

# Member Forum - Questions & Statements from Councillors

## Agenda



**Date:** Tuesday, 10 September 2019

**Time:** 5.00 pm

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

### **Distribution:**

**Councillors:** Mayor Marvin Rees, Peter Abraham, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Nicola Beech, Charlie Bolton, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Harriet Bradley, Mark Bradshaw, Mark Brain, Fabian Breckels, Tom Brook, 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, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Fi Hance, Margaret Hickman, Claire Hiscott, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Carole Johnson, Steve Jones, Anna Keen, Tim Kent, Sultan Khan, Gill Kirk, Cleo Lake, Mike Langley, Jeff Lovell, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Matt Melias, Graham Morris, Anthony Negus, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Celia Phipps, Ruth Pickersgill, Kevin Quartley, Liz Radford, Jo Sergeant, Afzal Shah, Paul Smith, Steve Smith, Clive Stevens, Mhairi Threlfall, Jerome Thomas, Estella Tincknell, Jon Wellington, Mark Weston, Lucy Whittle, Chris Windows and Mark Wright

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**Date:** 9 September 2019



# Agenda

## 1. Member Forum Questions and Statements

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Member Forum  
10 September 2019  
Statements from councillors



**Procedural note:**

**STATEMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS:**

- A maximum of 1 minute shall be allowed for the presentation of each statement (subject to overall time constraints).
- There shall be no debate on the statements and the Lord Mayor shall refer them to the Mayor for information/consideration.
- Statements will be dealt with in the order of receipt (subject to time).



**The following statements have been submitted – full details are attached:**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
CS01	Councillor Anthony Negus	New Enforcement Policy
CS02	Councillor Jo Sergeant	A Green New Deal for Avonmouth

**CS01****Members' Forum statement from Councillor Anthony Negus****Subject – New Enforcement Policy**

Enforcement should focus on the prospect of deterrence rather than responsive punishment. This document is a necessary housekeeping exercise but this council should go forward by re-examining how enforcement could be more effective and use scarce resources more efficiently. Let me give an example. How do we presently address the problem of fly-tipping and overfull domestic bins and boxes in a mixed business and residential area? Despite promises on the BCC website about enforcing waste/bin management – taken down now that I have pointed out that Officers have admitted that this cannot be done with present powers – enforcement is non-existent for domestic bins. But these common problems maybe because business premises are attempting to dump their waste. Fly tipping can be painstakingly identified with the perpetrator but instead of doing this why aren't we ensuring that all businesses have a valid commercial waste disposal licence? Better yet why should we use precious resources to chase their legal responsibility and instead place the onus on them to confirm– perhaps when they pay their business rates – that they have such a licence? We might at this stage also advertise the service that could be provided by BWC in this respect. Thus with minimum resources we could reduce future waste enforcement actions which presently drain precious resources or are not capable of enforcement.

This change in direction could be applied to a long overdue reassessment of our enforcement approach in general. While the law now allows councils to impose fixed penalty notices for certain misdemeanours, that makes the process self -funding in principle, we are presently unable to recover the full costs of actions as the fines are generally paid into the courts. Nevertheless if this council could at least reduce over time the size of the problem – or number of offences – and at the same time make its enforcement team more efficient that would at least show benefits and cost savings. I ask you to consider that instead of responding to possible offences and using our precious resources to prove and prosecute as many as possible with no financial advantage to the council, instead we should spend our budget more on publicising what the law requires, identifying and prosecuting a very small number of attractive cases which might mean they are simpler, more high profile or more important, achieving a successful prosecution and then spending more money again publicising these outcomes including, if financially prudent, placing adverts across all types of media highlighting the council's success and the resulting penalties.

This would require a shift from using resources to address the maximum possible number of current difficulties to instead maximising the level of resource spent on suppressing future transgressions across a much wider base. Digital technology and making beneficial use of the opportunities from present-day media could transform our success in this field. At present we simply scratch the surface because we focus on enforcing individual acts of wrongdoing. Rather we should be looking to reduce the overall incidence of wrongdoing – surely the goal of effective enforcement. The expertise of the



team would need to change to embrace a greater legal strength and certainly more media/marketing expertise but its medium-term effectiveness would soon be realised.

Once again I appreciate that this paper is not seeking to change the direction of the city's Enforcement Team. When Officers talk openly of their impact being limited by the available resources the smart play is to look outside the box and be prepared to initiate radical new ways of addressing the wider issues that confront us all every day. Simply making minor administrative adjustments to how we do the same thing will not deliver potentially great improvements and make much better impact with our limited resources.

I commend this fundamental approach to enforcement combining wider benefits with prudent use of resources which also applies to many other aspects of this council's responsibilities. When faced with reducing outcomes this council should be open to a bolder re-aligned strategy of deterring many wrongdoers rather than punishing a few.

## **CS02**

### **Members' Forum statement from Councillor Jo Sergeant**

#### **Subject - A Green New Deal for Avonmouth**

The activities on the Avonmouth & Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA), such as wind turbines, solar farms and energy from waste, are already making a vital contribution to Bristol's Green Industrial Revolution and reducing our carbon footprint and landfill contribution.

A Green New Deal for Bristol can only proceed with the continuation and further development of such activities in Avonmouth.

However, we need to be aware of the impacts that poorly managed waste treatment businesses have on a neighbouring residential community, such as Avonmouth Village.

Bad smells are more prevalent in this part of Bristol than anywhere else. And, whilst we all find flies to be a nuisance, especially at this time of year, there is undoubtedly a far greater number in and around Avonmouth, causing misery to residents and workers alike. I have witnessed this myself and have read/heard many other accounts.

I am in no doubt that many of these flies are coming from various forms of waste that are not being properly stored.

There are over 40 waste management businesses operating on the ASEA (including some treating waste from as far as West London) and, whilst most of them are, I am sure, meeting the requirements of their permits, which in some cases are perhaps not stringent enough, there are some that are not.

It is clear that further investigation is needed. This should be the responsibility of the regulator issuing the permits, the Environment Agency (EA). However, due perhaps in part to staffing cuts, it does not appear to be taking the appropriate action to minimise the impacts of so many waste management operations on neighbouring residential communities.



Residents and workers regularly attempt to report their concerns to the EA but are usually fobbed off. When I recently tried to report an issue, I was told it needed to be reported from an affected address, rather than by me, the local councillor. I know that the Council's own Pollution Control Team receive regular complaints and have tried to engage with the EA to get more done but nothing seems to happen.

