administration was not ready and might be at a future date.

1. Does the mayor agree that the failure to provide promised information on time and stick to announced timetables is unacceptable and damaging to democracy?
2. Will the Mayor give his full backing to the Three Party call for a full enquiry into the recruitment of and the departure of our recently departed Chief Executive by our Auditors and Audit Committee?

**REPLY:**

1. No.

2. No. The recruitment of the former Chief Exec followed the usual procedures and was endorsed by full council. The departure has been explained by me publicly and I have nothing further to say on the matter. We would expect the external auditors to look at the subject as a matter of their normal work in reviewing the annual accounts, although I acknowledge that this is a matter for the external auditor.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Tom Brook (Bishopston & Ashley Down)**

**Subject: Air quality**

1. Much has been said recently, including at the last Full Council, on the authority's efforts to tackle air pollution in the city. One important component of this that hasn't been explored as much is the need to improve public awareness of this important issue.

Could the Mayor please outline what the council is doing to improve public awareness of air quality issues in the following areas:

- a) Making the public more aware that air pollution is a problem
- b) Making the public more aware of how they contribute to air pollution and what they can do to reduce their contribution
- c) Making data on air pollution more accessible and easier to use
- d) Improving our data on air pollution, for instance by reviewing our monitoring locations

**REPLY:**

We are reviewing our web offer on air quality and hope to use the council's new open data platform to improve access to the public to the air quality data.

We are partners in the UWE led ClairCity project which is engaging with citizens on air quality now. A simulation game and app will be launched in spring 2018 which will help citizens understand their impact and make better travel choices.

We are bidding for government funding for an engagement and consultation programme around our work studying options for a Clean Air Action Plan. We hope to be notified of the outcome in early 2018.

We review our monitoring sites at the end of each calendar year to ensure they comply with government guidance and are representative of the communities in which they are located. Resources are limited but we are confident that Bristol serves its citizens well in terms of monitoring coverage.

We are investigating whether we can expand our diffusion tube network to cover more schools in the city. We believe this will help raise awareness and support efforts to tackle poor air quality that affects children's health disproportionately.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Richard Eddy**

HOUSING MANAGEMENT BOARD

1. As the Mayor may recall, several of our Council House tenants used to be co-opted into the 'old' Housing Committee. Thereafter, during the 2000's, there was provision for two tenants to serve on the Quality of Life Scrutiny Commission (which I had the privilege of chairing for several years). When the Terms of Reference of this Scrutiny Commission was revised, the then Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr John Kiely, founded the Housing Management Board in 2007, giving council tenants and leaseholders an opportunity to scrutinise decision-making in what has since become Housing Delivery.  
Does the Mayor (and the Cabinet Member for Housing) agree with me that our council tenants and leaseholders should continue to have a key voice in scrutinising the decisions which directly affect their housing needs?
2. The last meeting of the Housing Management Board was held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and there have been none to date in the current civic year. Whilst I appreciate that the Cabinet Member for Housing is primarily working on improving housing supply in the city (and needs to ensure that the HMB is "fit for purpose"), when and if is the next meeting of the HMB going to be held?

**REPLY:**

1. I don't actually recall that, this wasn't my era. We do agree that the tenants voice should be heard through the services. We are currently working through the report of the tenant scrutiny panel on improving resident involvement. Public voice is also delivered through tackling poverty and social immobility, both of which are going in the wrong direction.
2. The Housing Management Board has not met because it was not effectively involving residents and a new structure is being worked on. The council will be consulting with tenants in the New Year on a new structure for tenant involvement. Once the neighbourhood review is completed the cabinet member for housing will call a meeting with the councillor representatives on the HM Board to discuss these proposals.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Paula O'Rourke**

**Subject: Homelessness**

Tough times and tough decisions is the theme at the moment, so the following dilemma fits well.

In my ward I am being appealed to by two groups of residents on the subject of rough-sleepers. While the first category of resident urges me to get the police to remove homeless people who are begging on the streets, a second group are asking me to sign a petition asking that the police ban be lifted and the homeless men be allowed back into the village. I've engaged with St Mungo's outreach workers and tried to find work locally for rough sleepers, but the cycle of begging, leading to a term in jail and then back out onto the streets seems impossible to break.

1. In my position, what would the Mayor say to both the petitioners and the removers?

**REPLY:**

Actually the theme of our latest consultation is Tough times, High hopes.

