

Summons to attend meeting of Full Council



Date: Tuesday, 7 September 2021

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

To: All Members of Council

Issued by: Sam Wilcock, Democratic Services

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Date: Thursday, 26 August 2021



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

(Pages 28 - 31)

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest from the Councillors. They are asked to indicate the relevant agenda item, the nature of the interest and in particular whether it is a **disclosable pecuniary interest**.

Any declarations of interest made at the meeting which is not on the register of interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.

(Pages 32 - 43)

5. Lord Mayor's Business

To note any announcements from the Lord Mayor

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

Public Forum (Public Petitions, Statements and Questions)

Public forum items from members of the public who live or work in Bristol can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affects the city. Submissions will be treated in order of receipt and **as many people shall be called upon as is possible within the time allowed within the meeting (normally 30 minutes)**.

Further rules can be found within our [Council Procedure Rules](#) within the [Constitution](#).

Please note that the following deadlines apply to this meeting:

- a. Public petitions and statements: Petitions and written statements



must be received two working days prior to the meeting - by **12 noon on Friday 3rd September 2021** at latest. One written statement per member of the public is permitted.

b. Public questions: Written public questions must be received three clear working days prior to the meeting - by **5pm on Wednesday 1st September 2021** at latest. A maximum of 2 questions per member of the public is permitted. Questions should be addressed to the Mayor or relevant Cabinet Member.

c. Members of the public who wish to present their public forum in person during the meeting are asked to register their intent to attend by giving at least two clear working days notice prior to the meeting by midday on **Friday 3rd September 2021**. This would help plan for covid secure measures within the meeting room and Council building.

Public forum items should be e-mailed to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Please note that members of the press and public will be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room due to the maximum capacity of the venue. Those registered to speak for public forum will be brought into the meeting to speak to their item in turn.

7. Petitions Notified by Councillors

Please note: Up to 10 minutes is allowed for this item.

Petitions notified by Councillors can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affects the city. The deadline for the notification of petitions to this meeting is **12 noon on Monday 6th September 2021**.

8. Mayoral Commission Update: Report of the Youth Mayors/ Youth Council

9. Annual Report of the Audit Committee

(Pages 44 - 54)

10. Reference from Human Resources Committee - Selection Committee Size and Composition

(Pages 55 - 57)



11. Motions

Note:

Under the Council's constitution, 30 minutes are available for the consideration of motions. In practice, this realistically means that there is usually only time for one, or possibly two motions to be considered.

With the agreement of the Lord Mayor, motion 1 below will be considered at this meeting, and motion 2 could be considered, subject to time.

Details of other motions submitted, (which, due to time constraints, are very unlikely to be considered at this meeting) are also set out for information.

MOTIONS RECEIVED FOR FULL COUNCIL

1. Golden Motion - Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's Green Spaces

This Council welcomes the importance placed by Her Majesty's Government on the protection of the Green Belt and endorses the main reasons given for preserving this strategic space.

These zones are essential to check urban sprawl; prevent the merging of neighbouring towns; safeguard the countryside from encroachment; preserve the setting and special characteristics of historic areas; and assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of already developed land.

The need to conserve the existing Green Belt, as well as retaining vital green spaces, remains a major priority for most people in our city. As a result, Council notes the Mayor's recent decision to not now build housing on Brislington Meadows and to 'look again' at housing plans which would destroy the Western Slopes wildlife corridor.

Sadly, there are other equally significant sites which remain under the threat of the bulldozer. One such place is Yew Tree Farm, Bristol's last working farm. The family there has been recognised by the Avon Wildlife Trust and RSPB for the huge strides made in achieving sustainable, low-intensity, organic local food production, whilst maintaining abundant and attractive biodiversity.

Considering the Mayor's pledges around combatting food poverty and encouraging communities to grow more of their own food, Council calls for a halt to the proposed redevelopment of or incursion into any remaining productive wildlife rich agricultural land. Furthermore, the Mayor is asked to give a cast-iron commitment that he will look instead



to increase the emphasis placed in the Authority's Site Allocations and Development Management policies on re-using or re-purposing existing and emerging 'brownfield', previously developed or urban centres rather than continuing to erode our surrounding fields and countryside.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Richard Eddy

2. Silver Motion - Reduce carbon emissions from new building by 75% immediately

Full Council notes that:

1. Bristol City Council declared a Climate Emergency in November 2018 following a Green Motion set out by Carla Denyer.
2. The motion committed the city to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 and there are now only 9 years left to this target date.
3. The Council is currently required to implement the Government approved uplift to Part L (power and energy standards) and F (ventilation standards), of the new building regulations in December 2021.
4. Responses to the Government's 2020 consultation on the Future Homes Standards made it clear that the Part L uplift proposed for December 2021 was insufficient to meet the government's zero carbon target for 2050, and called for higher standards.
5. The Council has the capacity and authority to set local energy efficiency standards for new homes as set out in the Planning and Energy Act 2008, and may set them at a higher level than government standards.

Full Council believes:

1. Only implementing the minimum uplift values for Part L (see appendix A) in Dec 2021 for new homes would require further costly retrofitting in the future in order for homes to meet our 2030 carbon targets.
2. Implementing the building regulation requirements for Part L discussed in the Futures Homes Standards 2025, in December 2021, would enable Bristol to reach our zero carbon targets by 2030.
3. This would mean that all new homes built after December 2021 would have carbon emissions at least 75% lower than current Building Regulations standards, as opposed to the 31% improvement implied by the Part L uplift, proposed by the government for December 2021.
4. In order to reach our 2030 emissions targets it would be necessary to apply transitional arrangements to individual buildings already under construction, rather than the whole building site.
5. It will be necessary to set out a strategic plan to ensure that all buildings are to be built 100% zero carbon from 2025 onwards.



Full Council Resolves:

1. To call on the administration to implement the powers of the Council with respect to the Planning and Energy Act 2008 and apply the full Future Homes Standards as set out for Part L of the Building regulations in December 2021.
2. That the administration promote all new homes to be built 100% zero carbon from 2025, and that a strategic plan is established in consultation with the members of the building development community.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Lisa Stone

Appendix A:

The standards for part L 2021 and the indicative Future Homes Standard can be seen side by side in Table 2 in the government response to consultation found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/956094/Government_response_to_Future_Homes_Standard_consultation.pdf

References

The Future Homes Standard: 2019 Consultation on changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for new dwellings:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/956094/Government_response_to_Future_Homes_Standard_consultation.pdf

Home User Guide BUILDING REGULATIONS PART L, F AND OVERHEATING – ENGLAND:

<https://www.thenbs.com/PublicationIndex/documents/details?Pub=MHCLG&DocID=331261>

The Clean Growth Strategy Leading the way to a low carbon future:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf

ENERGY WHITE PAPER Powering our Net Zero Future:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future>

3. National Disability Strategy

The Council notes:

- The Government published its long-awaited National Disability



Strategy on 28 July.

- This strategy has been strongly criticised by disabled people and their organisations for not coming up with any solutions for addressing the barriers, issues and priorities that they have identified for years.
- The lack of engagement with disabled groups has also been strongly criticised and is so severe that the Disabled People's Organisations Forum are taking the Government to court, as the absence of meaningful consultation could be deemed unlawful.
- In addition to this, disabled people have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, as 60% people dying from Covid were disabled, despite disabled people only making up 20% of the population.
- Disabled people have also borne the brunt of decade-long Government austerity through cuts to the key public services that they rely on and are also over-represented in unemployment figures - particularly those with learning difficulties.
- The Government is still yet to formulate a solution to the social care crisis, despite the Prime Minister's pledge to deliver a plan two years ago, which is emblematic of this Government's lack of support for disabled people.

The Council believes:

- The National Disability Strategy is not fit for purpose and is a tick-box exercise that does nothing to address the issues facing disabled people in Bristol.
- That disabled people have been routinely ignored by this Government, and their interests need to be prioritised and new resources identified by the Government in its Covid recovery plans.

This Council resolves:

- To call on Party Group Leaders to issue public statements stating that Bristol City Council does not believe the current Strategy is fit for purpose.
- To call on Party Group Leaders to write to the Government to ask it to formulate a new National Disability Strategy that is co-produced with disabled people and their organisations. This must address how they intend to revise and resource the broken adult care and benefits systems to enable disabled people to contribute to society and to live inclusive and independent lives.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Helen Holland

4. Afghanistan Motion



This Council notes:

The US Government's decision to withdraw all forces from Afghanistan, and subsequently, the decision of other NATO forces to withdraw troops in the same timeframe.

The Taliban have a consistent record of war crimes, civilian oppression, and a wide array of human rights abuses.

Consequentially, tens of thousands of Afghans have been attempting to flee the country through Kabul airport, which, for the weeks leading up to the withdrawal date, was the only US-controlled territory in Afghanistan.

This Council believes:

1. The UK has a duty to civilians in Afghans, and first and foremost, a duty to the Afghan translators who worked alongside the British army in its fight against the Taliban, as well as other staff who supported the military, British Embassy staff and Afghans who supported the wider mission. All these people will be among the first to face persecution.
2. As a City of Sanctuary, Bristol has a commitment to being a 'welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.'
3. The Government's current target of resettling 5,000 refugees in the first year and a further 15,000 in total in following years is derisory and needs to be significantly higher.
4. Considering the date for withdrawal of US forces has now passed, the promise to resettle a further 15,000 is now likely unachievable.
5. The plight of Afghans fleeing the country was made significantly more difficult by the Foreign Secretary refusing to phone his Afghan counterpart for urgent support, and that he should resign for this moral and professional failing.
6. The chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, alongside slashing its global aid budget, has tarnished the UK's reputation on the world stage.

This Council calls on Party Group Leaders to:

1. Write to the Government to inform it of Bristol's desire to offer assistance to the Afghan refugees, political exiles, and wider diaspora.
2. Write to the Government to call on it to offer to house and support Afghan refugees currently in temporary accommodation in foreign countries, such as Pakistan and Tajikistan, in the UK.
3. Call on the Government to provide local authorities with the necessary resources to house and provide ongoing support to a substantially higher number of refugees than they are currently able.
4. Publicly state the views of Full Council expressed in this motion.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Phillipa Hulme



5. Democracy Motion

This Council notes plans by the Conservative Government to replace the Supplementary Vote system used to elect Mayors, Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners with First Past the Post.