What we need is a higher standard for waste management businesses, from a government that cares about the impact of business on ordinary lives. However we don't currently have that government so we need to take action ourselves.

An 'Avonmouth Charter', to promote excellence with regards to environmental impacts could be set by Bristol City Council, working with local residents. As we are not the regulator, we cannot enforce our standard but anyone who signs up is publicly demonstrating commitment to corporate social and environmental responsibility.

When we get a government that cares about social and environmental justice, our Charter could become a compulsory standard and be enforced across the by a reinvigorated Environment Agency.

Avonmouth should be leading the country as an exemplar in waste management, as part of a Green Industrial Revolution, providing meaningful employment, as well other economic benefits, whilst doing no harm to the local communities.



# Member Forum

## 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### 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 enclosed.
- 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 supplementary questions will be rotated between the political groups that have submitted questions, taken in priority order.



## LABOUR QUESTION 1

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Marg Hickman

Subject: Racism

1. Does the Mayor agree that Caroline Lucas, the Green Party's only MP, was right to apologise for proposing that Britain should have an all-white cabinet – and what does the Mayor think that communities in Bristol will have thought of this proposition?

### REPLY:

Lots of people have been talking about this. As soon as I heard the list of names and noted those who were excluded, Dr Martin Luther King's letter from Birmingham jail came to mind.

*I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season."*

And that sets the frame work for this last line, which is the key challenge:

*Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.*

Caroline Lucas was right to apologise, but it also needs deep self-reflection. She failed to recognise the leadership of opposition Black and Asian women on the front bench, such as Diane Abbot and Naz Shah.

The fact it was done while maintaining the sense of moral superiority makes it even more dangerous.



## CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 1

Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Graham Morris (Stockwood ward)

Subject: South Bristol Sports Centre

Q1. At the last Members' Forum you responded to my question on South Bristol Sports Centre with:-

*"The current programme has completion of the ground floor [on 10th September](#) and the first floor in October. This is still the agreed timescale for the handover of the bar with the design changes. As you are aware, conversations are ongoing with the trustees given their concerns about the timetable. I am committed that the sports centre will be restored as soon as we can, and I appreciate the frustrations of the local community and trustees who want this important resource up and running."*

On the date of your formal reply ([10th September](#)) can you please confirm, as Cabinet Member with responsibility for Sport, whether the ground floor has now been handed over to South Bristol Sports Centre? If not, why not, and please provide a realistic date for the expected handover?

### REPLY:

I share your frustration that there have been delays on this project.

As you know, in order to try and accommodate an early handover of the Pavilion and bar to the tenants the reinstatement of the sports centre was split into two phases. This approach hasn't worked as well as we would have wanted.

The tenant has requested design changes during the reinstatement works along with other works to bring the building up to modern fire regulatory standards have significantly delayed the initial phase. We are also aware of the contractor's performance which we are monitoring closely.

Completion of phase 1 is now finalised at 29<sup>th</sup> November however partial handover to allow tenant fit out of the bar/kitchen will be possible so reopening to the public can take place with completion.

The second phase of the project is well underway and completion is on course for May 2020 as agreed for the whole site handover and in line with the tenant's business interruption insurance.



## **GREEN QUESTION 1**

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

**Subject: Earth Strike**

UCU has stated its support for a 30-minute workday solidarity stoppage to coincide with the global youth-led student strike on the 20th September, and are calling on other unions, universities, politicians and community groups to join them. In early August Bristol University announced that it will support its staff to take part.

Will the Mayor join this call and make a similar pledge to support Bristol City Council workers taking time off on 20 September to join the Climate Strike?

### **REPLY:**

I've been clear in my support of the climate emergency – I'm proud of the work we're doing on this to act and drive carbon neutrality in Bristol.

If staff want to take the time out they would need to take leave and as always this would be with managers approval and service needs being paramount.

Trade Unions in Bristol have a proud history of industrial action to defend and promote worker's rights. A strike comes with risks and many trade unions members will be able to explain to you the hardship of losing pay to defend terms and conditions.

It would be great if we could see the councillor for Clifton Down actually involving herself in solutions rather than continuously failing to understand the real challenge of actually acting now to tackle the climate emergency. She also has been noticeable in her absence when we have been dealing with social care, children in care, house building, hunger programmes, poverty and immediate challenges that people in Bristol face every day.



## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 1**

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

**Subject: Cumberland Basin**

The Mayor has selected 3 of the 10 options looked at by Arups for redevelopment in the Cumberland basin.

1. Given how unpopular all 3 options have proved, will the mayor now publish the other options so that the public may judge?
2. Given that the mayor has not identified funding for the hugely expensive options that he has published, will he now agree that it would be more productive to examine, in depth, the option to refurbish the present bridge, removing the huge number of ramps and unnecessary roads to allow for housing and community facilities?

### **REPLY:**

1. This road proposal will be followed by an exciting and ambitious plan for homes and a mixed use site. Housing remains the number one commitment of this administration and remains the number one challenge for people in Bristol.

The opportunity to build in excess of 2,000 homes in a city centre location (within a 7 min bike ride of jobs) is one that cannot be missed. To spend £40m fixing a 1950 designed road layout that monopolises one of the most attractive areas of the city instead of sizing the opportunity to extend the city centre to the West would be an abject betrayal of the needs of the citizens of Bristol.

It is typical of this particular councillor to attempt to set himself up as the voice of Bristolians. He can continue to score political points and defend the status quo works for a few but we will continue to take opportunities to deliver our vision for the city and benefit the many.

We are still engaging with the public on the initial themes we have proposed so we don't want to prejudge the results of the engagement process. It is inevitable that we will get a range of passionate views about proposals for a modern road layout and local residents will be rightly concerned about how it might affect them. As we roll out our full plans for the site, our challenge is to engage all of the city on the opportunity.



We have already committed to publishing the full report when the engagement process has completed and we have analysed the results. This was always what was planned, as local Cllrs (including those from the Lib Dems) know. They've already been shared with scrutiny although only two Cllrs attended.

2. The option for removing some ramps and retaining the Plimsoll Bridge (option 4 as the Lib Dems have labelled it) was ruled out because it didn't meet the objectives of the study.

