

Summons to attend meeting of Full Council



Date: Tuesday, 9 November 2021

Time: 6.00 pm

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

To: All Members of Council

Issued by: Sam Wilcock, Democratic Services

City Hall, PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE

Tel: 0117 92 23846

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Friday, 29 October 2021



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

(Pages 8 - 10)

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 11 - 30)

5. Lord Mayor's Business

To note any announcements from the Lord Mayor

6. 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 8th November 2021**.

7. 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 5th November 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 3rd November 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 midday on **Friday 5th November 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 may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room due to the maximum capacity of the venue. Those who registered their intention to attend for public forum will be prioritised for the meeting room public gallery.

- 8. Petition Debate : Disabled Adult Play Parks**
(Pages 31 - 33)
- 9. Mayoral Commission Update : Disability Equality Commission**
(Page 34)
- 10. Mayoral Commission Update : Bristol Women's Commission**
(Pages 35 - 60)
- 11. Mayoral Commission Update : Bristol Race Commission**
(Pages 61 - 72)
- 12. Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21**



(Pages 73 - 95)

13. Constitutional Update : Appointment of Members to Committees and Chairing Arrangements

(Pages 96 - 97)

14. Motions

Note:

(Pages 98 - 127)

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 is likely to 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

MOTION 1 - A Workplace Parking Levy for Bristol

Full Council notes

1. A Workplace Parking Levy (also referred to as Corporate Parking Levy) is a licensing scheme for active workplace car parking places. They vary in detail and can include various concessions (e.g. blue badge holders; smaller businesses; NHS facilities). These schemes reduce driving into the city centre and provide funds that can be reinvested in transport alternatives or improvements.
2. That the proposal for a Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) was initially discussed in Bristol ten years ago and we have fallen behind other cities in its implementation.
3. A scoping study produced for Bristol Council in 2011 estimated that a citywide workplace Parking Levy (with small businesses exempted) could generate a net revenue of around £11 million per year.
4. Following a budget amendment made by the Green Party in 2020, an appraisal report is now being developed. We further note that as it has yet to be published, it is unclear as to the detail of implementation. We understand that the report's findings are generally in favour of WPL.
5. The growing national base of evidence for WPL. Most notable is



Nottingham which has been running its scheme since 2011 and now raises £9 million a year with a circa £400 WPL with minimal running costs

6. Support for exploring a WPL was noted in the Bristol Transport Strategy adopted in 2019.
7. There are several, evidenced benefits of WPLs, including:
 - Reduction in congestion and associated air quality improvements;
 - Investment in public and active transport;
 - Freeing up land - unlike a congestion charge, the WPL has an evidenced bonus effect of making more land available for other uses, such as green space or new residential buildings.
 - That any levy is easy to administer, keeping transactional costs to a minimum
 - They encourage private sector involvement and investment in the city
 - There is unlikely to be any additional pressure on on-street parking as the levy is on the space not the vehicle
8. Councillors will need to see the detail, but it is anticipated that the coming report will add to the positive national evidence base for the policy.

Full Council resolves to call on the administration to:

1. Share and make the appraisal report on WPL public when it is complete
2. To receive the WPL report and commit to acting on its findings and recommendations. (As already indicated, we anticipate that this will be consistent with the national evidence base in support for a Bristol WPL)
3. To publish a timetabled delivery plan for a WPL scheme with the aim of going out to consultation by April 2022 with full implementation within two years of that date (compatible with the Local Transport Act 2000)
4. Approach Government to ensure as much match funding as possible
5. Work with WECA to see if a WPL can be developed in parallel in other neighbouring authorities

Motion proposed by: Councillor Wilcox (Green Group)



Date Submitted: 28th October 2021

Notes

- Bristol Transport Strategy -
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/3641895/Bristol+Transport+Strategy+-+adopted+2019.pdf/383a996e-2219-dbbb-dc75-3a270bfce26c>
- Information on Nottingham's Workplace Parking Levy:
 - o <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/wpl>
 - o <https://www.transportxtra.com/publications/parking-review/news/68005/the-workplace-parking-levy-nottingham-pioneers-the-way-ahead/>

MOTION 2 - 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.

To be moved by Cllr Helen Holland (Labour Group)
Motion submitted 28th October 2021

Signed



Proper Officer
Friday, 29 October 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

7 September 2021 at 6.00 pm



Members Present:-

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

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 6 July 2021 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

5 Lord Mayor's Business

The Lord Mayor informed Full Council that there would be a Service of Commemoration to be held on Tuesday 21st September at 2pm at St Mark's, the Lord Mayor's Chapel. This was in memory and in tribute to the following former Councillors who passed away during 2020 and 2021:

Ald Claire Warren
Ald Bill Payne
Ald Arthur Massey

Members of Council were invited to attend. Information would be circulated to the Whips by Democratic Services.

