

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Full Council

11 February 2021 at 5.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Mayor Marvin Rees, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Nicola Beech, Mark Bradshaw, Mark Brain, Charlie Bolton, Tom Brook, Fabian Breckels, Tony Carey, Craig Cheney, Barry Clark, Jos Clark, Harriet Clough, Eleanor Combley, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Mike Davies, Carla Denyer, Kye Dudd, Richard Eddy, Martin Fodor, 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, Jeff Lovell, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Graham Morris, Anthony Negus, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Celia Phipps, Ruth Pickersgill, Kevin Quartley, Liz Radford, Jo Sergeant, Steve Smith, Jerome Thomas, Estella Tincknell, Jon Wellington, Mark Weston, Lucy Whittle, Chris Windows and Mark Wright

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Lord Mayor welcomed all attendees to the meeting..

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were heard from Councillors English and Rippington.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interests were made:

Councillor Bradshaw declared a non pecuniary interest as a Council appointed non-executive director of Bristol Holdings Ltd and Bristol Heat Networks Ltd.

Councillor Brook declared a non pecuniary interest as a Council appointed non-executive director of Bristol Waste Company.

Councillor Gollop declared that in his role of Chair of OSMB he sits as an observer on the Shareholder Advisory Group.



Councillor Pearce declared a non pecuniary interest as a Council appointed director on the board of BE 2020 Ltd.

Councillor Don Alexander declared a non pecuniary interest as a Council appointed director on Goram Homes Ltd.

4. Public Forum (Public Petitions, Statements and Questions)

Public petitions:

There were no public petitions submitted to this meeting

Public statements:

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

Ref No	Name
PS01	Clive Stevens
PS02	Suzanne Audrey
PS03	Merche Clark
PS04	Jen Smith
PS05	Caroline Gooch
CS01	Councillor Khan
CS02	Councillor Gollop
CS03	Councillor Hopkins

Statements PS01, PS02, PS03, PS05, CS01, CS02 and CS03 were presented by individuals present at the meeting.

Public Questions:

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

Ref No	Name
PQ01	Suzanne Audrey
PQ02 & PQ03	Caroline Gooch
PQ04 & PQ05	Merche Clark

The Mayor responded verbally to all the questions also responding to supplementary questions.



5. Motion

Councillor Hopkins moved the following motion:

“This Council notes with alarm the numerous failings identified in the recent review of governance arrangements for Bristol Holding Company and its subsidiaries.

The value-for-money assessment in respect of Bristol Energy was especially damning and exposed some glaring deficiencies in existing structures, methods of monitoring and information sharing. As a result, the conclusion was drawn that Cabinet was not properly informed when it came to making ‘high-risk’ investment decisions in that failed business.

These shortcomings inevitably raise continuing concerns over a lack of transparency and the ability or effectiveness of scrutiny to oversee executive/political decision-making for publicly-owned commercial companies.

In order to restore public confidence, protect the taxpayer, and discharge the Authority’s obligations to its employees in such enterprises, Council calls on the Mayor to accept and adopt (in total and without delay) the twelve recommendations contained in the report of our external auditors.

Furthermore, a cross-party board or panel needs to be established as an adjunct to the Audit Committee and OSM, the membership of which shall have full access rights to potentially exempt information. For the sake of clarity, the composition of this body will be made on the basis of proportionality and determined by Party Whips. It’s first meeting will take place within two weeks of formation, with the initial task being to examine a detailed action plan prepared by officers on how all of the changes advised by the independent auditor are to be delivered.

A report on the progress made towards implementation must then be brought back to Full Council within three months of the passing of this resolution. (Or no later than Annual Full Council.) In this way, appropriate checks and balances within the Council’s Constitution can be restored, rightly respected, and adequately safeguarded.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Weston

There was a debate, following which the Lord Mayor then invited Councillor Hopkins, as mover of the original motion to speak.

Following final remarks, upon being put to the vote, the original motion was CARRIED (58 For, 0 against, 0 absentions) and it was

RESOLVED:



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Meeting ended at 6.20 pm

CHAIR _____

Motion - Executive Decision Making and Scrutiny of Council-Owned Companies (Motion)	
Marvin Rees	For
Councillor Donald Alexander	For
Councillor Lesley Alexander	For
Councillor Nicola Beech	For
Councillor Mark Bradshaw	For
Councillor Mark Brain	For
Councillor Charlie Bolton	For



Councillor Tom Brook	For
Councillor Fabian Breckels	For
Councillor Tony Carey	For
Councillor Craig Cheney	For
Councillor Barry Clark	For
Councillor Jos Clark	No vote recorded
Councillor Harriet Clough	For
Councillor Eleanor Combley	For
Councillor Asher Craig	For
Councillor Christopher Davies	For
Councillor Mike Davies	For
Councillor Carla Denyer	For
Councillor Kye Dudd	For
Councillor Richard Eddy	For
Councillor Martin Fodor	For
Councillor Paul Goggin	For
Councillor Geoff Gollop	For
Councillor John Goulandris	For
Councillor Fi Hance	For
Councillor Margaret Hickman	For
Councillor Claire Hiscott	For
Councillor Helen Holland	For
Councillor Gary Hopkins	For
Councillor Christopher Jackson	For
Councillor Hibaq Jama	For
Councillor Carole Johnson	For
Councillor Steve Jones	For
Councillor Anna Keen	For
Councillor Tim Kent	For
Councillor Sultan Khan	For
Councillor Gill Kirk	For
Councillor Cleo Lake	For
Councillor Jeff Lovell	For
Councillor Brenda Massey	For
Councillor Olly Mead	For
Councillor Graham Morris	For
Councillor Anthony Negus	For
Councillor Paula O'Rourke	For
Councillor Steve Pearce	For
Councillor Celia Phipps	For
Councillor Ruth Pickersgill	For
Councillor Kevin Quartley	For



Councillor Liz Radford	For
Councillor Jo Sergeant	For
Councillor Steve Smith	For
Councillor Jerome Thomas	For
Councillor Estella Tincknell	For
Councillor Jon Wellington	For
Councillor Mark Weston	For
Councillor Lucy Whittle	For
Councillor Chris Windows	For
Councillor Mark Wright	For
Carried	