Your residents elected you as their representative, so they want your opinion and leadership.

However, city wide we are using a £2.5m funding injection to tackle the city's increasing homelessness crisis.

A three-pronged approach will aim to address the root causes, take people off the streets quickly and offer a support service to a cohort of 125 rough sleepers.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Jos Clark (Brislington West)**

**Subject:** Support for Care Leavers

According to the Children Society there are approximately 610 care leavers in Bristol.

1. Will the Mayor confirm that care leavers are able to gain access to child and adolescent mental health support and that this is part of their entitlement as a care leaver?
2. Will the Mayor recognise the importance of supporting care leavers to manage their household finances to prevent them falling into debt, to exempt care leavers from council tax until the age of 22, in line with students to support them in their transition to adulthood wherever they lived in the country (this would be in line with a number of neighbouring authorities such as, North Somerset and Swindon) and outline how the new Children and Social Work Bill will support care leavers in Bristol?

**REPLY:**

1. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) operate to age 18.

Thinking Allowed is a dedicated CAMH Service for children in care and care leavers to age 18. Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS) then take over.

Provision such as:

- Off The Record which provides support to young people aged 11-25 years on Bristol and are contractually obliged to prioritise the needs of children in care and care leavers.
- Kooth is a relatively new online counselling service for all young people in Bristol – initial feedback and take up is good.

Specialist Recovery Navigators for young people aged 16-25 years, prioritise care leavers. Their role is to build relationships and support young people with complex MH needs as they transition to adult services as well as to support those who require support post 18 but who will not receive an AMH service.

Finally, Bristol is one of a small number of authorities working with NHS England to pilot the use of personal budgets to support the mental health and emotional well-being of children in care and care leavers. Bristol has chosen to focus on young people aged 14-21 in recognition of the vulnerability of young people in and leaving our care.



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2. Council tax exemption for care leavers is something that we will be introducing in Bristol. Cllr Helen Godwin has led on this, and the work has been going on for some months to ensure that this scheme works in the best way possible for our care leavers, our intention is to go further than your suggestion and support them to age 25. This work will be formally announced and detailed as part of our Corporate Parenting Strategy refresh that will underline our commitment and determination to support our looked after children and care leavers and to ensure they have the best opportunity to thrive in the city.

The Children and Social Work Bill became an Act of Parliament in April 2017.

The Act sets out, amongst other things, seven Corporate Parenting Principles and requires Local Authorities to publish its local offer to care leavers. Further, it extends the local authority's duty to all care leavers up to the age of 25 (previously it was 21, with some exceptions to 25). I welcome the strengthening of commitment to children in care and care leavers.

However, these are new requirements on the local authority that will require additional resources. In October, the Government launched its consultation on changes to statutory guidance to which Bristol will respond; we look forward to hearing from Government regarding funding for the delivery of these new duties.

Bristol's Pledge and R Voice website for children in care and care leavers sets out the promises we make and what is currently our local offer. Having just concluded our Pledge Survey and consultation with children in care and care leavers we will be revising our offer in the coming months. This new offer will be compliant with the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act.



Question(s) to the Mayor from:

**Councillor Don Alexander (Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston)**

**Subject: Bristol Energy**

1. At the recent fuel poverty conference held here, which was excellent, it became clear to all the attendees that due to the ineffectiveness of central government we need to provide immediate local solutions for vulnerable families in the city. Thankfully we have Bristol Energy which is giving me a great service at 60% of what I was paying to Scottish Power. Households served by Bristol Energy can also be assured of much fairer and more compassionate treatment with the support of their local Councillors. What more can we do to proactively advertise our energy company in all outlets, including where vulnerable families might go to seek help and get them transferred to their local provider as soon as possible? In the past we have been reticent to do this because of possible infringement of competition law but the situation is now so serious that we must look again at this very conservative legal advice.

**REPLY:**

I would hope that all of our 70 councillors have been into their wards to promote Bristol Energy. Any support Members can provide in promoting Bristol Energy locally would be gratefully received.

We continue to explore all potential avenues for promoting Bristol Energy to the residents of Bristol, whilst ensuring that we adhere to all relevant legislation regarding State Aid and competition law.