This is another example of short sighted leadership by the Lib-Dems who would waste £40m rebuilding an outdated, ugly and inefficient road system and ignore the housing challenge, flood threats and opportunities to build a sustainable community and extend the city centre.

It provided a limited opportunity for housing and community facilities that we felt was not good enough when we need to find space for 105,000 homes across the region and face a climate emergency that requires everything we do to have sustainability at heart. If we don't put homes in sustainable locations such as this we have to put them elsewhere that won't be as sustainable.

Your "option 4" proposal could also have a severe traffic impact on local residents of Hotwells Gyratory and required a new slip road adjacent to the Rose of Denmark, but people are welcome to offer their views at this stage so we can consider feedback as we develop plans.



## **LABOUR QUESTION 2**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Brenda Massey**

**Subject: Children**

1. Given the recent publication of the report on children in care in Nottingham, can we be assured that the situation in Bristol does not reflect similar conditions? It was particularly worrying to read that officers were unable to remove some of the worst perpetrators from their jobs due to intervention by councillors, so I trust that this would not be the case in Bristol.
2. On the day that the above report was published, the news broke that St Christopher's home on the Downs had been assessed by Ofsted as being unfit for the care of those children with extreme special needs who have been living there. Given that a similar situation occurred a few years ago, what action has been taken to safeguard these children, and find new appropriate provision for them?

### **REPLY:**

1. The report published by IICSA exposed the sexual abuse experienced by hundreds of children in care in Nottinghamshire since the 1960s.

Whilst we are in no way complacent about the possibility of children suffering harm whilst in our care, the circumstances of repeated police investigations, convictions of staff, multiple serious incident reviews and high numbers of disclosures by victims are not replicated in Bristol.

The following assurance mechanisms are in place to ensure the safety of our current children in care:

- Every child in care has an allocated Independent Reviewing Officer who reviews the child's plan at least 6-monthly.
- All allegations about professionals – current and historical - are reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to ensure robust investigation and response.
- Our governance, LADO and our HR processes also serve to ensure that elected officials are unable to inappropriately influence HR or other processes.
- Monthly independent visits to children's homes with findings reported to senior managers and the regulator, Ofsted.
- At least annual inspections of children's homes by Ofsted, with judgement and report published.



- An Annual Review of every foster carer is undertaken by the Fostering Panel and includes views of children and others who see those carers undertaking the task of fostering. The Panel makes decisions about the suitability of foster carers to provide safe and effective care and recommends any changes to the support, training and development needs of carers to help them care safely.

2. On the 29<sup>th</sup> July Avon and Somerset Constabulary informed partners of their decision to initiate a major investigation into child cruelty at St Christopher's, an *independent* residential special school for disabled children run by the Aurora Group.

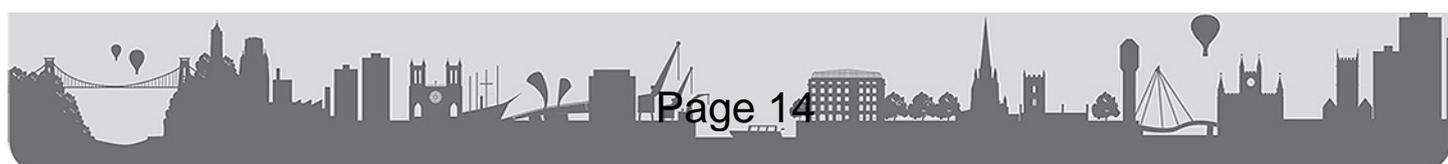
On the same day, Ofsted took enforcement action and served Aurora St Christopher's with a suspension notice in respect of their registration as a children's home (care) provision. This followed an Ofsted inspection of the children's home in June which found that the provision was Inadequate.

Of the twenty children and young adults who lived at St Christopher's five children and four adults were from Bristol. The suspension meant that alternative arrangements were needed for the care and support of those children and young adults with their welfare being our top priority.

We have worked with the children, young adults and their families to review plans and identify suitable alternative care arrangements with all Bristol children and young adults moved by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

As there is an ongoing police investigation we are unable to provide further details however, I can confirm that we are working closely with our partners and playing our part in enabling the investigation progress in a timely way.

The question also refers to 'a similar situation a few years ago'. Whilst St Christopher's has faced change with Aurora purchasing the organisation in 2016 and Ofsted care inspections that judged the provision to require improvement, it is not accurate to say that 'a similar situation occurred a few years ago'. As stated, children's welfare is our utmost priority; the council had worked closely with the provider over a number of years in an attempt to support the provider to deliver sustainable improvements.



## CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 2

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

**Subject: Western Harbour**

Q1. When will Members get an opportunity to consider the reported nine other options which have not been shortlisted?

Q2. Can the Mayor confirm who chose the three schemes which have been shared with the Bristol public?

### **REPLY:**

1. Any road options will be followed by an exciting and ambitious plan for homes and a mixed use site. Affordable and sustainable housing remains the number one commitment of this administration and remains the number one challenge for people in Bristol.

The opportunity to build in excess of 2,000 homes in a city centre location is one that cannot be missed. To spend £40m fixing a 1950 designed road layout that monopolises one of the most attractive areas of the city instead of sizing the opportunity to extend the city centre to the West would be, an abject betrayal of the needs of the citizens of Bristol.

There are seven other options in the ARUP report. Ten high level options were looked at and we engaged on three of those options. We have already committed to publishing the full report. When the engagement process has completed and we have published our engagement report. This will be a couple of months after the engagement finishes.

You could review the question below from Cllr O'Rourke for when members of scrutiny were invited to review the report.

2. The three themes that we engaged on were selected by the Mayor's office in discussion with officers from the feasibility study carried out by ARUP. They were the proposals that scored highest against the objectives agreed at the start of the project.



## **GREEN QUESTION 2**

**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Paula O'Rourke**

**Subject: Western Harbour**

As Chair of Scrutiny for Growth and Regeneration, I have seen the full range of options proposed by ARUP. I did argue that a fourth option should be put to the public but I was told that the option I wanted added was too similar to what is already in place and that residents could opt for 'keep things the same'.

However, when I go through the engagement exercise, while there is a place to comment on the present road structure, the general tone of the survey invites residents to comment on the three new proposals and seems not to acknowledge that there is a fourth option which is, leave the road structure as it is with some 'tidying up' of ramps, etc.