6 Public Forum (Public Petitions, Statements and Questions)

Public petitions:

There was one public petition received which was referred to the Mayor for his consideration and response.

Ref No	Name	Title
PP01	Ms Davey	Petition from residents of Mildred Street, BS5. The petition asks for installation of traffic calming measures.

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	John Templer	Illegal 10-hour rave in Sparke Evan Park Saturday 17 July 2021
PS02	Danica Priest	I support the motion to protect green spaces
PS03	Dr Miles Thompson	Supporting the motion: Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's Green Spaces
PS04	The Friends of the Western Slopes, Chair: Julia Pimenta	Response to Conservative Golden Motion 7th Sept
PS05	James Drozd	Response to Conservative Golden Motion 7th Sept
PS06	Julia Halpenny	Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's green spaces
PS07	Jeremy Halpenny	Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's green spaces
PS08	David Redgewell	Bus Service Reductions
PS09	Jen Smith	The selling off of the St George CE Primary School
PS10	Glenn Vowles	Statement to support no building on Bristol green spaces or green belt
PS11	Catherine Withers at Yew Tree Farm	Supporting the motion protect the greenbelt and Bristol's greenspaces
PS12	Clare Prior-Clarke	The Western Slopes
PS13	Martyn Cordey	Statement in support of golden motion: PROTECT THE GREEN BELT AND BRISTOL'S GREEN SPACES
PS14	Fran Whitlock	Motion 'Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's green spaces'
PS15	Chris Bailey	Residents' Parking Scheme for the Ashley Down area
PS16	Jasmine Beard	Supporting the motion to protect the greenbelt and Bristol's greenspaces
PS17	Dave Cridge	Novers Hill Development Objections
PS18	Ann-Marie Vowles	Objection re the Lovell's development plan for the Slopes on Novers Hill
PS19	Catherine Robson	Support for motion entitled Protect the green belt and Bristol's Green Spaces
PS20	Sally Mundy	Novers Hill
PS21	George Cook	SAVE Ashton Vale environment
PS22	Wendy Coe	Support the motion to save the green belt around South Bristol



PS23	Martin Grant Chair, Manor Woods Valley Group	Support the motion - Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's Green Spaces
PS24	Lucie Meadows	Support Motion to Protect Greenbelt Land & Yew Tree Farm
PS25	Jenny Heyer	Motion to protect the greenbelt land
PS26	Finbar Cullen	Western Slopes (Novers Hill)
PS27	Sarah Breaux	Protect the green belt and Bristol's Green Spaces
PS28	Roland Oliver	Plot 5 of the Bedminster Green Development
PS29	Maddy Longhurst	Yew Tree Farm and the Green Belt
PS30	The Bristol Cycling Campaign	Support of Motion 10
PS31	Martin Howard	Statement to support no building on Bristol green spaces or green belt
PS32	Tony Pitt	Statement in support of the 'Golden Motion - Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's Green Spaces'
PS33	Anna Archer	Motion to Protect the greenbelt and Bristol's green spaces
PS34	Nick Smith	Protect the green belt and Bristol's Green Spaces
PS35	Jeremy Iles	Yew Tree Farm
PS36	Danielle Houghton	Support of the Motion to protect Bristol's Green belt and spaces
PS37	Jaime Breitnauer	Support of the Motion to protect Bristol's Green belt and spaces
PS38	Jennifer Little	Bristol Fair Renting Campaign
PS39	Pippa Grace Robinson	Motion to protect the Green Belt -in reference to Yew Tree Farm

Within the time available, statements PS01, PS02, PS04, PS11, PS37, PS38 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	Jessica Errington	Lamppost charging points for electric cars
PQ02	Nigel Shipley	Need to achieve healthy air and focus on saving lives
PQ03 & P404	Tim Mason	Trials of alternatives to pesticides