Bristol Energy is proactively engaging with vulnerable and fuel poor families, including:

- Actively promoting its brand locally by working with local neighbourhood magazines, community centres and local organisations, as well as making sure leaflets are in local community centres.
- Voluntarily participating in the Warm Home Discount (WHD) scheme for the Core Group, which enables pensioners that receive Pension Credit Guarantee Credit to access a rebate to their energy account in winter.
- Offering its most competitive deal specifically for Bristol residents – the My Bristol Tariff is currently around £260 cheaper than the average standard variable deal with the Big Six.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Chris Windows**

**Subject:** Former Filton Airfield Development

At the meeting of South Glos Development Control last month, considering this major application, I was the only representative from BCC. Can the Mayor cast any light on this?

**REPLY:**

No, I am unable to cast any light on this. However, we have submitted comments to SGC in relation to this application, largely concerning transport issues, and these comments formed part of the report considered by the Committee.

The application was, in fact, a revised proposal to the one considered by SGC in June 2015. Our own Development Control Committee had also considered the original application in June 2015 and had submitted comments to SGC before they made their decision on the application. SGC resolved to grant outline planning permission for the development, subject to a legal agreement covering a number of issues including transport measures.

The development was approved in 2015 and we forwarded updated comments as required.



**Questions to the Mayor from Councillor Carla Denyer**

**Subject: Pseudo-public space**

When the Council sells off public land for development, this often results in the public space around the development (squares, parks and thoroughfares) being converted to 'pseudo public space'. These are spaces that appear to be public but are actually owned and controlled by developers and their private backers. The public still have access to the land, but the owners may impose strict restrictions that prevent members of the public from holding protests, distributing information, taking photos, or exercising many of the other rights they are entitled to on genuinely public land.

Current examples in Bristol include Millennium Square and Cabot Circus, and there are many more such sites currently working their way through the construction or planning process including the high profile Callowhill Court/Broadmead redevelopment.

In light of this trend, and the imminent review of Bristol's Local Plan, please could you tell me:

- 1. Does Bristol City Council have any policy (either as a Planning Authority or landowner) on pseudo-public space**, covering what criteria are used when determining whether and how to dispose of public land, and what conditions it imposes on such sales, **relating to public use and access? For example, are there any conditions on protecting the right of the public to hand out of leaflets about issues of public interest?**
- 2. What happens if formerly public space has been transformed into pseudo-public space, and then a few years/decades later the Council wants to change** the layout, landscaping, highway, add disabled parking, cycle stands or bus stops, or extend an area for market stalls or entertainment? Is there a danger that such changes become unfeasible in the same way Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts can trap public services with an extortionate fee attached to variation of contract?

**REPLY:**

**1.** The Council is able to dispose of its land for development by way of either a freehold or a leasehold sale. The Council as Landowner can agree terms with the purchaser within a leasehold sale but these terms are difficult legally to enforce as court action would be required.

The best way to control what takes place on land following its sale is to secure conditions and a S106 Planning Agreement when Planning permission is granted.

If the Council as landowner disposes of its land for development by way of a long leasehold interest, the Council as landowner can agree to manage areas of leasehold land or request areas of developed land are handed back to the Council. This requires



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amicable agreement with the purchaser and would inevitably have to suit the purchaser on how the spaces were to be managed.

Most developers require their own management companies to manage accessible spaces so they can ensure they are maintained and serviced as they require so they are not in turn sued by their tenants.

The rights of public users of land must be balanced with the rights that the owners of the land and their tenants retain and should any members of the public consider they are being treated unfairly or illegally, they should contact the owner or leaseholder of that space, followed by a formal complaint or resolution process or in extreme circumstances through the courts or Police.

**2.** If the Council decides to sell its land for development on a freehold or leasehold basis, the purchaser then controls what layout decisions may or may not be made on that property once planning permission has been fully implemented. Should the developer/owner then, in the future, wish to change the layout and needs further planning permission, it will then be for the Local authority / Planning Committee to decide on proposed or required changes to layout, landscaping etc.

The only intervention a Council can then make to impose any layout changes following compliance with all planning permissions, is by way of its powers as a Local Authority to compulsorily purchase the property and the rights upon / across the property.

What none of the above prevents is the Council amicably agreeing with a freehold or leasehold purchaser some physical or management changes to their development, whereupon practical & legal terms as well as financial responsibilities would need to be agreed.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Anthony Negus**

**Subject: KN Residents Parking Zone.**

Will the Mayor explain why the hard-won consultation letter from Parking Services to residents failed to mention the key factor which would have informed their choice of operating hours and days - which is the imposition of Sunday charges in the adjacent Central Parking Zone that is likely to create parking displacement into neighbouring zones, forcing local councillors to make a judgement with no data, except that from misinformed residents?