**Q: In the analysis of the engagement exercise, can I have an assurance that the lack of clarity about the fourth option is taken into account?**

**REPLY:**

The option presented by the report to remove a small number of ramps and rearrange traffic movements was not taken forward as it did not meet the objectives of the city.

In retaining the existing infrastructure the space freed up for new housing, community facilities and leisure activities is severely limited and the quality of any potential scheme is also limited. Western Harbour is an opportunity to deliver a significant number of new affordable and sustainable homes in the region, increased employment space, in an active travel area and we would expect that all Cllrs would agree this is a priority for the region.

We will of course consider all opinions that have been shared with us as part of this feedback process. This includes those not taken forward in their entirety but may still challenge and influence thinking for the next stages of this work.



## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 2**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Mark Wright (Hotwells & Harbourside Ward)**

**Subject: YTL**

The Malaysian government contracted YTL to build a marina in Lumut. On YTL's insistence, the marina plan was moved to Pulau to be built, but the scheme then failed as YTL "lost interest" and walked away from the scheme.

1. Is the Mayor aware that his preferred Arena developer, YTL, is under investigation in Malaysia over this failed development there, on a government contract worth £4.7 million of public money?
2. Is the Mayor as nervous as we are that YTL's record of walking away from schemes it has lobbied for, suggests that its commitment to the Filton arena (that it has lobbied for) might not be as strong as previously suggested?

### **REPLY:**

1. You're making a public allegation about a private company that they have already refuted. The premise of your question is weak at best.

2. No. I'd be a lot more worried about borrowing at least £160m to build an arena with just some of the consequences below:

- We have to borrow at public risk, while the operator takes the profit
- we would have millions of pounds of debt re-payments annually
- experts say it wasn't large enough to be commercially viable
- an operator could walk away from at any time
- was in a location that over its lifetime would generate millions of car journeys in the centre of the city, worsening congestion and air quality



## **LABOUR QUESTION 3**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Mike Langley**

**Subject: Sport**

Does the Mayor agree that Bury Football Club being kicked out of the English Football League has reminded us all just how important Bristol's football clubs – and other sporting institutions, however big or small – are to our city?

### **REPLY:**

Yes, I fully agree. Bury FC's financial problems are shocking and a reminder that football clubs are fundamentally important to communities but always at risk to the pressures of the market.

We are working closely with both professional football clubs and will continue to insure that we support a sustainable future for them both. We've been playing a key role in the sustainability of grass-roots clubs, such as Nicholas Wanderers where Cllr Breckels has been leading the way.

Whether they are big or small, sports clubs are important to many people in the city. Sport is interwoven through community life and contributes towards physical and mental wellbeing and also to social and community development.



### CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 3

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Steve Smith (Westbury-on-Tyrm & Henleaze ward)**

**Subject: Council Policy on Van Dwelling Encampments**

Q1. The recent Cabinet report acknowledges that *'living in a vehicle brings with it various environmental health concerns for the individuals and the settled community, businesses and schools due to the lack of water supply, waste (human and general) facilities and potential fire risk.'* Can the Mayor tell me how such living can ever be anything other than a health hazard in an urban setting with close proximity to a settled community?

Q2. Does the Mayor think that it is reasonable or practical to allow in some circumstances [a so-called low impact case] where vehicle dwellers can be left in situ 'for up to three months and beyond'?

#### **REPLY:**

1. I am not sure if you saw the public forum contribution at the cabinet meeting which considered this document. There was a representation from a van-dweller who described how since moving out of expensive, poor quality private rented accommodation into a van his health and quality of life had improved.

In our report we've tried to walk a tightrope in recognising the challenges that come forward for van-dwellers and communities nearby, while recognising that for some people it might be a choice but for others it's a consequence of the housing crisis.

Leadership means that we have to find that balance. You've highlighted a problem, but what solutions are you proposing?

2. Residents who have any concerns about street dwelling are encouraged to report these concerns. The policy sets out a clear process by which officers will assess the impact of street dwelling. Cases will be judged on their individual circumstances and impact.

As stated in the report, given the concerns about the impact on health and wellbeing of living in a vehicle long term, the Council will provide support with partner agencies to help people into more sustainable housing options.



### **GREEN QUESTION 3**

**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Martin Fodor**

**Subject: Local Plan**

Does the Mayor agree with the Green submission to the Local Plan review that climate change needs to be a headline theme running all through the document being drafted, not the modest set of proposed policies in chapter 13? Will he tighten up the draft planning policies, such as energy generating, carbon positive developments, car free new developments, more bus and cycle priorities etc?

#### **REPLY:**

Climate change is a central theme which is at the forefront of the local plan review. There have been less than a thousand responses to the consultation but they will all be considered in preparing the next version of the plan.

The local plan consultation put forward progressive draft policies for zero carbon building and adapting to the challenge of climate change. They set out a route to zero carbon development.

Our plans include car free developments and have ambitious plans for city centre, active travel area developments such as the Western Harbour and Temple Island.

We've delivered more cycle routes and prioritisation and we are working towards a bus deal that will include better infrastructure and prioritisation while securing greater private investment in routes and frequency, driving public transport improvements.



### **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 3**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Sultan Khan (Eastville ward)**

**Subject: International Mother Tongue Day Memorial**

After years of hard work the Bristol Sikh community managed to establish a Sikh War Memorial in Castle Park.

I commend their determination and hard work. I also appreciate the Council's help and support on that project.

1. Would the Mayor help with the community calls to find a place in Castle Park to have an 'International Mother Tongue Day Memorial', which is already being supported in other cities across the country?

The community is ready to assist with funding.

### **REPLY:**

Yes, I am happy to talk to you about it. Can you come and bring me proposals for discussion?

I'm sure I am joined by all members in being appalled to hear about the recent vandalism and suspected theft in Castle Park of the D-Day commemorative plaques. I am pleased to hear that there are already plans to restore them.



## LABOUR QUESTION 4

### Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Don Alexander

#### Subject: Social value

1. Figures published last year showed Bristol in a position as strong as, if not stronger than, Preston when it comes to local procurement. What further progress has been made in ensuring the local authority supports the local economy?
2. The One City Plan, created alongside and committed to with hundreds of Bristol partners, will see other 'anchor' institutions doing their bit in a coordinated, strategic way. Can the Mayor provide an update on this work, and whether it is also true for the council's wholly owned companies?