This Council also notes the Government's plans to bring in compulsory photo ID for people wanting to vote, well aware that three and a half million people in this country do not have any photo ID.

This Council also congratulates the Welsh Sennedd for passing the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill on 21 January this year which delivers the following:

- The right of Local Councils to scrap First Past the Post and instead elect Councillors using the Single Transferable Vote
- Votes at 16 - extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds and to all foreign citizens legally resident in Wales.
- Automatic Voter Registration - The bill also paves the way for an overhaul of Wales' outdated and ineffective system of voter registration. The bill could lead to a new system where registration officers can identify people missing from the register and let them know they'll be added.

English voters are already disadvantaged compared to voters in Northern Ireland, where STV has been used to elect Councils for decades, Scotland, where the same move was made in 2007, and now Wales is making the same changes.

This Council agrees to join the campaign by the Electoral Reform Society to demand the same rights for English voters that are already enjoyed by voters in Northern Ireland where STV has been used for years, Scotland, where STV came in for Council elections in 2007 and in Wales where Councils will, inevitably, make the move to fair voting.

This Council also commits to working with other Councils, Core Cities, Mayors and Metro Mayors and others to:

- Oppose the scrapping of the Supplementary Vote system that ensures more votes count;
- Oppose the introduction of compulsory photo ID for voters
- Demand new legislation to allow:
- English Councils to switch to STV if they so chose
- Votes at 16
- Automatic Voter Registration

Finally, this Council calls on all UK political parties to embrace electoral reform for all elections so everyone can vote for the candidates or parties they truly believe in safe in the knowledge that their vote will always



count.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Fabian Breckels

6. Bristol's Trial of Electric Scooters

This Council recognises the good intentions behind the decision taken last year to conduct a year-long trial of E-scooters in parts of the West of England Combined Authority region. The rationale was to explore the utility of this form of transport to encourage people to take less car journeys and travel around in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way. If popular, such a switch could also positively contribute to the policy aim of cutting carbon emissions.

However, since its inception in October 2020 and subsequent extension, serious problems have emerged in the operation and impact of these vehicles. Council is conscious of increasing complaints around road and pedestrian safety, an apparent lack of policing or enforcement, silent scooters being ridden on pavements to create new hazards and nuisance as well as clutter where motors are simply discarded in a haphazard fashion. One recent survey expects that these 'powered transporters' will be involved in up to 200,000 accidents by the end of this year. In addition, doubts remain over whether E-scooters are as good for the environment as proponents claim or that this kind of 'active' travel is really something that should be encouraged.

Whilst the Mayor has previously expressed fulsome support for this pilot scheme and highlighted the mitigation measures in place by the operator, this Council is concerned that he also seems keen on extending the trial period to March 2022 and, worryingly, opening-up use to private vehicles. An entirely unregulated, free-for-all system would be a recipe for chaos on our roads and pavements.

Accordingly, Council calls on the Mayor to

1. Give an assurance that he will pause any further roll-out in range or duration of this scheme.
2. In any or all circumstances, he will seek to oppose the granting of access to the public highway of private vehicles.
3. Provide greater clarity on the criteria which will be used to evaluate 'success' in these controversial pilots.
4. Confirm what steps are being taken to ensure this experiment is being properly policed.
5. Commit to giving all Members an opportunity to vote on whether this particular mode of travel should be permitted to become a permanent feature in our city."

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Lesley Alexander

7. RSPCA – Ending "Pets as Prizes" Campaign



This Council is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes in fairgrounds, via social media outlets or through other means in England – and notes that this issue predominantly involves the maltreatment of fish.

Such an outdated practice is clearly detrimental to the welfare of what are obviously sentient creatures and, as such, should have no place in modern society. Moreover, it needs to be recognised that the true scale of this problem remains unknown as many incidents of abusing animals in this way may go unreported each year.

As a point of principle and to further highlight this matter, Council would support any move to ban the giving of live animals as a reward or trophy, in any form, on local authority land.

Furthermore, Council calls on the Mayor to endorse this prohibition on the abuse of live animals; explore the potential for this to be a factor in determining the granting of public entertainment licences; and for him to write to the UK Government, urging a change in the law be enacted to forbid the use of live animals in this antiquated manner outside of a family context.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Jonathan Hucker

8. Enforcement of City's Byelaws

“This Council notes that relatively recently (14th March 2017), a whole new set of byelaws were adopted to modernise the

pre-existing set of regulations some of which dated from the Victorian era, and better protect the city's parks and green spaces. These remain incredibly important as a means of prohibiting and preventing a range of anti-social behaviours which if left unchecked can ruin the quiet enjoyment of public leisure land.

However, since that time, it has become clear that there are growing problems in the operation and absence of implementation of these rules. Members are regularly called upon to deal with complaints around such things as fly-tipping, littering, nuisance parking, damage caused by the unlawful riding of motorbikes, impromptu barbecues and casual vandalism.

Accordingly, Council calls upon the Mayor to take a much tougher line in the enforcement of these rules through the Magistrates Courts, and for him to explore the option of reintroducing the lost and lamented local government role of ‘park ranger/keeper’. These officers provided an invaluable function including acting as a visible presence in wards; helping to deter undesirable activity; were a source of local intelligence; and served as an easy contact point within the Authority whenever



problems did arise in their areas of responsibility.”

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Mark Weston

9. Growing Provision of Allotments Across the City

This Council recognises the long-established benefits derived from the provision of small agricultural holdings and allotments to individuals and families. These sites give people the chance to take productive exercise and grow cheap food but, also, are valued for other reasons such as providing educational opportunities, help to build communities and offer some protection to the local environment.

Council notes the commitment previously given by the Mayor to ‘have community gardens and allotments in every ward’ but is anxious to ensure that such rhetoric translates into action.

Recently, the Authority had 497 vacancies with a waiting list of 5665 people. Council is concerned that much suitable land held by the Authority for this purpose is either underutilised or could be de-registered for development, ironically, when there is likely to be a growing desire and demand to maintain an allotment.

Accordingly, Council calls on the Mayor to pledge to preserve, protect and promote existing sites; to increase the size of this network; extend the number which are accorded (limited) ‘statutory’ protection under current legislation; and ensure that all those who want access to a plot, are able to do so.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Graham Morris

10. Bike Hangar Provision

Full Council notes that:

1. Bristol is a proud Cycling City, with residents cycling 28,000 return trips everyday (as of Bike Life 2019).
2. Following the 2018 Climate Emergency Declaration, we have a 2030 net zero carbon emission target.
3. 57,000 people walk or cycle to work, and the number of people cycling to work in Bristol increased by 64% between 2011 (15,800) and 2018 (25,900).
4. The 2020 One City Climate Strategy notes the need for ‘Enhancing walking and cycling experience and infrastructure through reallocation of road space away from the motor vehicle’.
5. Bristol’s first ever Citizen Assembly on Climate recommended the transfer of 3-5% of Bristol’s street parking to cycle parking or green space each year.
6. As of 2020, Bristol only had 15 bike hangars (secure on street bike parking), with plans to deliver another 12-20 more. For comparison



Bristol has 15,140 spaces in designated car parks for cars.

7. Nearly 85,000 of Bristol’s households live in terraced houses, or in flats or bedsits in shared or converted houses, likely with no or minimal outdoor space and poor access.

8. In the Bike Life 2019 study, 19% of respondents said they didn’t cycle due to a ‘lack of safe of safe storage or facilities’.

Full Council believes;

1. In order to make cycling a more attractive option, safe, secure on-street bike storage is needed across Bristol, but especially in our more socio-economically deprived neighbourhoods.

2. As we transition away from a carbon lead lifestyle, we must transfer more on-street parking places over to cycle storage.

3. Local councillors have large amounts of knowledge of their wards, they should be able to lead on placement of bike hangars.

4. In order to become a leader in cycling accessibility and use, Bristol needs to rapidly and sustainably increase its cycling infrastructure, and should aim to deliver one secure bike parking place for every 10 residents by 2030.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Mayor to immediately commission a 1 or 2 ward trial of increased bike hangar provision, establishing 50 new bike hangars using best value hangars, run by Bristol City Council, which would assess demand and cost implications.

2. Ask the Council to produce a report on the viability of the large-scale rollout of bike hangars across the city by working with city partners and WECA.

3. Establish a new scheme where councillors can recommend given streets for hangars, then council officers will canvass the road/area as is currently done for the provision of car-club spaces.

4. Ask BCC’s Planning Department to craft a policy on the requirement of bike hangars as part of any new development that doesn’t have adequate bike storage

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Alex Hartley

11. Front Garden Tree Scheme

Full Council notes that:

1. We are deeply concerned about the climate emergency and ecological emergency. This year has yet again seen record temperatures, unpredictable weather patterns, damaging weather events and continued habitat and biodiversity loss across the world.

2. In order to help mitigate the impact of climate change, we urgently need to plant more trees across the city in line with national and local policies. The UK Government plans to treble



tree planting rates by 2024 and Bristol City Council has pledged to double the tree canopy cover in Bristol by 2050.