**REPLY:**

- The Council could not refer to the Sunday charges proposal in the operating hours consultation, as we cannot pre-determine the outcome of the proposal to introduce Sunday charges in the Central Parking Zone.
- Ward councillors are in the best position to understand the demand for parking in their ward and the potential effect of any displaced parking created by any proposed introduction of parking on street on Sunday in the Central Parking Zone.



Question(s) to the Mayor from:

**Councillor Don Alexander (Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston)**

**Subject: Avonmouth Way**

**Businesses on Avonmouth Way in Avonmouth are being badly affected by lorries parking along the road overnight, causing traffic jams. Under the previous administration, the Council agreed to begin the process of consulting on TROs. Businesses' offer to pay all of the costs still stands – please can the Mayor provide an update on this proposal?**

**REPLY:**

Work on the TRO has been placed on hold following the informal consultation due to the estimated cost of the work exceeding the available funding.

There is currently only £3,000 S106 funding available for this project.

We are exploring whether alternative sources of funding are available.

There is currently no mechanism for accepting funding from local businesses to pay for permanent highway changes such as this outside of the planning process. This is due to the legal and financial risks involved.

We are exploring options to see if a process can be developed that addresses these risks in future.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor John Goulandris**

**TRAILED BRISTOL METRO**

1. When does the Mayor plan to publish the feasibility study he commissioned into his underground metro scheme?
2. What financial models is he considering to meet the colossal cost of delivering this mass transit system?

**REPLY:**

1. I have asked WECA to provide funding from its early investment fund to explore options for a rapid transit system. We have commissioned an initial feasibility study into underground running and will be using the results of this study to inform the next phase of work which will look at all rapid transit options as well as underground.

The results of this full study and all the other studies commissioned by WECA will be made available in due course when they are completed, likely to be Autumn 2018.

2. The report will examine all potential funding sources and financial models for the delivery of a rapid transit system.



**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Cleo Lake**

**Subject: Controlling Migration Fund**

1. With regards to the 'Controlling Migration' Home Office fund - are any controls, safeguards and monitoring in place to ensure that migrants, no matter what their status, are supported and not victimized through the various strands of the scheme? If so what are they?

**REPLY:**

I have made it clear that we won't be involved in rounding people up. The safeguards are:

1. Our approaches to both preventing homelessness and tackling crime and disorder are completely compatible with our City of Sanctuary status and the spirit of those commitments. We want Bristol to be a safe place for all and will continue to support all sanctuary seekers fleeing violence and persecution.
2. Understanding that the £180,474 that was awarded to reduce the rise in migrant rough sleepers was split between the St Mungo's outreach team the council's Streetwise service, Up Our Street, Unity community housing and city of sanctuary all received money from the controlling migration fund.

The StreetWise team have only ever encountered two asylum seekers when out with Immigration, both of whom were given advice by the council and left alone by Immigration. Aside from that, StreetWise has come across three other asylum seeking rough sleepers, all of whom were referred to Outreach.

The joint working arrangements with the police and Immigration Enforcement are specifically to tackle anti-social behaviour, and fall within the council's broader duty to work with partners as per the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Cllr Tim Kent**

**Subject:** Hengrove Park

1. Can the Mayor explain the advantage of his current proposals to move the Hengrove to North Fringe Metro Bus route even before it has opened?

The Council are consulting on development proposals from the Mayor for Hengrove Park.

2. How many housing units does the Mayor wish to see on Hengrove Park and how much open space, in hectares, does the Mayor think should remain for communities to enjoy at Hengrove Park?