#### REPLY:

1. Bristol is a perfect example of Municipal Socialism in action, using our position in the market to achieve benefits for local business and the regional economy.

Our direct support for the Bristol Credit union and the Bristol Pound has shown how we are supporting organisations which want to bring social value to the local economy.

The total annual council spend (excluding sundry payments such as Council Tax and NNDR refunds) is as outlined in the table below and indicate a continued positive trend achieving 42% in 2018/19.

Year	BS1 - 16 Postcode	Other Postcodes	Grand Total	% BS1-16
2013	137,625,987	364,900,943	502,526,930	27%
2014	172,804,676	348,554,342	521,359,017	33%
2015	242,002,512	404,982,168	646,984,680	37%
2016	268,332,916	420,755,019	689,087,935	39%
2017	265,166,133	389,900,022	655,066,155	40%
2018	284,549,093	390,313,892	674,862,985	42%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,370,481,317</b>	<b>2,319,406,384</b>	<b>3,689,887,701</b>	

Included in the total spend above is direct procurement activity and for 2018/19 the position is as follows:

2018/19 full year

- Based on £600m third party spend - which includes all third party spend (grants, direct awards, capital, revenue etc.).



- 58% of this spend is with 'local suppliers' – being those with payee addresses in the BS1 – BS16 postcode area
- 55% of this spend is with MSMEs
- 20% with VCSE/Third Sector

In addition we have worked with the Social Value Portal to design a Tool Kit for Bristol to measure and assess the wider social value in our procurement and investment activity.

The toolkit captures a variety of metrics which breaks down the various components and enables the various elements to be excluded from the social value assessment where appropriate to ensure we do not double count. This newly designed Tool Kit will be the version utilised by all of our companies in future.

2. The One City Plan and our whole approach shows how we are bringing partners together to co-ordinate the city so that we can achieve our jointly.

Bringing together the city to write agree and deliver a plan to tackle the city's key challenges in a coordinated and determined way is a huge achievement. Neither the mayor or the city council can run a city on their own, and bringing together all the economic drivers and factors that make the city is an achievement we should all be proud of. We brought together business and unions, private and public sector, charities and the voluntary sector and crucially communities themselves including the strong presence of anchor organisations.



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 4**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Claire Hiscott (Horfield ward)**

**Subject: Plastic Roads**

Q1. Along with the Mayor, I welcome the innovative approach to use single-use, non-recyclable plastics as part of the construction materials for the roads at Ashton Rise. As you will recall, my Group has been calling for such trials since 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Can you advise us of any other sites where this new composite will be used?

Q2. The Mayor may be aware that some people have expressed environmental concerns over micro-plastics and road wear-and-tear. Can the Mayor advise on what monitoring will take place to assess the safety and durability of this material?

### **REPLY:**

1. Our transport team are currently exploring possible other locations within the city but no decision has been made.

This is a new technology which has yet to be approved by the Department for transport therefore we are undertaking tests to confirm it's suitability for use on the road but also looking at other potential reducing carbon footprint materials.

2. We are at present only promoting using the plastic tarmac in the sub tarmac layers of carriageways which means the tarmac is encapsulated.

All tarmacs have polymers in them and so do plastics. The process is to heat the plastic so that it dissolves into the tarmac and as such homogenise with the bitumen.

Therefore the product is a bitumen replacement not an aggregate additive. We are currently working with the industry to ensure the material is fully tested and compliant before the authority will consider using it in surface materials to avoid any chance of the micro plastic issues.



## GREEN QUESTION 4

Question to the Mayor from Councillor Eleanor Combley

Subject: Western Harbour

The Arup report into possible schemes for the area around the Cumberland Basin put forward a number of options, of which 3 have been made public for feedback. **What were the criteria on which these three options were selected and the others ruled out at this early stage and how were these weighted?**

Given that we are in a climate emergency, I would be particularly interested in the weighting of the Carbon footprint of both construction and operation of the new neighbourhoods created, and the modal share of active transport for new residents.

### REPLY:

This is the start of a conversation with people about the opportunity for the city.

Any road options will be followed by an exciting and ambitious plan for homes and a mixed use site. Affordable and sustainable housing remains the number one commitment of this administration and remains the number one challenge for people in Bristol.

The opportunity to build in excess of 2,000 homes in a city centre location is one that cannot be missed. To spend £40m fixing a 1950 designed road layout that monopolises one of the most attractive areas of the city instead of sizing the opportunity to extend the city centre to the West would be, an abject betrayal of the needs of the citizens of Bristol.

Building a sustainable housing development in an active travel area will have a massive carbon benefit year on year on year compared to other locations. Western Harbour is one of the most sustainable locations in the region for new housing. There is a carbon footprint for all development, a proposal such as this one in a central location with opportunity for higher densities on a smaller footprint offers more offers us better opportunities for low carbon living than most other locations in the region.

The report contains both objectives and feasibility parameters which will all be made available when it is released. It includes:



- Meeting Housing Need
- Health and Wellbeing
- Cycling and Walking
- Environment and Heritage
- Estimated cost
- Quality of Development

As set out in the climate emergency action plan we'll be introducing carbon impact budgeting, which will come to bare are the scheme develops and be considered alongside our financial budget. Itys a way of ensuring the cumulative climate consequences of our decision and underpin our journey to carbon neutrality.



## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 4**

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

**Subject: Permitted Development Rights**

The imposition of this central government legislation has removed the right of any individual to object to an application e.g. converting an office building to a residential block, which is now automatically granted planning approval without the additional benefit of local authority examination.

At a stroke such a development may create otherwise undesirable or non-complying fall out, that requires expensive mitigation, where it is possible, by the local authority.

1. Will the mayor give an estimate of the number of occasions when substandard accommodation i.e. not complying with current building regulations, has been required to be accepted by Bristol City Council Officers with or without expensive mitigation?

### **REPLY:**

You are correct, it was very regrettable when the Conservative and Lib-Dem Government introduced this de-regulation in 2013. This is a perfect example of the tendency of opposition to make virtuous statements out of power, and impose adverse circumstances on people and cities when they're in power.

We do not have data on how many residential units have been created through this de-regulated route – known as “prior approval” – but I know that a significant number of new units have been created in the city as a result of this.