3. Street trees have innumerable benefits such as absorbing pollution, reducing the risk of flooding, countering the ‘heat island’ effect of the urban environment, increasing biodiversity and providing wildlife corridors, boosting economic activity, helping with people’s mental health, and even reducing road rage and crime.
4. The lack of suitable sites for street trees across the city and the high cost of installation is very worrying.
5. Many thousands of front gardens across the city would provide suitable sites for tree planting with nearly all the benefits of street trees but with vastly reduced expenditure.
6. The Citizens Assembly on Climate Change recommend that tree cover should be increased as part of creating ‘ideal environmental neighbourhood future streets’.
7. The 2020 One City Climate Strategy states the 2030 goal on the natural environment that ‘The natural environment in Bristol will be restored, protected and enhanced to deliver climate change benefits’ and specifically to ‘The city’s natural environment (including canopy cover and biodiversity) has been restored, preserved and enhanced to maximise carbon sequestration in carbon sinks, climate resilience and health and wellbeing’

Full Council believes;

1. Increasing tree cover must be a top priority for the Council, its partners, and the citizens of Bristol in our collective fight against the climate emergency.
2. To increase the tree cover across Bristol, Bristol City Council should work with local residents and community groups to expand tree coverage through the use of front gardens for trees.
3. Where possible, native species should be planted for the benefit of local wildlife.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Call for an investigation into the feasibility of setting up a Front Garden Tree Scheme to be run by Bristol City Council officers.
2. Ask officers to look at how such a scheme would operate, such as how members of the public could participate, how front gardens would be assessed for suitability, how appropriate species would be chosen, installation and aftercare, annual targets, scheme costs and sources of funding.
3. Investigate working with the Woodland Trust and other charities to procure free or cheaper trees that can be used as part of the scheme.



4. Ask for a report into the findings to be submitted to Full Council within six months.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Andrew Varney

12. Electric Car Charging Provision

Full Council notes that:

1. The public Electric Vehicle (EV) facilities in Bristol are woefully lacking and not fit for purpose and accepts that this is a barrier to residents switching to EV because of range anxiety.
2. With new petrol and diesel vehicles set to be banned from sale in 2030 and hybrids by 2035, questions must be asked about the readiness of the UK's charging network to support the mass switchover. The National Grid estimated there could be 11 million EVs on our roads by 2030 and 36 million by 2040. The RAC estimates that already some 239,000 are in use, yet there are just 25,000 publicly accessible charging points available. The government's competition and Markets Authority (CMA) anticipates that we will need between 280,000 and 480,000 devices in operation by 2030.
3. 17% of the average Bristol citizen's carbon emissions come from driving a petrol or diesel car.
4. According to a working paper on electric vehicle charging capacity from ICCT (International Council on Clean Transportation), Bristol in 2019 had only 11% of the necessary charging infrastructure that will be needed by 2025, and only 4% of what will be needed by 2030.
5. The cost for the necessary infrastructure for Bristol alone is estimated at between £50-£120million (calculated using a per capita basis using a Deloitte estimation for cost of the UK wide infrastructure of £8-18billion).
6. The 2020 One City Climate Strategy states the next step to a cleaner climate is the 'Development of a citywide plan for electric vehicle charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure and engage with the market.'
7. The government body has its own suggestions for improving the network, all of which centre on the idea that charging an EV "should be as simple as filling up with petrol and diesel", council regrets that this is a long way off. These are:
 - a. Charging points should be easy to find. Knowing the location of a nearby charging device or station is worthless if you arrive to find every charger in use or not working. Zap-Map claims to have logged more than 95% of the UK's public chargers, but only 70% supply their 'live status', so there's a decent chance you won't be able to use your chosen device on arrival, significantly hindering accessibility.
 - b. It should be simple and quick to pay for charging. In July 2019,



the government declared that it was “prepared to intervene” if charger providers didn’t start making contactless card payment more widely available. The CMA said of the difficult payment situation: “As we’ve seen in other markets, if it becomes complex or confusing, this damages people’s trust, which isn’t only a concern in itself but also a barrier to EV take-up.” It recommended that charger providers shouldn’t require users to ‘sign up’ to use their devices, thus facilitating and accelerating the charging process. This council calls on government to demand that progress is too slow and they need to prioritise making the change.

- c. Charging costs must be clear. When drivers plug in their cars, it should be obvious how much they will have to pay, regardless of whether costs are calculated per charge, per minute or per unit of electricity consumed. This ties into the pressing need to educate the public on how EVs work: promoting the concept of kilowatt-hours (kWh) as a standard unit of measurement, comparable to litres for petrol and diesel.
- d. Every charger should be compatible with every EV. With public chargers today delivering anything from an overnight trickle to a rapid 350kW, a degree of specific knowledge is required when approaching one. Journey planning is possible only if drivers are aware of how long devices will take to charge their cars. This variety introduces another concern: having the right plug or adapter. Mainstream car makers have in Europe now all coalesced around a combination of the Type 2 and CCS connections, minimising the risk of you being caught out. The UK has 34 chargers for every 100,000 people, but the average swings wildly from region to region. In London, the figure is 80, but the north-west, Yorkshire and the Humber and the West Midlands manage just 20, 21 and 22 respectively. In Northern Ireland, it is 17.

Full Council believes:

1. In order to ensure greater use of electric vehicles, more and better electric vehicle charging points must be provided.
2. Future and retrofitting installations should be ‘user friendly’.
3. Public charging should be a right and not a lottery.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Call on the administration to lobby central government for a proportion of the £950 million Rapid Charging Fund currently earmarked for upgrading the grid at motorway service stations to be used to implement changes to this city.
2. Expand on the One City Climate Strategy by calling on Bristol City Council to create a ‘Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy’, that highlights costs, sites, potential partners in the creation of a



‘smart charging system’ for Bristol.

3. Lobby the West of England Combined Authority to work across our local boundaries to achieve greater economies of scale with our partners in Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire & North Somerset.
4. Ask the Mayor to send local authority representatives to The UK Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Symposium to investigate possible partners and learn from other authorities

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Jos Clark

13. School Places in South Bristol

Full Council notes that:

1. There was a widespread welcome when this administration agreed to support the scheme to bring secondary education back to the Daventry Rd site.
2. The growing shortage of Year 7 places has been raised repeatedly over recent years and the situation has become even more concerning with the failure to deliver the new school at Temple Meads.
3. The further fly in the ointment was that the promised opening date for the newly built school was later than needed in 2023. There has been an attempt to address this with local Cllrs getting support from LEA officers for possible early opening in temporary accommodation in 2022. Possible sites have been identified but matters have now become even more urgent as central government have slipped the opening date from 2023 to 2024.
4. It is the legal duty of the administration to do everything possible to ensure that there are sufficient school places and the reality is that there will be shortfalls in the hundreds.

Full Council resolves to;

1. Call upon the Mayor to maintain and support the working group of local Cllrs, LEA officers, the education cabinet member and the chair of People’s scrutiny.
2. Ensure this group must have an open channel to department of education officers and rapid work needs to take place to establish the deliverability of the shortlist of temporary sites for 2022 or 2023 highlighted including the temporary use of the New Fosseyway site.
3. Ensure this group reports back to full council at 3 month intervals.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Gary Hopkins

14. Afghan Refugees

Full Council notes that:

1. Following the recent withdrawal of American troops and the



takeover of the Taliban, council expresses its horror at the scenes at Kabul Airport as people frantically try to leave the country.

2. The service of Afghan nationals, both to the UK, and to their own government should be highly commended, and people who are at risk of Taliban reprisal should be immediately given asylum.
3. Council is particularly concerned about the plight of women and girls in Afghanistan, and think that they, alongside children and minority groups should get preferential access to asylum.
4. The Mayor's commitment to find housing for 10 Afghan families is welcome, but Council feels we must go further.
5. Between 2016 and 2021, Bristol housed 367 Syrian refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme.
6. Bristol is a proud City of Sanctuary, and should open its doors to those most in need.
7. The current government proposal, to take 20,000 refugees over 5 years, is simply not good enough.

Full Council believes that:

1. The thousands of Afghan refugees currently facing the prospect of death at the hands of the Taliban must be offered a safe and legal method of getting out of Afghanistan.
2. The government's targets for numbers to be resettled are woefully inadequate.
3. Bristol must take on its share, and at least match the number of Syrian refugees that were settled, but within a tighter time frame.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Lobby central government through the Core Cities platform for the government to increase its targets for refugee settlement.
2. Ask the Mayor to commit to taking responsibility for the resettlement of at least 500 Afghan nationals over the next 5 years in Bristol.
3. Instruct council officers to proactively set up a list of available public and private housing that is suitable for resettlement, to speed up the process.
4. Ensure that an adequate assimilation program is in place for any Afghan refugees, and ensure they have the support they need.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Alex Hartley

15. A Universal Basic Income Trial for Bristol

This council notes:

1. The drastic impacts of the Covid Pandemic on employment and



- household incomes in the city;
2. The threat to income and employment from automation and artificial intelligence, which could affect a great many more jobs in future;
 3. The development of universal basic income (UBI) trials in other countries, which offer a non-means-tested sum paid by the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status, which has been widely debated in recent months;
 4. That a trial of UBI was promised by the Labour party had the party won the last general election;
 5. The resolutions of other local authorities including Sheffield, Birmingham, Lewes, and Brighton and Hove [with cross party support] calling for trials of UBI;
 6. A network of Universal Basic Income Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus. One is operating in Bristol.
 7. Birmingham City Council has issued a briefing on UBI. (1)
 8. UBI has been Green Party Policy since about 1973 and more recently taken up by other parties. (2)

This council believes:

1. That the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities;
2. A UBI is the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on people's incomes as it does not discriminate between employment status, caring responsibilities, age, or disability when providing basic support;
3. There is a danger of increasing numbers of people facing poverty as a result of the coronavirus crisis;
4. Testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to help address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, loss of community, and breach of planetary boundaries through:
 - i. Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their jobs;
 - ii. Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
 - iii. Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
 - iv. Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;
 - v. Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce strain on the environment in line with the One



City Climate Strategy;

- vi. Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy.
5. The success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them; and,
6. Given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Bristol is ideally placed to pilot a UBI.

This council calls on the Mayor to:

1. Send a joint letter with the other party leaders to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, and all local MPs, asking for a trial of Universal Basic Income in the city citing the above reasons.

Motion to be moved by: Martin Fodor

Sources

- 1) Birmingham City Council’s official UBI briefing - see https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=nb28HJzZZy8R6UE9qsv3LHJc kreeBwn50TbzgOriXhiHQcf3zr1WGO%3D%3D&rUzwRPf%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcTPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnl g%3D%3D=hFflUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFflUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&FgPIIEJYlotS%2BYGoBi5oIA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&fbclid=IwAR3v5XWzNYc_KENecR4_O6k4xSFL847QcMyKppBD6lUO5x2gLp5E3GdI3_M
- 2) <https://www.bristol247.com/opinion/your-say/otherpartieswillriudiculegreenpolicies/>

16. This Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Full Council notes that:

- Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the



impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1.2°C from pre-industrial levels and the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals currently threatened with extinction.