**REPLY:**

1. This is not a decision that I am taking. Feedback on the proposals should be given to the project team who I am sure will consider them alongside feedback from the rest of the community.
2. The Council is currently consulting on options for the development of Hengrove Park that will inform an Outline Planning Application in Spring 2018 which include proposals for the size and location of open space, ranging from 20-24 hectares. The deadline for consultation on this stage of the project ends on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

I want to see as many homes as is sustainable, both socially sustainable and environmentally and fits with the provision of infrastructure. The issue of enjoyment of the park is not just an issue of size but also of quality.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from:**

**Councillor Gill Kirk (Lockleaze)**

**Subject: Lockleaze development**

1. Councillor Estella Tincknell and I are delighted that Bristol City Council is focussing on the Lockleaze area to deliver around 800 new homes, including much needed affordable housing. As well as housing, there is a need for improved infrastructure and sufficient amenities in Lockleaze to serve our growing community: including improvements to roads, consideration of school places, a new doctors surgery to alleviate pressure on the nearby GPs (there is already a need for a new surgery in nearby Cheswick village and new housing will compound this need); will these services be sought by the Council and how would they be managed?
2. Lockleaze also needs more social meeting places and cultural facilities. We lost Eastville Library two years ago – since transformed into a community centre – and because of national government cuts, look set to see council funding reduced for its remaining services. New community-based and led proposals are being looked at as an alternative; does the Mayor agree that our view that Lockleaze needs library services which are future-proofed to sustain our ambitious plans for new homes and deliver improved digital inclusion, regardless of how they are provided?

**REPLY:**

1. We are working on a number of ways to improve service provision and support Estate Regeneration in Lockleaze. External funding bids have been submitted to improve local infrastructure with a focus on sustainable transport provision. NHS England, responsible for primary care provision, report appropriate premises capacity at Horfield Medical Centre and EastTrees Medical Centre for anticipated expansion. Officers are working with Government agencies to identify new school sites in North Bristol.

2. I welcome new community led approaches to local delivery including library services. We have received some innovative and exciting proposals in the course of the Libraries consultation and are aware that many communities are ready and able to rise to the proposed changes. It is always our wish that services are future proofed but we must always be mindful of budget changes that are not predictable nor within our local authority control.

Cabinet will be making decisions on the Libraries proposals next month and officers will continue to work with communities to shape the future of the library service.



**Questions to the Mayor from Cllr Geoff Gollop, Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze ward**

**Subject: Council spending on agency staff**

I have looked at invoices over £500 paid to what I presume is our chosen employment agency. The trend is moving downwards which is a very positive indication. However, I would like to know more about what the invoices relate to.

	Spend £s	Invoices	Average
May-16	368,189	95	3876
Jun-16	1,606,175	779	2062
Jul-16	831,113	506	1643
Aug-16	1,320,977	711	1858
Sep-16	848,402	530	1601
Oct-16	1,052,552	615	1711
Nov-16	842,566	526	1602
Dec-16	779,338	491	1587
Jan-17	736,538	460	1601
Feb-17	525,000	349	1504
Mar-17	612,536	383	1599
Apr-17	553,803	388	1427
May-17	422,425	298	1418
Jun-17	363,196	232	1566
Jul-17	541,942	303	1789

1. Can the Mayor clarify the number and value of invoices for under £500 in July 2016 and July 2017?

2. Can the Mayor tell me if each invoice relates to one employee, and if not how many employees are placed through that agency in July 2016 and 2017?

**REPLY:**

1. July 2016, 156 Invoices and a total value of £49,228.31. July 2017 this figure reduced to 89 Invoices and a total value of £26,338.10

2. One invoice does not necessarily correspond to one worker. If several workers were requested via the same Purchase Order, then the charges for those workers may be grouped on a single weekly invoice.

Our managed service provider, Guidant have provided statistics for the number of workers placed in July 2016 & July 2017 respectively.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016 there were 289 agency workers engaged.  
From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 there were 101 agency workers engaged.

**Question to the Mayor from Cllr Martin Fodor, Redland ward**

**Subject: Budget**

The budget consultation is now out. As you say there are hard choices to make, but you also talk of high hopes.

The headline theme is Empowerment. Usually we'd expect to empower people with some backup, to ensure success.

Can you say how community empowerment, greater responsibilities for facilities, spaces, and services will be engendered across the city at a time when you propose to:

- reduce community development work;
- cancel grants that can be used to start projects, develop ideas and gain experience and confidence running projects;
- ask people to take on managing more spaces and buildings?

**REPLY:**

Taking an 'asset based community development approach' we will work with communities and partners to transfer assets and power to greater numbers of people so they have more involvement. The Community Development team have already piloted this approach with successful projects in St Judes, Lockleaze and St Annes including the Old Library in Lockleaze being handed over to community ownership.

We are proving this approach, which can and will work. We have an excellent resource in the many hundreds of council officers who work with people and communities every day. Empowerment and self-determination needs to become part of the habit of Bristol City Council so that building powerful, connected, communities is what we do.