Whilst approval under the Building Regulations is required for these changes of use, due to a previous de-regulation introduced by Government, these applications are not always dealt with by the Local Authority because developers can choose to use a private sector “approved inspector”. Also, the assessment carried out under the Building Regulations does not look at the same issues that would have been considered as part of a planning application.

The policy had the intention of increasing the supply of housing it was always going to be at the expense of quality, including space standards, and affordability as these became issues that local authorities could no longer consider.

We have recently been contacted by MHCLG to take part in a national study of prior approval conversions to consider what the outcomes have been. At this stage I am sure that our starting point will be that our concerns over quality and affordability override the perceived benefits of potential increased delivery and that this unhelpful legislation should be revoked.

## **LABOUR QUESTION 5**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Marg Hickman Subject: Housing**

Please could the Mayor/Cabinet Member for Housing provide a breakdown of the reasons for social housing tenants going into arrears?

#### **REPLY:**

There are a number of reasons why tenants may get into arrears and therefore difficult to quantify all the reasons for failure to pay, however these include:

- Impact of Welfare reform including Universal Credit
- Tenants make difficult priority decisions of paying rent v food/utility costs/school uniform and also prioritising other debts over payment of rent
- Vulnerability and lack of support/care to sustain their tenancy caused by reductions in care and support funding
- Tenants not receiving all benefits they are entitled to claim

We do everything we can to support tenants to prevent arrears including:

- Advice from the Rents and Financial Inclusion team;
- Tenancy support through the Estate Management service
- WRAMAS – Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service;
- Future Bright – providing training, coaching and support to help develop skills; and confidence to assist getting tenants into work;
- Citizens Advice Bureau



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 5**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Matt Melias (Avonmouth ward)**

**Subject: Giant Gorum Pub**

Q1. As the Mayor will be aware, the last public house in Lawrence Weston is included in The Bristol Local List as an important heritage asset. Its future is now in doubt. Can the Mayor advise whether or not Council Officials have a clearer idea as to what is to happen to this historic building?

Q2. Does the Mayor agree with – and would support – the idea of upgrading the status of all those sites included on the Local List as a means of providing them with greater legal protection against demolition or redevelopment?

### **REPLY:**

1. We are aware of local speculation about the future of the pub although we have not received any detailed information.

If a planning application were received for a change of use or demolition it would be assessed against the policies in the Local Plan and its status as a building on the Local List would be a material consideration.

2. Unfortunately it is not for the Council to consider any application for nationally listed status, such an application would be considered solely by Historic England. We would support the exploration of this idea.

If their decision was that any building or local asset was clearly of national significance we would support its national listing.



## **GREEN QUESTION 5**

### **Question to the Mayor from Councillor Martin Fodor Subject: Digital Advertising**

The Council's initial Climate Emergency report noted that around 60% of carbon emissions in Bristol are caused by consumption.

Will the Mayor rule out more digital advertising on council land and facilities and add a policy to the local plan and to property management to eliminate this wherever /at all possible? We can't go on encouraging endless wasteful consumption and damaging community wellbeing with body shaming, consumption envy, and encouraging debt.

### **REPLY:**

This is not the administration's responsibility. We operate in the context of planning legislation when dealing with proposals for advertisements. The regime is lighter touch than the system for obtaining planning permission for development.

In planning terms, we are only allowed to consider amenity and public safety when considering proposals for advertising. We cannot consider the content of adverts or other matters such as the energy use of signs.



## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 5**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Tim Kent (Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward)**

**Subject: West of England Regional Spatial Strategy, response from the Inspectors of the Examination in Public and the HIF bid**

The Inspectors appointed to examine the West of England Spatial Strategy has responded suggesting the strategy should be withdrawn from any further examination following their first set of hearings looking at the soundness of the plan and the decision to develop 12 Strategic Development Locations. The Whitchurch SDL was raised during the hearings by many people as an unsound proposal.

1. Will the Mayor now withdraw his support for the Whitchurch SDL and work with local councillors, from both authorities, on more acceptable and sustainable plans?
2. Given the Spatial Strategy is now effectively dead can the Mayor confirm what impact this has on the Local Plan, The Transport Strategy and the HIF bid?

### **REPLY:**

1. The Inspectors provided an initial letter on 1<sup>st</sup> August and I draw your attention to the following words in their letter: ‘..... it is important that we make absolutely clear that we have not reached the view that any of the individual proposed SDLs could not form a sound part of a plan for the West of England or as allocations in local plans.’

Therefore it is too early for me and our neighbouring authorities to rule out any of the SDLs on this basis, but will need to return to the methodology by which they were chosen is particularly relevant in areas outside of Bristol.

2. We will continue to need to work on a sub-regional approach to facilitate growth in homes and jobs and will do so within whatever plan making process is deemed the most effective.

We have not yet had time to fully review the inspector’s view with neighbours; however it is clear that there will be impact on the proposed Joint Spatial Plan for



the West of England which is likely to impact on timescale for the review of the Bristol Local Plan.

The Joint Local Transport Plan deals with existing transport problems and potential impacts on the network caused by new housing proposed to be delivered through to 2036. The detail of the JLTP may need to be reviewed in the light of the Councils' response to the Inspectors' letter.

The key elements of the Housing Infrastructure Bid for Bristol including those relating to Temple Meads Station and Callington Road, are unaffected by this process.



## **LABOUR QUESTION 6**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Jo Sergeant**

**Subject: Flies**

At the previous Member Forum, I asked the following question:

*Given that one waste management company is storing large amounts of RDF in bales outside its plant, landlords are cramming people into their properties to maximise profit, with inadequate household waste storage and fly tip sites are taking at least several months to clear, what measures are being taken by the Council to ascertain the cause(s) of the prevalence of flies in and around Avonmouth?*

The response included the following:

*The Pollution Control Team have visited with and continue to liaise closely with the regulator of this and other waste sites, the Environment Agency, to ensure they are compliant with their Permits and in particular this year have proactively visited and required pest management practices (insecticidal treatments) to be adjusted to predict potential increase in fly numbers ahead of spells of warmer weather.*

Can we please have an update on the findings of these visits, along with some information on how we are working with the EA to improve the lives of those living adjacent to the Avonmouth & Severnside Enterprise Area, particularly as residents are reporting that fly numbers are still high?

### **REPLY:**

We continue to investigate the wide range of potential causes of fly complaints in the City as a priority whether in relation to Waste facilities this the Environment Agency regulate or other sources outside their control.