- Global warming of up to 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless radical reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions are achieved in the coming decades. Pledges like the Paris Agreement and updated emissions targets are not legally binding. The gap between pledges and policies leaves the world on course for catastrophic warming of near 3%. As this month's 2021 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear, every half a degree makes a world of difference: severe climate impacts with 1.5°C of warming, such as extreme weather patterns causing flooding and heat waves, get significantly worse with 2°C. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.
- The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world; more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline. We have lost 95% of our hedgehogs. The UK needs a legally-enforceable nature target so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, in line with the Global Goal for Nature and the Leaders' Pledge for Nature.

Full Council recognises that:

- This Council has already declared Climate and Ecological emergencies, as have hundreds of other local authorities, and many councils are now taking steps to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.
- However, as noted in Bristol's Climate Emergency motion in November 2018, Government must provide more powers and funding to make the city's 2030 carbon neutral target possible.
- In May 2019 Parliament declared an Environment and Climate Emergency, supported by opposition MPs. However, to date this has not been endorsed by Government, nor has the Government developed a strategy that adequately addresses these emergencies.
- As the UK prepares to host the UN COP26 climate conference this Autumn, our country needs to show stronger leadership on the environment.
- As the first European local authority to declare a Climate



Emergency, a 'Race to Zero' city and a key city in the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration, Bristol is ideally placed to lead and inspire the rest of the UK to take urgent action on the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.

- There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:
 - the ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis in a joined-up approach;
 - the Paris Agreement is enshrined into law to ensure that UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement -1.5°C;
 - the Leaders Pledge for Nature is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK’s ecosystems are protected and restored with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;
 - the UK takes full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint (ie consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;
 - the UK takes full responsibility for our ecological footprint so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains;
 - an independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly is set-up, representative of the UK’s population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the emergency strategy.

Full Council therefore resolves to ask the Mayor or Cabinet lead to:

- Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;
- Inform the local media of this decision;
- Write an open letter to Bristol’s four MPs (shared with our residents through local and social media) urging them to sign up to support the Bill, or thanking them for doing so; and
- Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (joinus@ceebill.uk).

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Carla Denyer

17. Governance Review

This council notes:



1. That there is dissatisfaction with the present system of governance, as evidenced by campaigns that took place in the run up to the recent election;
2. The Bristol Civic Leadership Project survey in 2018 recommended that the role of councillors needs to be strengthened, that trust and understanding need improving and a democratic deficit needs addressing;
3. That while the role of Mayor offers high visibility for the City, there is concern about the concentration of power in the Mayor;
4. That the recent Citizens' Assembly has been very popular and the recommendations coming from it are good, showing that using more deliberative processes as part of governance should be explored;
5. That there are a range of options of differing types of governance available:
 - No change/retain the executive Mayor*
 - Committee system*
 - Leader and cabinet*
 - Hybrid models that might combine some of the strengths of the above**

This Council believes:

1. That there is a strong appetite amongst both elected representatives and citizens for a review of the mayoral model;
2. That making any decision to change Bristol's governance is complex and consequential and must be taken with due diligence;
3. That cultural change is as important as structural change;
4. That a full assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the present system must be the starting point of any journey to improve governance;
5. That it might be possible for changes to be made to Bristol's Mayoral model to provide more consensus decision-making, without abandoning the mayoral model entirely;
6. That a full review of governance options must also include alternative models to Bristol's, such as a committee system and cabinet and leader, plus hybrid models;
7. That for members to be able to make an informed decision on good governance, they need expert advice on constitutional change and the opportunity to evaluate models working in other authorities;
8. That a task and finish group could do an in-depth study and report on options to this forum.

This council resolves:

1. To establish a cross-party task and finish group – led by an independent person (e.g. LGA peer or lawyer with expert constitutional knowledge) – to allow for a full review of the



- governance options available to Bristol, including a potential bespoke hybrid model, to commence in Autumn 2021;
2. That the necessary resources are given to allow for a full in-depth study of the advantages and disadvantages of the present system of governance and expert information on all possible alternatives, allowing the group to form their recommendation(s);
 3. The recommendation(s) of the working group will come back to Full Council in the form of a report which this council can vote on by February 2022 at the latest;
 4. That, if so decided, this would lead to a referendum.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Paula O'Rourke

Notes:

18. Bristol Living Rent

Full Council notes that:

1. Around a third of Bristol residents are private renters, yet our broken housing market makes renting in Bristol increasingly unaffordable.
2. Private rents have increased by an average of 52% since 2011 and continue to increase faster than the rate at which incomes rise.
3. The 2021 quality of life report indicates that a third of renters are unsatisfied with their landlord, yet weak protections for renters and the fear of retaliatory evictions make it difficult to challenge poor quality, unsafe accommodation, or discrimination based on protected characteristics or type of income.
4. Many letting agents have an informal but well-observed practice of periodically encouraging all their landlord clients to increase rents, contributing to rent inflation.
5. Local authorities have no means to enforce rent controls, and currently have limited influence on private sector rental values or powers over private landlords.
6. Both the Green and Labour Party manifestos in the 2019 General Election supported rent controls, and the Mayor of London has pledged to lobby central government for local authority powers to control rent levels.
7. The high cost of rent disproportionately affects younger people and marginalised people in the city.

Full Council believes that:

1. High private rental costs push people into poverty, debt, and homelessness, contribute to overcrowding, and negatively impact



the mental and physical health of renters.

2. Rent increases can be unfair on tenants and can directly lead to housing insecurity.
3. Genuinely affordable rents give people the freedom to live a decent life, helping to lift families out of poverty and not just manage each month.
4. Local authorities should be granted powers to control rents and regulate the private rental market.
5. A “living rent” should be defined relative not to the housing market but to the household income of a region.
6. People on lower incomes should typically not have to spend more than around a third of take-home pay on rent, as recommended by the housing charity Shelter.

Full Council resolves:

1. To support the Mayor to publicly lobby central government for direct powers to control rents and regulate the private rental market of Bristol.
2. To further ask the Mayor to lobby the government for direct powers to give tenants increased rights pertaining to negotiating their minimum tenancy agreements.
3. To research, publish and promote an annual “Bristol living rent” for the private rented sector with a view to exerting influence on the rental market within Bristol. The “living rent” will be specified with consideration of dwelling size.
4. To include in the report the “living rent increase” per annum.
5. To include in this report the current actual average rent rates in each area of Bristol.
6. To define “living rent” as a proportion of median income for Bristolians. The report will make use of existing ONS data on household income.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Barry Parsons

19. Mobilise community investments to tackle climate change

Full Council notes:

1. That this council unanimously declared a climate emergency in November 2018 following a Green Motion to Council
2. The motion committed the city to achieve net zero carbon impact by 2030 and there are now 9 years left to this target date
3. The council has been progressing a package of low carbon opportunities called City Leap since May 2018. City Leap is still



subject to a procurement process since a new process was started in 2020.

4. A new low risk model called Community Municipal Investments [CMI] has been developed by Leeds University and Abundance Investments platform with UK Government and EU support. This had the support of 4 local authorities including Bristol City Council. [1]
5. This concept is proven to mobilise local and other investment and channels local savings into local projects with low risk and a modest return to investors [2] and after the first issue further calls can be automated.

Full Council believes:

1. That offering local savers a way to support the city's journey to carbon neutrality mobilises community engagement in the process of change, attracts significant sums for named projects, and should be developed. 72% of people want to lend savings to help councils develop Climate Emergency Plans [3]
2. That offering security and a modest rate of interest through municipal bonds is an established way to develop local infrastructure [4]. This could complement other projects such as the successful Bristol Energy Cooperative.
3. That CMIs can help us develop a series of practical projects for a low carbon transition now in partnership with others which will be popular with local savers.
4. The Mayor should prioritise CMIs as part of the package of investments that will create positive economic opportunities and carbon neutrality while building community wealth.
5. Bristol should join the other 3 pioneers of CMI in developing local opportunities for local investors [e.g. 5]

Full Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to begin development of Community Municipal Investments for the city.
2. That the Mayor promote CMI as a way residents and institutions can be engaged and actively involved in contributing to a zero carbon city.
3. To request officers to identify carbon saving projects suited to CMI investment in conjunction with city partners.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Martin Fodor

References:

1. The report supported by Bristol:
<https://baumaninstitute.leeds.ac.uk/research/financing-for-society/>
2. Initial proposed interest rate is 1.2%. See: Your questions



answered on Green Community Bonds | Abundance Blog

<https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-your-questions-answered-25218ed4d2cb>

3. Survey by One Poll, 2020, cited by the Local Government Association.
4. https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-the-new-option-for-your-low-risk-money-a9cc5d72e03a?source=post_internal_links-----1-----
5. These are: Leeds Council, Warrington, and West Berkshire. Eg Invest now: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wbcmi>; <https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/invest-now/warrington-2025>

Signed



Proper Officer

Thursday, 26 August 2021



Public Information Sheet - Full Council

Changes to how we hold public meetings

Following changes to government rules, public meetings including Cabinet, Full Council, regulatory meetings (where planning and licensing decisions are made) and scrutiny will now be held at City Hall.