The argument for the council doing things differently is clear. By 2023 we'll have needed to save over £300m in the preceding 12 years. At the same time our city's population is projected to rise from 428,100 in 2011 to around 484,400 by 2023. We cannot afford to keep providing all of the same services as we have in the past. We need to identify ways in which we can transform ourselves to do things differently.

These are tough times but they are also times of opportunity. There is a strong tradition of citizen led and community led action that can be harnessed to enable everyone to achieve their potential and build strong, empowered communities. The council is one part of a much larger network of people and organisations working towards more empowered communities. We will continue to be a dedicated and proactive part of that network so, together, we can realise a more fundamental change in our relationship with the people of Bristol.

The council will continue to have a community development resource to work in priority areas and help deliver a cultural change in the way we work. For example too often the efforts of our communities are hampered not because they haven't got the skills or the know-how but because as a council we make it difficult.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Harriet Clough (Hengrove and Whitchurch Park)**

**Subject:** New Housing Density

I was disappointed to see that the Hengrove Park Phase 1 that was just approved was barely at the current minimum, and is just another suburban housing estate.

1. What measures are being taken to ensure that densities on new sites will be as high as sustainably possible.

**REPLY:**

The consultation period for the development of **Hengrove** Park will finish on 16<sup>th</sup> November. The consultation considers four options based on three different densities – 50 dwellings per hectare (dph), 60dph and 70 dph

Final density within the outline planning application for Hengrove will be informed by public consultation, soft market testing and commercial advice.

Across the city as a whole, it will be no we will be consulting on a new **Urban Living** Supplementary Planning Document. This will provide guidance on optimising land that can be developed in our city by increasing the densities.

This new guidance will provide:

- Positive guidance on how to combine ambitious net densities for residential, commercial and institutional uses with popular and familiar urban forms;
- Show that densities up to around 350 homes per hectare (net) can be achieved for central well-connected sites;
- Make clear that there should be a presumption against hyper-density (above 350 homes per hectare net), and that any exceptions should be subject to much more rigorous impact testing;
- Ensure that high density developments provide sufficient, high quality and useable public realm within a neighbourhood as well as the parks, allotments, and wildlife refuges that sustainable development demands;
- Provide a methodology as to how residential densities should be measured, considering the methodology adopted in the London Local Plan for measuring densities in mixed use schemes;
- Provide a Density Assessment Template for inclusion in the Design and Access Statement that sets out the information the planning authority requires in relation to, site coverage (building footprint by total site area), building heights, residential density measures of units/ha, hab rooms/ha, bedrooms/ha and bedspaces/ha.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Estella Tincknell (Lockleaze)**

**Subject: Cheswick Village**

Cheswick Village is a new housing development which spans both South Gloucestershire and Bristol, with the Aurora Springs part of the in the ward which Councillor Gill Kirk and I represent. Our constituents are reporting parking problems for residents and visitors due to a number of factors. These include inconsiderate and obstructive parking, long term parking by students and staff for the nearby UWE campus, and workers and commuters accessing Abbey Wood. Currently South Gloucestershire Council manage their parking restrictions differently to Bristol City Council and this means that where restrictions are put in place such as yellow lines, this will often 'displace' parking to the Bristol side of Cheswick Village. Both Aurora Springs residents and ourselves are keen to find a sustainable solution; some suggest a sort of residents parking scheme. Can the Mayor enable the residents' request for a parking scheme to be considered by officers, with local councillors receiving written notification from them as to the next steps, and explain whether the West of England Combined Authority could play a role in co-ordinating to solve cross-border parking issues as part of either its spatial planning or transport remits?

**REPLY:**

I was elected with a pledge not to extend Residents Parking Schemes.

New schemes can only be considered where this is overwhelming support in the local community.

The process needs to be owned and progressed by local councillors in their communities.

Guidelines have been sent to all councillors, detailing the steps that are needed before a new residents' parking scheme can be considered.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Liz Radford**

**AGENCY STAFFING**

1. In respect of the table provided by Councillor Gollop, how many employees hired through the agency are interim appointments for first, second and third tier managers for July 2016 and 2017?
2. How much is paid to any other agencies for such managers who are not paid through our payroll?