Weekly investigation and monitoring visits are undertaken by our Pollution Control Team and fly numbers remain consistent with data from recent years.

The Environment Agency has carried out proactive visits to waste processing sites this summer and we trust this has been effective in relation to fly control and helped reduce the risk of supporting the fly population in Avonmouth.

Our Pollution Control Team has arranged to meet with the EA at the end of this month to review this summer's actions and plan for next year ahead warm and humid weather which supports the fly population citywide.



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 6**

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

**Subject: Bristol's Library Service**

Q1. The Mayor's Damascene conversion to becoming a supporter of Bristol's libraries is very welcome and a great relief to the many users of our local libraries. Will he give the people of Bristol his cast iron assurance that as long as he is Mayor no library in Bristol will close?

Q2. There is no branch library in my ward, so residents mainly use three neighbouring libraries - Sea Mills, Westbury and Henleaze. These are all very popular and well used. Will the Mayor promise to keep current opening hours for these specific libraries?

### **REPLY:**

1. Despite Conservative attempts to decimate public services by passing budget reductions to local authorities. I am incredibly proud we have been able to keep ALL our libraries (and children's centres) open despite your government continued austerity programme.

The guarantee I give you is that no library has closed under my administration, and will continue to be funded as alternative models come forward.

2. There is no question that the current library model is outdated and unsustainable. The situation has to become financially sustainable and we need a model of libraries fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## **GREEN QUESTION 6**

**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Paula O'Rourke**

**Subject: Western Harbour**

The development strategy for Bristol has a high density policy which limits the height of buildings so that there is a ratio to surrounding buildings. This means that 2 storey terraced houses can only have buildings of 4 or 5 storeys in their vicinity. This is good.

The bonded warehouses at the proposed development sites at Western Harbour are 10 storeys high, would this mean that our own policy would allow for tall building in the historic Avon Gorge? Can we have some assurances that this will not happen?

### **REPLY:**

The emerging Local Plan and Urban Living SPD will inform development of the proposals at Western Harbour and will ensure that appropriate urban design considerations in respect to the unique setting of the harbour in the gorge is taken into account as part of the scheme development and planning assessment process.

Any road options will be followed by an exciting and ambitious plan for homes and a mixed use site. Affordable and sustainable housing remains the number one commitment of this administration and remains the number one challenge for people in Bristol.

The opportunity to build in excess of 2,000 homes in a city centre location is one that cannot be missed. To spend £40m fixing a 1950 designed road layout that monopolises one of the most attractive areas of the city instead of sizing the opportunity to extend the city centre to the West would be, an abject betrayal of the needs of the citizens of Bristol.



## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 6**

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

**Subject:** MetroBus

The mayor will remember my Statement to WECA about the Bamfield Bus Stop and MetroBus in July.

1. What progress has been made towards the MetroBus stopping at the Thurlestone /Bamfield stop?

### **REPLY:**

Officers have been seeking to identify the funding to facilitate the upgrade of these stops to metrobus quality standards. This includes consideration of the Transport Capital Programme as well as developing a bid for funding the Bamfield bus stop from the WECA Investment fund, which requires a supporting business case.

Once funding has been approved, metrobus services will be able to use these stops, and the upgrades implemented as soon as possible.



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 7**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Lesley Alexander (Frome Vale ward)**

**Subject: Future Financial Support For Bristol Energy**

Q1. What assurance can the Mayor give me that the somewhat abstract concept of 'social value' will not be used as a balancing item to obscure the otherwise continuing 'real' financial losses of this company?

Q2. Having now subsumed the operation of Bristol Energy within the City Leap Prospectus, can the Mayor confirm there is in fact an actual ceiling on the level of local taxpayer support he is prepared to countenance ploughing into this risky venture?

### **REPLY:**

1. Social value is not "abstract". It is not abstract for the pensioners struggling to heat their homes or for families struggling to pay their bills given support from Bristol Energy. Bristol has adopted the Social Value definition which integrates economic, environmental and social sustainability into the perceived value created.

The Council can be assured that maintaining close scrutiny on Bristol Energy's ongoing performance is central to the Shareholder's approach to managing this risk. The recent stand up of the Holding Company and strengthening of oversight and governance by the Holding Company is a major aspect of ensuring that the forecast Bristol Energy losses are minimised, and that the performance of Bristol Energy is improved.

This is completely separate from achieving those wider values that effective delivery of social value measures brings to Bristol's communities. We consider the ideal position when evaluating the impact of our activity and investments is to look at the four key strands of impact (these being financial, economic, social and environmental impact) that flow from our investments and as such the financial impact will always be given due consideration.

2. We will continue to take a responsible approach to tax payer's money and Bristol Energy.

As you note, because of us staying with Bristol Energy and now combining it with the City Leap prospectus we have the opportunity to leverage considerable investment into the city's energy infrastructure and make opportunities for Bristol Energy as energy supplier.



The total cash funding envelope for Bristol Energy to support its core energy supply business is set at £37.7M, as approved by Cabinet at its meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. For the avoidance of doubt, this total cash funding includes any funding provided to BE to date.

Council will appreciate that Bristol Energy is operating as a commercial entity in a very competitive market and the actual outcomes will be subject to both internal and external factors. Whilst we recognise the greater opportunities for diversification that arises from City Leap, Bristol Energy will always seek to maximise the opportunities that the market presents and return the optimum value to its shareholders.



## **GREEN QUESTION 7**

**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Steve Clarke**

**Subject: City Leap**

City Leap has the potential to help transform Bristol's economy and infrastructure if it gets off the ground.

In order for members to gauge our progress on this exciting project, can the Mayor confirm how much of the £1bn City leap investment programme has actually so far been invested or committed by third parties?

### **REPLY:**

Bristol City Council has invested over £50m in low-carbon energy projects to date and City Leap is about taking this delivery to the next level to support the creation of a carbon neutral Bristol.

There has been a great deal of interest in the City Leap initiative from organisations all over the world but the investment will come from our chosen partner(s) once we have concluded the procurement process to find our joint venture partner. This is the process which Cabinet approved in April 2019 which commenced on 9 September.

Whilst this procurement happens, the council continues in delivering new energy projects and seeking new grant funding from government.



## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 7**

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

#### **Subject: Cumberland Basin**

Three options only for the future of this iconic part of the city have been presented for our citizens to consider. It has not been permitted for councillors, or others, to see, or obtain access via Freedom of information to the publicly-funded consultant's report on the range of options available.

1. Will the mayor release this report so that it can be seen that he trusts and values the contribution from members of the public to the important, and open, debate on the future of this hugely important and precious part of our city?

#### **REPLY:**

The reason that all the options remove the current road plan is that our priorities are homes and sustainable living. The Western Harbour provides substantial solutions to both. We have a challenge to build 105,000 homes – 2,000 a year and 800 affordable – and we want to bring people and families into the city centre. At a time we have declared a climate emergency people can live in the city centre travelling to work actively and go some way to maintain a vibrant and active city centre.

The report and the options within it were shown to a closed session of scrutiny at their request, this offer was open to all councillors on G&R Scrutiny but only two attended, Cllr O'Rourke, the Chair, and Cllr Wright.

We did not want to publish the report prior to the engagement process taking place as we wanted people to focus on the themes that were viable and met the objectives of the study rather than unviable options.

As we have said all along including to local Cllrs we will publish the study in full alongside our engagement report after the engagement process is completed.



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 8**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Mark Weston (Henbury & Brentry ward)**

**Subject: Western Harbour**

Q1. What are the projected capital costs to the Council in this major development for each of the proposed schemes and the rejected options?

Q2. Can the Mayor provide the expected timescale and timetabling for each stage in this project?

### **REPLY:**

1. The costs of the proposed schemes have only been assessed at a very high level and are not detailed enough to have any degree of certainty. We have estimated that the maintenance cost of refurbishing the existing structure will be in the region of £40m.

Clearly removing this infrastructure and building new structures will be more expensive than just refurbishing the existing. However there is also an opportunity when doing this that has to be taken into account when assessing the costs of the scheme and potential benefits, and this would form a main element of any future work

2. Timescales will become clearer as we develop the plans.

We expect to complete the engagement report around November time, and taking on board the feedback will decide what to do next at that time. It is likely that a strategic masterplan-scheme will be developed with an integrated approach to traffic and flooding.

Any development and design will be phased with meaningful engagement and consultation built in.



## **GREEN QUESTION 8**

**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Charlie Bolton**

**Subject: Chocolate Path**

The Chocolate path has been closed for well over a year now. Could you give us a date or even an approximate date for when it will be re-opened?

### **REPLY:**

We are intending to bring a cabinet report in October which will contain more information.

This is a significant engineering project and a thorough assessment of the area has been carried out by structural experts.

The work to stabilise the area will start early next year. The work is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete and forms part of plans to fully restore the area.



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 9**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Steve Jones (Stockwood ward)**

**Subject: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

As the Mayor is aware the Hengrove and Whitchurch Park Neighbourhood Development Plan was recently produced. One of the consequences is that the remaining wards in Area 6 will have fewer funds to share across the area. Does the Mayor have any plans to compensate area 6 for this marked reduction in anticipated funding?

### **REPLY:**

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL is to fund infrastructure or other measures that address the demands that development places on the local area.

Government guidance and regulations are very clear that those communities that support growth by bringing forward a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), such as Hengrove and Whitchurch Park, receive an additional 10% of Neighbourhood CIL from development in the plan area; provided that the development was granted planning permission after the plan took effect.

The additional 10% comes from the monies that would have been used for Citywide Strategic CIL.

Those parts of the Area Committee 6 area that do not have a NDP in place, will see no change and continue to receive a Neighbourhood Portion of 15% of the CIL income generated from development in the area.



## **GREEN QUESTION 9**

**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Charlie Bolton**

**Subject: Western Harbour**

Riverside garden centre is a successful local business and cooperative of long standing. It is apparently threatened by two of the three proposals suggested by the engagement process for Western Harbour. Will the mayor give any assurances as to its future?

### **REPLY:**

I have been in contact with Riverside so that we can have a conversation about the options.

At this early stage we can't guarantee anything, but we will be looking to work them as any plans start to come forward to make sure they can make use of this opportunity for the area and feed in their views.



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 10**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Steve Jones (Stockwood ward)**

**Subject: AREA COMMITTEES**

Can the Mayor please explain how the component wards for each Area Committee were drawn up and what factors were used to arrive at this decision?

### **REPLY:**

Area Committees were agreed by full council following consultation with ward councillors.

Key considerations were:

- a) The shape/boundaries of community networks
- b) 'Natural neighbourhoods'
- c) Development sites and key transport/routes
- d) Bringing together most deprived with better off areas
- e) The Number of councillors on each committee
- f) Cost of administering the committees



## **GREEN QUESTION 10**

**Question to the Mayor from Councillor Steve Clarke**

**Subject: Ongoing road works**

I have noted the current extreme difficulty in getting around both as a cyclist and pedestrian in the area around Temple Meads. I understand that this is a major project and there have been delays.

Can the Mayor advise on the current timescale to restore cycle and walking around Temple Meads?

### **REPLY:**

Crossing of Bath Bridges roundabout from Cattle Market Road to Clarence Road is due to complete by end of September.

The remaining two bus stops (Redcliffe Way Eastbound and Victoria Street inbound) are due to be completed and operational on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Some Traffic Management (cones etc.) will be in place further into the Autumn to allow safe working for correction of defects under the construction contract (such as kerb stones damaged during construction and clearing of kerbside drainage)

I am grateful for the patience of local residents and businesses while we delivered this important road scheme which will improve the area for traffic flow, cycle routes and pedestrian access.



## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 11**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Graham Morris (Stockwood ward)**

**Subject: Broadlands Academy School Transportation**

At the July Members' Forum you said that conversations were ongoing between BANES and BCC on trying to agree a bus route extension for the existing 515 service. Can I please have an update and a timescale as to when you expect this bus service to be operational?

### **REPLY:**

Officers are still in discussion with officers in B&NES Council to collaborate on a joint service proposal to improve the connections from Stockwood. This is dependent on procurement activity in B&NES and so the detailed timescale for this is not yet known.

We will continue to pursue this with B&NES colleagues to try to bring this forward.

Any changes to the service will need to be consulted upon and registered with the Traffic Commissioners Office.

Subject to the completion of procurement and registrations, the earliest any changes can be made to the service would be the January 2020 change date, but this cannot be guaranteed.