COVID-19 Precautions at City Hall (from July 2021)

When attending a meeting at City Hall, COVID-19 precautions will be taken, and where possible we will:

- Have clear signage inviting you to check in to the venue using the NHS COVID-19 app or record your contact details for track and trace purposes.
- Provide public access that enables social distancing of one metre to be maintained
- Promote and encourage wearing of face coverings when walking to and from the meeting
- Promote good hand hygiene: washing and disinfecting hands frequently
- Maintain an enhanced cleaning regime and continue with good ventilation

COVID-19 Safety Measures for Attendance at Council Meetings (from July 2021)

To manage the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that any person age 16 or over attending a council meeting should follow the above guidance but also include the following:

- Show certification of a negative NHS COVID-19 lateral flow (rapid) test result: taken in the 48 hours prior to attending. This can be demonstrated via a text message or email from NHS Test and Trace.
- An NHS COVID-19 Pass which confirms double COVID-19 vaccination received at least 2 weeks prior to attending the event via the NHS App. A vaccination card is not sufficient.
- Proof of COVID-19 status through demonstrating natural immunity (a positive NHS PCR test in the last 180 days) via their NHS COVID-19 pass on the NHS App.
- Visitors from outside the UK will need to provide proof of a negative lateral flow (rapid) test taken 48 hours prior to attendance, demonstrated via a text message or email.

Reception staff may ask to see this on the day of the meeting.

No one should attend a Bristol City Council event or venue if they:

- are required to self-isolate from another country
- are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19
- have tested positive for COVID-19 and are requested to self-isolate

Members of the press and public who wish to attend City Hall are advised that you may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room due to the maximum occupancy of the venue.



Public Forum – Full Council

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at www.bristol.gov.uk.

Members of the public who live or own a business in Bristol may present a petition, make a written statement or ask a question at Full Council meetings. Please submit it to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk.

Petitions, Statements and Questions must be about a matter the Council has responsibility for or which directly affects the city. For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>

Petitions from members of the public

- Petitions will be presented to the Council first.
- Petitions must include name, address and details for the wording of the petition.
- The person presenting a petition will be asked to read out the objectives of the petition with one minute allowed.
- A written reply will be provided to the lead petitioner within 10 working days of the Full Council meeting.

Statements

- Statements should be received no later than **12.00 noon two working days before the meeting**.
- There can be one statement per person and subject to overall time constraints, a maximum of one minute is allocated for presentation.
- Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper.
- For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

Questions

- Questions should be received no later than **three clear working days before the meeting**.
- A maximum of two written questions per person can be submitted.
- At the meeting, a maximum of one supplementary question per question may be asked, arising directly out of the original question or reply.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated to the Committee and published within the minutes. Your statement or question will also be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website and may be provided upon request in response to Freedom of Information Act requests in the future.

We will try to remove personal and identifiable information. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Committee information on the council's website may be searchable on the internet.

The information contained within public forum submissions are the views of those individuals and do not reflect the views of Bristol City Council

Process during the meeting:

- The Lord Mayor will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.
- As part of the drive to reduce single-use plastics in council-owned buildings, please bring your own water bottle in order to fill up from the water dispenser.

Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Arrangements for Full Council

The allocated public gallery for Full Council is available for members of the public to observe the Full Council meeting.

The Lord Mayor has determined:

- Attendees should please be quiet and not interrupt proceedings.
- Large bags will be left at reception.
- All loud hailers, banners, and placards must be left at the main entrance and will not be permitted to be brought into the building.
- The Council reserves the right to remove any person who disrupts the proceedings. In appropriate circumstances, the police may be called.

Under our security arrangements, all members of the public (and bags) will be searched. This applies to all members of the public attending the meeting in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending. Visitors' bags are liable to be searched prior to entry, and entry is conditional upon visitors consenting to be searched. Searches are carried out to ensure that no items which may interrupt proceedings are brought into the building. Small notices may be acceptable if they are not obstructive or offensive (no more than A4 size).

The privacy notice for Democratic Services can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services



Bristol City Council Minutes of the Full Council

6 July 2021 at 6.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Mayor Marvin Rees, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Kerry Bailes, Jenny Bartle, Marley Bennett, Mark Bradshaw, Fabian Breckels, Andrew Brown, Jos Clark, Sarah Classick, Amirah Cole, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Carla Denyer, Tony Dyer, Richard Eddy, Emma Edwards, Jude English, Lily Fitzgibbon, Tessa Fitzjohn, Martin Fodor, Lorraine Francis, John Geater, Helen Godwin, Geoff Gollop, Zoe Goodman, John Goulandris, Katy Grant, Fi Hance, Alex Hartley, Tom Hathway, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Jonathan Hucker, Philippa Hulme, Farah Hussain, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Ellie King, Tim Kent, Mohamed Makawi, Brenda Massey, Henry Michallat, Yassin Mohamud, Graham Morris, Paula O'Rourke, Barry Parsons, Steve Pearce, Ed Plowden, Guy Poultney, Kevin Quartley, Tom Renhard, Tim Ripington, James Scott, Sharon Scott, Steve Smith, Ani Stafford-Townsend, Lisa Stone, Christine Townsend, Andrew Varney, Mark Weston, Chris Windows and Tim Wye

1 Welcome and Introductions

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

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were heard from Councillors Ali, Cheney, Goggin, Hornchen, Jama, Mack and Wilcox.

3 Declarations of Interest

None received.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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



RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on the 25th May 2021 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

5 Lord Mayor's Business

There was none.

6 Public Forum (Public Petitions, Statements and Questions)**Public petitions:**

One public petition had been received which was referred to Development Control Committee for consideration and response.

Ref No	Name	Title
PP01	Luke Geach	Access to public toilets for bus drivers

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	Title
PS01	Rob Harris	HMO Register
PS02	Bristol SEND Alliance	SEND
PS03	David Mullaney	Allotment Locks
PS04	Jen Smith	Skate Stops and Disability Discrimination
PS05	Clare Freshwater-Turner	Road Safety- Cranbrook Road- another accident
PS06	David Redgewell	Transport and Buses
PS07	Tom Bosanquet	pedestrian crossing over St. Lukes Rd
PS08	Penny Gane	Bristol Women's Commission Statement
PS09	Merche Clark	Libraries

Within the time available, statements PS04 and PS08 were presented by individuals present at the meeting.

Public Questions:

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



Ref No	Name	Title
PQ01 & PQ02	Johanna Spiers	Council's Green Spaces
PQ03 & PQ04	Julie Milton	Management of Council Land for Wildlife
PQ05 & PQ06	Roxanne Ismail	Council's plans for green spaces for wildlife
PQ07 & PQ08	Grant Mercer	A connected wildlife network in Bristol & management of the Councils verges and green spaces
PQ09 & PQ10	Tim Mason	Pesticide Policy
PQ11 & PQ12	Sarah Watson	Non-Council green spaces and landowners
PQ13 & PQ14	Sarah Thomas	Pesticide-free Council land and managing land for wildlife
PQ15 & PQ16	Dan Geerah	Management of the Council's own green space
PQ17 & PQ18	Robert Smart	Bristol City Council grassland and Environmental Emergency Action Plan
PQ19 & PQ20	Nicola Earnshaw	Rapid Response to the Ecological Emergency
PQ21	Our Air, Our City (Nigel Shipley)	Clean Air Zone implementation
PQ22 & PQ23	Suzanne Audrey	Access to Temple Island/ A4
PQ24	Andrea Mackay	Cycling Gloucester Road
PQ25	Katrina Billings, Bristol Clean Air Alliance	Clean Air Zone Update
PQ26 & PQ27	David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside	Stakeholders and Passengers consultation and review of WECA

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ15, PQ16, PQ21 and PQ25 also responding to supplementary questions.

7 Petitions Notified by Councillors

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Petition CP01 – petition of 49 signatories, presented by Councillor Hulme.

We the undersigned ask the Council to restrict the extent of the Construction Compound to ensure safe and proper vehicle access, ensure the number of road closures for site deliveries and construction work is restricted to the approved number, and to ensure full and proper enforcement action is carried out (relating to a planning approval 20_01595_F)



8 Mayor's address to Full Council with Party Group Leaders responses

The Full Council received and noted the annual statement from the Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees.

Councillors Pearce, O'Rourke, Weston and Clark then responded to the Mayor's statement on behalf of their respective political groups.

The Mayor then made a final response and summed up.

9 Equality and Inclusion Annual Report 2020/21

The Full Council considered a report presenting the Equality and Inclusion Annual Progress Report 2020-2021.

Councillor Craig introduced the report.

Following debate is was:

RESOLVED

- 1. Full Council noted the Equality and Inclusion Annual Progress Report 2020-2021**
- 2. Full Council noted the Local Government Association Equality Framework for Local Government Report and response**
- 3. Full Council noted the Advancing Equality and Inclusion at BCC – New Actions for 2020-2021 closure report.**

10 Bristol's first Citizens' Assembly recommendations

The Full Council considered the report which outlined the formal handover of the report of the Citizens' Assembly's recommendations and proposed actions.

Councillor Craig moved the report and it was seconded by Councillor O'Rourke.

Following debate it was:

RESOLVED:

- 1. Full Council noted the formal handover of the report of the Citizens' Assembly's recommendations and proposed actions**
- 2. Full Council noted the Citizens' Assembly report was being considered as part of the evidence base for the Council's update of its medium-term Corporate Strategy.**
- 3. Full Council noted that the report of the Citizens' Assembly's recommendations and proposed actions would be shared with the One City Economy Board and other One City Boards for consideration to**



inform the city's economic recovery and renewal strategy and in preparing the 2022 refresh of the One City Plan (publication planned in March 2022)

11 Licensing Committee - Membership Change

The Full Council considered a report which proposed the appointment of Councillor Edwards to the Licensing Committee. Any vacancies on the Committee must be filled by Full Council in accordance with section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Lord Mayor moved the recommendations within the report.

The Deputy Lord Mayor seconded the report.

There was no debate and it was:

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Edwards be appointed to serve on the Licensing Committee

12 Motions

Following a short adjournment, it was then moved by the Lord Mayor that standing order CPR2.1(xi) be suspended to allow the meeting to go past the 30 minutes time limit for motions. Following a vote it was agreed to proceed up until a 60 minute limit for motions and a 9pm finish time for the meeting.

1. Golden Motion - Homelessness and Immigration Rules

Councillor Renhard moved the following motion:

1. This council notes the Government Immigration Rules published on 22 October 2020, coming into effect on 1 December 2020 which made rough sleeping grounds for refusing or cancelling a person's leave to remain in the UK.
2. This council further notes the implementation guidance published by the Government on 20 April 2021 which clarifies how the rules will be implemented
3. This council welcomes Bristol's status as a City of Sanctuary and the work the administration is doing to make Bristol a welcoming place for refugees.
4. This council welcomes the Labour administration's work to reduce rough sleeping by 80% since 2016.
5. This council welcomes the Labour administration's introduction of Bristol Street Outreach – a new service to help accelerate the Council's work to end rough sleeping in Bristol.