**REPLY:**

1. July 2016 = 7  
July 2017 = 9

2. A report to the Human Resources Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 on Contingent Workforce Spend included detailed information on Interim Manager and Consultant spend.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Chris Davies (Knowle)**

**Subject: Road Chaos**

Number 1 Redcatch Road has been a problematic redevelopment with long delays as the developer changed plans and then when finally getting appropriate permissions failed to provide proper pedestrian safety on this very busy Wells Road corner site and caused traffic congestion. My ward colleague and I have had to repeatedly chase officers to get them to try to bring the operator in to line.

When some months ago the developer asked for a road closure an Officer sent us a notification with a notified diversion. We advised of the history of trouble with the development and said that the diversion was highly inappropriate as it could not take the articulated lorries and other heavy vehicles that make central deliveries to Broadwalk hopping Centre.

We were therefore saddened to be contacted by the Management of Broadwalk Shopping Centre, informing us that they had not received notice of the closure and that his shops could not get their supplies. There was much hurt and confusion.

1. We wrote to the Head of Transport to ask why our advice was ignored and why shops were not informed. We have no reply. Can we get that now please?

Broadwalk "roundabout" was to be closed for resurfacing work during daylight hours from 7th November for a total of about 6 days. Local Councillors were not informed or consulted and we found out from a rather vague sign near the roundabout and made enquiries. This is a vitally important piece of road, as well as much general traffic, there are 3 major bus routes that go through here.

We eventually got hold of an Officer who could not advise us of the bus diversions but sent a general diversion route. This went the wrong way up a one way road beside a school. We informed the Officer of this but instead of discussing options the new diversion route came back using Greenleaze which is a notorious bottleneck.

2. Can the Mayor give me some assurance that in future Councillors will be recognised as a resource and will be kept informed and consulted by this department?

**REPLY:**

1. Ward Councillors brought this to the attention of the Transport team, firstly in May 2017 and secondly in October 2017. On both occasions a transport officer visited the site and made the Contractor aware of what measures had to be in place to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists. The site is regularly monitored for safety.

Diversion routes are established using the same classification of road that is being closed hence the diversion route that was put in place. The transport team concluded that access to the service yard for Broadwalk Shopping Centre has very limited routes with the only other option being very long winded and not suitable for general traffic. The Contractor is required to



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notify affected parties and was specifically required to speak to Broadwalk Shopping Centre who could then manage their deliveries accordingly.

One planned closure was called off owing to a Police matter and instead took place the following day. The Contractor didn't however notify the Shopping Centre of this last minute change. Local Ward Councillors should be aware that transport officers have written to the Contractor about this matter requiring them to notify affected parties, including Broadwalk Shopping Centre, of all future closures.

2. I agree, and I am assured that Highways Maintenance Officers are aware of the requirement to inform Councillors of work within their ward. They accept that on this occasion they did not follow the correct process. This matter will be addressed with all of the team and will ensure that the team use check lists to ensure processes are fully adhered to in future. The Highways Maintenance Team undertake work on several hundred sites per year, so check lists will be an essential aid going forward.

Transport Maintenance did apply to the Network Management Team for Road Closures, who then provided a plan showing the diversion route. This plan was then sent to the Public Transport Team to share with the various bus companies, however the alternative routes are not compulsory and bus operators may choose to select their own routes.

The route that was initially provided by Network Management was sending traffic the wrong way down a one way street but this matter was picked up by the team before the changes were put in place. This matter has since been addressed with the officers responsible. The route was subsequently amended by the Network Management Team, which was distributed to various departments including Public Transport and was forwarded it to the two Ward Councillors.

The team have already offered their apologies for any inconvenience caused.



Question(s) to the Mayor from:

**Councillor Estella Tincknell (Lockleaze)**

**Subject: UNESCO City of Film status**

1. Does the Mayor agree that the award of UNESCO City of Film Status to Bristol is a significant achievement for the city, and for those involved in the bid from the City Council, from UWE and the University of Bristol, and that this not only recognises Bristol as an important national and international centre for media and film production and education, but will help to further develop an already burgeoning creative economy?

**REPLY:**

I am delighted that Bristol's reputation as a world-leading centre for film has been recognised as a 'UNESCO City of Film'.

We prioritise a strong and competitive film sector. Our cultural sector is a diverse industry that plays an important role in breaking down the barriers inequality creates. The creative industries in the city employ around 16,000 people and are growing fast. Our ambition is that the education, training and employment opportunities developed by the sector will benefit all communities across Bristol. This will be key to our attractiveness as a city for Channel 4.