6. This council welcomes the government's ongoing commitment to end rough sleeping by 2024.

This council believes

7. In order to end rough sleeping, people experiencing homelessness must be able to confidently approach local services provided by this council and its commissioned partners.
8. That the immigration rules as proposed will dissuade many people facing homelessness from accessing those services for fear that their details will be passed to immigration authorities and that this will lead to an increase in rough sleeping

This council therefore pledges

9. Subject to the circumstances of each individual case, in order to assist the national effort to end rough sleeping we will make no direct referrals under the rough sleeping Immigration Rules.
10. The council will also not require any of our commissioned partners to make referrals or pass data to the Home Office under the Immigration rules.
11. The council will only share information and data with the Home Office with the explicit and informed consent of the individual.
12. To display this commitment prominently in public areas and on our website and to inform those organisations that we work with (commissioned and non-commissioned) who make referrals to us of this policy.
13. To join Homeless Links's #SupportDontDeport campaign and allow our logo to be identified with that campaign.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Rippington.

Councillor Weston moved the following amendment:

'That the motion be amended to read as follows:

1. This council notes the Government Immigration Rules published on 22 October 2020, coming into effect on 1 December 2020 which made rough sleeping grounds for refusing or cancelling a person's leave to remain in the UK.
2. This council further notes the implementation guidance published by the Government on 20 April 2021 which clarifies how the rules will be implemented
3. This council welcomes Bristol's status as a City of Sanctuary and the work the administration is doing to make Bristol a welcoming place for refugees.
4. This council welcomes the Labour administration's work to reduce rough sleeping by 80% since 2016.



5. This Council wishes to particularly acknowledge the extra resources and support given by Central Government to provide everyone sleeping rough with safe accommodation during the health crisis.
6. This council welcomes the Labour administration's introduction of Bristol Street Outreach – a new service to help accelerate the Council's work to end rough sleeping in Bristol.
7. This council welcomes the government's ongoing commitment to end rough sleeping by 2024.

This council believes

8. In order to end rough sleeping, people experiencing homelessness must be able to confidently approach local services provided by this council and its commissioned partners.
9. However, any laws, rules or regulations governing this activity must balance compassion and empathy for the individual with the reasonable expectations around enforcement demanded by the public.
10. Accordingly, and as subsequent clarification on these rule changes makes clear, the refusal or cancellation of a migrant's permission to stay would only be made in exceptional circumstances where that person has repeatedly refused suitable offers of support and/or engaged in persistent anti-social behaviour.
11. Notwithstanding the above qualification the immigration rules as proposed could still theoretically dissuade some people facing homelessness from accessing those services for fear that their details will be passed to immigration authorities and that this might occasion an increase in rough sleeping

This council therefore pledges

12. Subject to the circumstances of each individual case, and where the conditions set out in para. 10 have not yet been established, we will not automatically make direct referrals under the rough sleeping Immigration Rules.
13. Similarly, in the absence of any previous intervention(s) and/or acts of lawlessness the council will also not require any of our commissioned partners to make referrals or pass data to the Home Office under the Immigration rules.
14. To display this commitment prominently in public areas and on our website and to inform those organisations that we work with (commissioned and non-commissioned) who make referrals to us of this policy.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Quartley

Following debate upon being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST (12 For, 49 Against, 0 Abstentions)

There was a debate on the substantive motion on the table before the Lord Mayor invited Councillor Renhard, as mover of the original motion to speak.



Following final remarks, upon being put to the vote, the original motion was CARRIED (49 For, 0 Against, 12 Abstentions) it was

RESOLVED:

- 1. This council notes the Government Immigration Rules published on 22 October 2020, coming into effect on 1 December 2020 which made rough sleeping grounds for refusing or cancelling a person's leave to remain in the UK.**
- 2. This council further notes the implementation guidance published by the Government on 20 April 2021 which clarifies how the rules will be implemented**
- 3. This council welcomes Bristol's status as a City of Sanctuary and the work the administration is doing to make Bristol a welcoming place for refugees.**
- 4. This council welcomes the Labour administration's work to reduce rough sleeping by 80% since 2016.**
- 5. This council welcomes the Labour administration's introduction of Bristol Street Outreach – a new service to help accelerate the Council's work to end rough sleeping in Bristol.**
- 6. This council welcomes the government's ongoing commitment to end rough sleeping by 2024.**

This council believes

- 7. In order to end rough sleeping, people experiencing homelessness must be able to confidently approach local services provided by this council and its commissioned partners.**
- 8. That the immigration rules as proposed will dissuade many people facing homelessness from accessing those services for fear that their details will be passed to immigration authorities and that this will lead to an increase in rough sleeping**

This council therefore pledges

- 9. Subject to the circumstances of each individual case, in order to assist the national effort to end rough sleeping we will make no direct referrals under the rough sleeping Immigration Rules.**
- 10. The council will also not require any of our commissioned partners to make referrals or pass data to the Home Office under the Immigration rules.**
- 11. The council will only share information and data with the Home Office with the explicit and informed consent of the individual.**
- 12. To display this commitment prominently in public areas and on our website and to inform those organisations that we work with (commissioned and non-commissioned) who make referrals to us of this policy.**



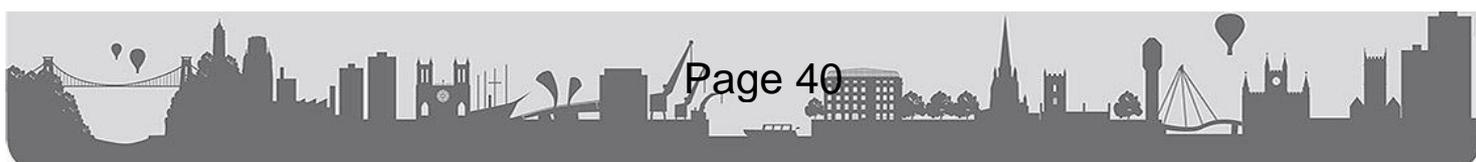
13. To join Homeless Links's #SupportDontDeport campaign and allow our logo to be identified with that campaign.

Silver Motion – LGBT+ Mental Health Protection

Councillor Hartley moved the following motion:

Full Council notes that:

1. Under the Equalities Act 2010, Bristol City Council has a legal duty to combat discrimination and promote equality.
2. That the Council's Equality Strategy 2018-2023 establishes the principles that the Council will work *"with residents and employers to create communities which are able to come together, value diversity and challenge discrimination"*
3. That a 2018 Stonewall Report on health among LGBT+ people states that over half of LGBT+ people (52%) experienced depression in the previous year.
4. The same report states that one in eight LGBT+ people aged 18-24 (13 per cent) said they've attempted to take their own life in the previous year.
5. A 2016 Bristol LGBT+ Health & Wellbeing Needs Survey commissioned by Bristol Healthwatch found that 61% of participants had sought help for anxiety or depression, and that 32% of respondents had hurt or injured themselves in an act of self harm.
6. Gay and Bisexual men are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide across their lifetime than the rest of the population.
7. Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) LGBT+ face additional barriers, with 18% experiencing difficulties trying to access healthcare services, and 62% experience depression.
8. Young LGBT+ persons are particularly affected, with data from the Queer Futures 2016 study stating that over 70% of young LGBT+ people experienced discrimination, bullying, rejection, physical and verbal violence, threats and/or other forms of marginalisation related to their sexual orientation and gender identity.
9. Older LGBT+ people also face discrimination or choose to re-enter the closet when, for example, accessing health and care provision in older age.
10. One in seven LGBT+ people (14 per cent) avoid seeking healthcare for fear of discrimination from staff.



11. Almost one in four LGBT+ people (23 per cent) have witnessed discriminatory or negative remarks against LGBT+ people by healthcare staff. In the last year alone, six per cent of LGBT+ people – including 20 per cent of trans people – have witnessed these remarks.
12. These trends are often more marked in the experiences of trans people.
13. The pandemic has likely made it more difficult for LGBT+ people to have access to mental health support, who may have been trapped in circumstances where they have been unable to fully express themselves.

Full Council believes:

1. In the equality of all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. That mental health treatment should have parity with physical health treatment.
3. That greater support is required for LGBT+ people suffering from mental health conditions than they are currently receiving.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Head of Equality & Inclusion to ensure that within the Council itself, a robust set of processes are created through our staff led groups and trade unions to protect the mental health of LGBT+ council staff.
2. Carry out a survey of Bristol LGBT+ residents to assess the current issues around health within the LGBT+ Community, similar to the 2016 Bristol LGBT+ Health & Wellbeing Needs Survey
3. Work with our partners across the city, other Equalities Charter signatories, and the large range of LGBT+ charities working within mental health across Bristol to create a strategic plan for improving the mental health of the LGBT+ community.
4. Work with local charities and our city partners promote services available to LGBT+ persons for assistance with their mental health.
5. Ask the Cabinet Member for Education to write to all the governing bodies, proprietors (of academy chains), headteachers and principals of every school across the city to offer the Council's support in delivering greater levels of LGBT+ mental health support in our schools.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Craig.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the original motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED:

Full Council notes that:



1. Under the Equalities Act 2010, Bristol City Council has a legal duty to combat discrimination and promote equality.
2. That the Council's Equality Strategy 2018-2023 establishes the principles that the Council will work *"with residents and employers to create communities which are able to come together, value diversity and challenge discrimination"*
3. That a 2018 Stonewall Report on health among LGBT+ people states that over half of LGBT+ people (52%) experienced depression in the previous year.
4. The same report states that one in eight LGBT+ people aged 18-24 (13 per cent) said they've attempted to take their own life in the previous year.
5. A 2016 Bristol LGBT+ Health & Wellbeing Needs Survey commissioned by Bristol Healthwatch found that 61% of participants had sought help for anxiety or depression, and that 32% of respondents had hurt or injured themselves in an act of self harm.
6. Gay and Bisexual men are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide across their lifetime than the rest of the population.
7. Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) LGBT+ face additional barriers, with 18% experiencing difficulties trying to access healthcare services, and 62% experience depression.
8. Young LGBT+ persons are particularly affected, with data from the Queer Futures 2016 study stating that over 70% of young LGBT+ people experienced discrimination, bullying, rejection, physical and verbal violence, threats and/or other forms of marginalisation related to their sexual orientation and gender identity.
9. Older LGBT+ people also face discrimination or choose to re-enter the closet when, for example, accessing health and care provision in older age.
10. One in seven LGBT+ people (14 per cent) avoid seeking healthcare for fear of discrimination from staff.
11. Almost one in four LGBT+ people (23 per cent) have witnessed discriminatory or negative remarks against LGBT+ people by healthcare staff. In the last year alone, six per cent of LGBT+ people – including 20 per cent of trans people – have witnessed these remarks.
12. These trends are often more marked in the experiences of trans people.
13. The pandemic has likely made it more difficult for LGBT+ people to have access to mental health support, who may have been trapped in circumstances where they have been unable to fully express themselves.

Full Council believes:



2. In the equality of all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. That mental health treatment should have parity with physical health treatment.
3. That greater support is required for LGBT+ people suffering from mental health conditions than they are currently receiving.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Head of Equality & Inclusion to ensure that within the Council itself, a robust set of processes are created through our staff led groups and trade unions to protect the mental health of LGBT+ council staff.
2. Carry out a survey of Bristol LGBT+ residents to assess the current issues around health within the LGBT+ Community, similar to the 2016 Bristol LGBT+ Health & Wellbeing Needs Survey
3. Work with our partners across the city, other Equalities Charter signatories, and the large range of LGBT+ charities working within mental health across Bristol to create a strategic plan for improving the mental health of the LGBT+ community.
4. Work with local charities and our city partners promote services available to LGBT+ persons for assistance with their mental health.
5. Ask the Cabinet Member for Education to write to all the governing bodies, proprietors (of academy chains), headteachers and principals of every school across the city to offer the Council's support in delivering greater levels of LGBT+ mental health support in our schools.

Meeting ended at 8.50 pm

CHAIR _____





Full Council

7th September 2021

Report of: Audit Committee
Title: Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21
Ward: City Wide

Recommendation

The Council notes the annual report of the Audit Committee.

Summary

The Committee's Terms of Reference include a requirement to provide Full Council with an Annual Report summarising the work it has undertaken during the year and the conclusions it has drawn. The report is provided in Appendix A.

The significant issues in the report are:

- the requirement of the Audit Committee's Terms of reference to provide Full Council with an Annual Report.
- the Committee's role to ensure that governance, risk management and internal control systems are robust and the conclusion from the Committee's work during the year that whilst these are not consistently as robust as required, there is evidence that this is improving. The Committee will continue to monitor progress to support sustained improvement going forward.



Policy

1. The Audit Committee's terms of reference are determined by Full Council. The City Council has a duty to ensure adequate and effective risk management, internal control and governance arrangements and the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its activities. The Audit Committee has a key role in assessing the extent to which this responsibility is being met and advising the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Consultation

2. **Internal**
Audit Committee Members including independent members
Internal Audit
3. **External**
Not applicable

Context

4. The Audit Committee was established by the Council at its meeting on 16th May 2006 and is a core component of effective governance.

Proposal

5. Full Council notes the report of the Audit Committee and the conclusions from its work during 2020/21.

Other Options Considered

6. Not Applicable

Risk Assessment

7. The work of the Audit Committee mitigates against any failure by the Council to obtain independent assurance in relation to the governance processes underpinning:
 - an effective risk management framework and internal control environment
 - the effectiveness of financial and non-financial performance (to the extent it affects exposure to risk and poor internal control)
 - the Annual Governance Statement, and
 - the review and approval of the annual statement of accounts

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

No equality impact is anticipated from this report. The report provides details of the Audit Committee's work and their conclusions in respect of control and governance processes.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – N/A

Financial – N/A

Land - N/A

Personnel – N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A – Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Audit Committee papers throughout 2020/21



BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 It is important that the Council has an independent and effective Audit Committee that follows best practice. The Audit Committee is the primary means by which Full Council obtains assurance that governance, risk management and control systems are in place and effective. It ensures that these are regularly reviewed and reflect regularity and propriety. The Audit Committee's responsibilities are additional to and supportive of those of the Section 151 Officer.

2. Terms of Reference:

- 2.1 The Committee's approved Terms of Reference for 2020/21, which are detailed on the Bristol City Council website, can be summarised as providing independent assurance to the Council in relation to the:
- Effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements, risk management framework and internal control environment;
 - Overseeing of the work of Internal and External Audit, while at the same time enhancing the profile, status and authority of the Internal Audit function and its independence;
 - Effectiveness of the Council's financial and non-financial performance to the extent it affects exposure to risk and poor internal control;
 - Reviewing and approving the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement and monitoring the Council's compliance with its Code of Corporate Governance.
- 2.2 The Committee should operate in an 'apolitical' environment. To support this, Political Party Leads do not sit on the Audit Committee and this is reflected in the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

3. Membership and Meetings of the Committee:

- 3.1 The Committee was chaired during 2020/21 by Councillor Mark Brain. The Committee comprised of eight members as indicated in the table below with two independent members, Adebola Adebayo and Simon Cookson. Councillor Stevens who was the Vice Chair resigned from his position as a councillor in January 2021 and therefore from the Audit Committee. Councillor Bowden Jones attended one meeting of the Committee and stepped back for reasons of proportionality of membership of the Committee.
- 3.2 The Committee met formally on eight occasions during 2020/21. All meetings were quorate. The coronavirus pandemic impacted the Committee in that it met virtually rather than face to face in line with government requirements for all committee meetings. This continued through the entire year of 2020/21 without having any significant impact on the Committee in the conduct of its business.

Table 1- Audit Committee Attendance 2020/21:

Member	No. of Meetings Held	No. of Meetings Attended	% of Meetings Attended (sub)
Mark Brain (Chair)	8	6	75%
Clive Stevens – Vice Chair	7	7	100%
Olly Mead	8	8	100%
Tim Kent	8	8	100%
Nicola Bowden-Jones	2	1	50%
Liz Radford (or sub)	8	3 (4)	24% (88%)
Christopher Jackson	8	8	100%
Adebola Adebayo	8	6	75%
Simon Cookson	8	8	100%

- 3.3 In addition to the Committee Members, the Section 151 Officer, Chief Internal Auditor, Deputy Chief Internal Auditor, Monitoring Officer, representatives from the External Auditors (Grant Thornton) and other officers, as appropriate, attended Committee meetings.

- 3.4 A total of forty-six reports were considered during the year, the details of which are provided in Appendix 1. Additionally, at each meeting, the Committee’s work programme was reviewed for continued relevance and progress against actions required by the Committee was monitored. Public forum was also received at most meetings.
- 3.5 The Value and Ethics Committee (a subcommittee of the Audit Committee) met twice receiving reports detailing an external inspection of the Council’s arrangements under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, the Members Development Strategy and a report providing a summary of complaints about Councillors and outcomes from consideration of those complaints relating to the period January 2018 to March 2021. This subcommittee was chaired by one of the independent members, Adebola Adebayo.

4. The Work and Activity of the Audit Committee in 2020/21:

- 4.1 The specific objectives of the Committee relate to overseeing arrangements in the following areas. Papers received by the Committee to enable them to provide that oversight are recorded below:

Area	Papers Considered to Enable Oversight
Internal Control Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Audit Activity Reports including summary of assurance opinions and executive summaries of audit reports with limited/no assurance opinions. Internal Audit Annual Report, including annual opinion. Response to Local Government Ombudsman Reports BCC Wholly owned Companies’ Assurance Report Contract Management Arrangements Update.
Corporate Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Management Annual Report and Improvement Plan Quarterly Corporate Risk Reports Senior Information Risk Officer Assurance
Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Corporate Governance Review Council Procedure Rules – Constitution Updates Procurement Rules Update Annual Governance Statement and progress tracker Access to Information External Inspections Reports Summary
Internal Audit Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan incorporating the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy. Internal Audit Plan and subsequent amendments to the Plan. Internal Audit Activity and Performance Reports.
External Audit Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Audit Planning and Update Reports
Financial Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Statement of Accounts –for 2018/19 External Audit ISA 260 Report. External Audit Value for Money Report Bristol Holdings Ltd Statement of Accounts. Bristol Energy Co and Statement of Accounts/Governance and Accountability
Treasury Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasury Management Annual Report and Half Year Update Report
Members Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord Mayors Protocol
Anti-Fraud Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Audit – Counter- fraud reports and Internal Audit Activity Reports. Whistleblowing Arrangements

Key Messages from the Work of the Committee:

- 4.2 As well as this annual report to Full Council, a half year report was provided on issues identified from its work during the first half of the year. The aim was to provide Council with early sight of emerging issues. This annual report captures key messages from the work of the Committee during the full year.

Covid 19.

- 4.3 The pandemic has had a significant impact on all areas of the Council's work with redeployment of staff and policy and procedure updates to enable service delivery under emergency conditions. The Committee was assured by a report from the Chief Internal Auditor that gave reasonable assurance that the Council had and continues to respond effectively to the challenges brought by the pandemic.
- 4.4 The Council has to date distributed in excess of £145m in government business support grants. A programme of pre-payment fraud testing by the Council's Internal Audit Service has provided a level of protection from fraudulent applications whilst balancing that with the expedience with which grant support could be distributed to effectively support businesses.