I am grateful for the leading role played by Cllr Tincknell in securing the city of film status.



Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Graham Morris

**AGENCY STAFFING**

**In respect of agency staff, are you satisfied that there is no further employment liability falling on the authority?**

**In respect of interim staff, can the Mayor confirm that Officers are satisfied that there are no potential IR35 issues for interim managers and that all have been correctly employed?**

**REPLY:**

1. All City Council agency workers are supplied by our managed service provider Guidant and I am satisfied that no employment liabilities fall upon the Council. In relation to interim managers, they are supplied by our managed service provider or other agencies. I am also satisfied that no employment liabilities arise in relation to their appointments.
2. The Finance Act 2017 introduced a change to the tax and national insurance contribution rules for payments made after 5th April 2017 for 'Off-Payroll Working in the Public Sector'. Robust protocols have been put in place to ensure compliance for all such payments since April 2017. We also work closely with our managed service provider to ensure compliance. This is part of our commitment to bringing effective financial management to the council.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Anthony Negus (Cotham)**

**Subject: Re-establishing Our Green Energy Credentials.**

1. Will the Mayor re-affirm the governing green criteria adopted by this Council in 2010/11 that energy produced by what became the Bristol Energy Company be founded on renewable sources and/or intelligent conversion of separated waste with low residue, rather than incinerating all manner of best-price waste transported from distant councils?

**REPLY:**

The council continues to invest in renewable energy projects wherever they are financially viable, including our low carbon heat network.

Bristol Energy currently sources green electricity directly from over 35 renewable generators, including solar PV, onshore wind, anaerobic digestion (AD) and hydro generators, located in Bristol, the South West and across the UK. This equates to about 20-30% of Bristol Energy's total supply.



**Question(s) to the Mayor from:**

**Councillor Jo Sergeant (Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston)**

**Subject: Transport**

1. What is the view of the Mayor and Cabinet on the proposed rise in 'onboard' fares by First Bus and its impact on Bristol residents, without smart phones, who rely on buses to get work, college or to nearest local services/amenities?
2. Can the Mayor share his view on the benefits of a Henbury Loop vs a Henbury Spur with a link to the Severn Beach line, and the role each could play in supporting the Avonmouth Industrial Area, its employees and local residents; provide an update on the progress of WECA-funded studies into mass transit that don't just involve road use, any plans for reforms to the level-crossing systems in Avonmouth [or alternative solutions]; and suggest how these all might interlink?"

**REPLY:**

1. Of course it is important to recognise that Buses are deregulated and therefore price rises are not the responsibility of the council.

Not all customers can or want to use smartphones to manage their bus tickets, but it is a rapidly growing number. We recognise the importance of reducing boarding times but want everyone to have access to lower prices.

We are pleased that First are offering all customers the 'touch card' alternative to mobile phone ticketing at the same (lower) off bus purchase price for most fares.

We are working with First Group to bring First Day Rider into smart ticket format.

2. The benefits of the Henbury Loop vs the Henbury Spur were evaluated as part of the development of the MetroWest Phase 2 project in 2015. At that time only options based on a 'Spur' service offered a strong enough business case and were affordable within the funding identified for the project. The project is therefore progressing with a spur service on the Henbury Line, for delivery in 2021.

However, I am keen to investigate opportunities for delivering a service between the Henbury and Severn Beach lines once the Spur service is in place. Officers are working with Network Rail to scope out a high level feasibility study to investigate this option in the context of other potential future rail enhancements. It is hoped that a feasibility study will be undertaken during 2018.

The emerging findings of the pre-feasibility study on underground mass transit are currently being considered and will help inform a more detailed study on rapid transit options for the city, which will be undertaken during 2018.

**Question(s) to the Mayor from** Harriet Clough, Liberal Democrats

**Subject:** Global Parliament of Mayors

**Question:** What are the advantages to the City of Bristol to hosting this event and how will any such benefit be quantified?

**REPLY:**

This is an event that will help to grow Bristol's economy, particularly in investment, tourism and trade.

The size of this event offers great opportunities for local businesses with hotel rooms, travel, restaurants and tourism opportunities needed for over 200 delegates. We are working with Business West, Destination Bristol, the universities and other city partners who are all behind the event, to ensure we maximise its value and to ensure it meets the needs of our local organisations and communities. Many city partners are already excited and supportive of the event.