Internal Control Environment:

- 4.5 The Committee received an Annual Report from the Chief Internal Auditor at the start of the municipal year in line with best practice in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). This concluded that, based on the work carried out by Internal Audit, only limited assurance could be provided that the Council's internal control, governance and risk management arrangements were effective. Whilst the opinion was similar to previous years, the report noted that a positive trajectory was starting to emerge following improvement initiatives and increased collaboration between Internal Audit and Senior Management.
- 4.6 The Committee has monitored this situation via regular reports from Internal Audit. Officers responsible for areas where limited assurance was concluded by Internal Audit during the year were requested to attend Committee to provide further assurance on the progress being made in implementing the agreed management actions. These reports included re-assurances from officers about the improvements being made in the following areas:
- Procurement and contract management arrangements
 - Commercialisation Arrangements
 - Interims and Consultants
 - Records of Data Processing Activity
 - Adult Social Care Debt Recovery
 - Harbour Office Income
 - Ombudsman Responses
- 4.7 Additionally, the Committee has received assurance that processes have been strengthened to facilitate regular monitoring and reporting of improvement actions which will enhance assurance over continual improvement going forward.
- 4.8 The External Auditors Value for Money Report identified that arrangements were adequate 'except for' in respect of governance arrangements in relation to BE 2020 Limited (formerly, Bristol Energy Limited). The Auditors also commented that the Audit Committee should have had closer involvement with the issues relating to the Council's investment in BE during the year to enable them to discharge their role effectively.

Risk Management:

- 4.9 The Committee has received a report from the Council's Risk and Insurance Manager detailing the progress being made to embed risk management at the Council. The risk management arrangements continue to embed with good levels of engagement from the Executive, Extended and Directorate Leadership teams and routine quarterly review of Corporate Risk Reports. An Internal Audit review identified that whilst progress is being made in embedding risk management, there remained a body of work required to move

further towards risk maturity as part of the Council's risk management journey.

Regulatory Framework:

- 4.10 The Annual Governance Statement is a key consideration for the Committee each year. It outlines the governance arrangements at the Council and aims to conclude on how effectively those arrangements have been operating. The Committee considers the Annual Governance Statement to ensure it is reflective of the arrangements and identifies any significant governance issues. The Committee is assured by the review process and approved the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement as a fair reflection of the Council's governance arrangements.
- 4.11 The Statement for 2019/20 identified a number of issues that had significantly impacted the Council's governance arrangements: Covid 19, in terms of the significant long term impact on delivery of the Council's objectives and challenges presented including the financial sustainability of the Council; Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Practice and Procedure; the Bristol Energy Sale; and improvements required to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The Committee has tracked progress in managing these issues to ensure improvement actions were implemented.

Internal Audit Arrangements:

- 4.12 The Internal Audit Team is a key and independent source of assurance for the Audit Committee and the Council. During 2020/21, the team were significantly impacted by Covid. The team suspended Audit work in the first quarter of the year to enable management to focus on response to the pandemic. During that time, and in recognition of historic problems with capacity and skills retention caused by market conditions in the profession, worked on changing the delivery model to an in-house team supported by a strategic partner for reach-back provision. This gives assurance that the team will be resilient and fit for purpose moving forward. The opportunity was also taken to implement an automated audit solution that should enhance management information and automate processes for tracking implementation of improvement actions.

External Audit and Sign off of Financial Statements:

- 4.13 The Committee is required by its terms of reference to consider the External Auditor's report in advance of its signing off the Council's Financial Statements.
- 4.14 The Committee has approved the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts. The accounts were reviewed by the Committee on a number of occasions as the External Auditors' work progressed. Post balance sheet events concerning Covid 19 and the decision made by Cabinet regarding Bristol Energy Company meant the accounts were signed off in July 2020 following the committee's final review in June 2020.
- 4.15 The Committee has also reviewed the annual financial statements for 2019/20 and approved them in March 2021.

Counter Fraud Arrangements and Whistleblowing:

- 4.16 The Committee received regular updates on the counter-fraud work undertaken by Internal Audit and noted the robust approach taken in respect of counter-fraud arrangements.
- 4.17 Significantly, the Committee was pleased to receive independent assurance that Whistleblowing arrangements have improved after ongoing concern about the effectiveness of the arrangements by the Committee. The independent review concluded substantial assurance that these arrangements are now effective.

Summary:

- 4.18 In summary, the Committee has met its terms of reference in this municipal year. The Committee's primary contribution to the Council's objectives is to ensure that Governance, Control, Risk Management and Audit systems which underpin the work of the Council are sound, reliable, robust and secure. This report provides sight of areas where that is not the case.

5. Audit Committee Effectiveness and Priorities for 2021/22

- 5.1 A workshop of Audit Committee Members in October 2020 reviewed their effectiveness and identified areas for improvement. Key messages resulting from this workshop have previously been reported to Full Council in the half year report.
- 5.2 Acknowledging that the Council's Audit Committee was likely to have an entirely different Councillor membership following the May 2021 elections, the outgoing Committee noted the issues below to pass on to the incoming Committee when considering its approach and work programme:
- In terms of approach:
 - Ensuring the committee is provided with relevant and timely information to enable it to effectively fulfil its role.
 - Working with partner audit committees more effectively for greater assurance.
 - Having an understanding of the landscape of partner organisations and the governance and assurance frameworks around them.
 - In terms of work programme:
 - An update on the IT Transformation Programme
 - Continued monitoring of the effectiveness of whistleblowing arrangements
 - Tracking continued progress on SEND improvement actions.
 - Compliance with the records retention policy
 - A review of governance and decision-making processes following the External Auditor's value for money report.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Committee's primary contribution to the Council's objectives is to ensure that Governance, Control, Risk Management and Audit systems which underpin the work of the Council are sound, reliable, robust and secure.
- 7.2 This review gives an overview of the range of work undertaken by the Committee, which has enabled it to conclude that the Council's system of checks and balances are not consistently as robust as required. There is clear evidence that this is improving, and the new Committee will need to monitor progress going forward to ensure this improvement is sustained.

7.3 The Committee would like to thank the Internal Audit Service, Grant Thornton and senior management for the support they provide the Committee in discharging its responsibilities.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Reports considered by the Audit Committee in 2020/21 including reports considered by the Values and Ethics Committee.

Appendix 1

Details of Reports Considered by Audit Committee during 2020/21 Municipal Year

Meeting Date	Papers Considered
28 th May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement Actions – Update • 2018/19 Statement of Accounts • 2018/19 External Audit ISA 260 Report • 2020/21 Internal Audit Annual Plan Review • Bristol Energy Company – Statement of Accounts
29 th June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol Energy Governance and Accountability • 2018/19 Statement of Accounts
30 th July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 4 – Corporate Risk Report • 2019/20 Internal Audit Annual Report • 2019/20 Annual Fraud Report • 2019/20 Audit Committee Annual Report to Full Council

Meeting Date	Papers Considered
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 Draft Annual Governance Statement • 2019/20 Draft Statement of Accounts • 2019/20 External Audit Action Plan • 2019/20 External Audit Progress Report • Bristol Holding Company Audit and Risk Committee Assurance • Procurement Rules Update
27 th August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 Draft Annual Governance Statement • 2019/20 Draft Statement of Accounts
28 th September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Audit Update Report • 2019/20 Treasury Management Annual Report • SIRO Assurance Report • Quarter 1 – Corporate Risk Report • Risk Management Annual Report and Improvement Plan • Internal Audit Activity Report
23 rd November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Audit Update Report • Annual Report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman • Access to information • Lord Mayors Protocol • Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme, Charter and Strategy. • Internal Audit Update Report • Counter-fraud half year report • Audit Committee half year report to full Council. • Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2020/21
25 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Audit Progress Report 2019/20 • External Audit Value for Money Report 2019/20 including • Internal Audit Update Report • Quarter 3 – Corporate Risk Report
22 nd March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Audit – ISA 260 Report • Statement of Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2020 • 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement – Summary of Progress • Review of Code of Corporate Governance • Council Procedure Rules – Proposed Constitution Updates • Internal Audit – Draft Plan 2021/22 • Annual Whistleblowing Review • Contract Management Update
Values and Ethics (Sub) Committee	
28 th September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (2000)
22 nd March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Development Strategy • Summary of Complaints Against Councillors and Outcomes – January 2018 – March 2021.

Full Council

7th September 2021



Report of: Human Resources Committee

Title: Selection Committee - Size and Composition

Ward: City Wide

Member Presenting Report: Councillor Tim Wye – Chair of Human Resources Committee

Recommendation

That Council approve the reduction in the size of the Selection Committee from 9 to 6 members as recommended by the Human Resources Committee.

Summary

At the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 25th May 2021, the Selection Committee was established as a 9-member committee.

A committee of 9 councillors is considered to be too large a committee to undertake the effective recruitment and selection of senior leaders.

The Human Resources Committee at its meeting on 22 July 2021 considered and unanimously endorsed the proposal to recommend to Council a reduction in the size of the Selection Committee 9 to 6 members.



Policy

1. The recruitment and selection of Directors, Executive Directors and the Chief Executive are made by the Selection Committee in accordance with the Council's constitution and officer employment rules. Full Council determines the size of the Selection Committee.

Consultation

Internal

2. The proposed change has been discussed and agreed with the Party Group Whips.

External

3. Not applicable.

Context

4. At the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 25th May 2021, the Selection Committee was established as a 9-member committee. This has been the subject of recent review by officers and discussion with Party Group Leads on the committee.
5. It is considered that a committee of 9 is too large and above all will not provide a good experience for candidates who are interviewed for senior roles in the organisation.
6. Reducing the size of the committee by a third to 6 members is considered to be much more appropriate and enables the committee to remain politically balanced.

Proposal

7. That Council approve the reduction in the size of the Selection Committee from 9 to 6 members as recommended by the Human Resources Committee.

Other Options Considered

8. The option of retaining the Committee at its currently constituted size was considered but has been discounted for the reasons set out in the report.

Risk Assessment

9. No risks have been identified.

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

10. No equality impact is anticipated from this report.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

11. The recommendation in relation to the size of the Selection Committee complies with the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations.

(Legal advice provided by Husinara Jones, Team Leader /Solicitor, 1 July 2021)

Financial

(a) Revenue

No financial advice sought.

(b) Capital

None

Land

None

Personnel

None

Appendices:

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Report and Minutes of the Human Resources Committee 22 July 2021