PQ05 & PQ06	David Wiley	Cladding
PQ07 & PQ08	Grant Mercer	Asking schools to stop using pesticides
PQ09 & PQ10 &	Nicola Earnshaw	Measuring reduction in council pesticide use
PQ11 & PQ12	Roxanne Ismail	Cut-and-Collect mowers
PQ13	Valerie Harland	Sustainable Construction
PQ14 & PQ15	Ben Anthony	The Climate Emergency
PQ16 & PQ17	Julie Milton	The Council's One City Ecological Emergency Strategy
PQ18 & PQ19	John Templer	Illegal 10-hour rave in Sparke Evan Park Saturday 17 July 2021
PQ20 & PQ21	David Redgewell	Bus Service Reductions
PQ22 & PQ23	Dan Geerah	Response to the Ecological Emergency declaration in February 2020
PQ24	Mary Montgomery	Tackling Air Pollution
PQ25	Prof John Tarlton	Protecting vulnerable citizens from the effects of climate change
PQ26	Peter Herridge	Weston Harbour and Baltic Wharf Caravan Site
PQ27	Jill Tarton	Existing Green Infrastructure on developments
PQ28 & PQ29	Dr Claire Gronow	Carbon Emission reductions
PQ30 & PQ31	Tom Bosanquet	St Lukes Road BS3 & Council Fix My Street
PQ32	Suzanne Audrey	Play and Informal Recreation for Children
PQ33	Andrea Mackay	Tackling Single Use Plastic Recycling

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ02, PQ18, PQ19 and PQ32 also responding to supplementary questions.

7 Petitions Notified by Councillors

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Petition CP01 – petition presented by Councillor Hornchen - Petition by residents of Wyndham Crescent, Broomhill, in favour of changing the road layout to one way including new double yellow lines. (91 Signatures).



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

Full Council received an update on the Youth Council, presented by the Youth Mayors Alice Towle and John Wayman.

The update was introduced by Mayor Marvin Rees.

Councillors King, Townsend, Michellat and Hartley responded to the update on behalf of their respective political groups.

RESOLVED – The report was NOTED.

9 Annual Report of the Audit Committee

Full Council considered the annual report of the Audit Committee.

The report was moved by Councillor Hopkins and seconded by Councillor Dyer.

Councillors Goodman and Gollop responded on behalf of their respective political groups.

RESOLVED – The report was NOTED.

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

Full Council considered a reference from the Human Resources Committee regarding Selection Committee Size and Composition.

The report and recommendations were moved by Councillor Wye and seconded by Councillor Pearce.

Councillors Eddy and Classick responded on behalf of their respective political groups.

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



11 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 45 minute limit for motions and a 9pm finish time for the meeting.

Golden Motion: PROTECT THE GREEN BELT AND BRISTOL'S GREEN SPACES

Councillor Eddy moved the following motion:

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.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hucker.

Councillor Renhard then moved the following amendment:

'That the motion be amended to read as follows:



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.

This Council also notes the inclusion of the Government's Planning Bill in the 2021 Queen's Speech, the content of which runs contrary to the views expressed in this motion. Full Council believes this Planning Bill, that would abolish Section 106, fetter Development Control committees and lead to a free-for-all for housing developers, is an affront to local democracy as it could see developers build on green space with no public consultation or democratic oversight. This Council therefore calls on Party Group Leaders to write to the Government to make it clear of its view that this bill should not become law.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Cole.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.

The Lord Mayor then invited Councillor Eddy, as mover of the original motion to speak.

Councillor Plowden then moved the following amendment:

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.

Council also welcomes the Mayor's pledges around combatting food poverty and encouraging communities to grow more of their own food.

Council notes that much of the land we may think of as Green Belt is in fact designated as Sites of Nature Conservation interest (SNCIs) and wildlife corridors, and that whilst this land has some protection granted under local planning regulation, policy may override these protections.

Full Council resolves:

1. To call for a halt to the proposed redevelopment of or incursion into any remaining productive wildlife rich agricultural land.
2. To ask the Mayor 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 where not also needed as space for nature rather than continuing to erode our surrounding fields and countryside.
3. In the forthcoming update of the site allocations policies, to make every effort to avoid designating any SNCIs for development.
4. To create policy to prioritise the preservation of the integrity of any wildlife corridors contained within sites designated for development.
5. To work with adjacent local authorities and WECA to reinforce our policies on preserving Green Belt, and to work with these bodies to preserve our cherished countryside.
6. To assign or instruct officers to consider adopting the Western Slopes and Brislington Meadows as Local Green Space as provided for within NPPF guidance, providing similar planning protection as for the Green Belt.



7. Furthermore, to work with local communities across Bristol to similarly make every effort to designate much loved green space in other parts of the city and noting that such protection for green space was proposed as part of the recent Bristol Local Plan Review.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Hance.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was CARRIED.

(41 For, 0 against, 22 abstentions)

Mayor Rees was invited to speak on the debate.

The Lord Mayor then moved to vote on the motion as amended.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion as amended was CARRIED.

(41 For, 0 against, 22 abstentions)

RESOLVED:

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.

Council also welcomes the Mayor's pledges around combatting food poverty and encouraging communities to grow more of their own food.

Council notes that much of the land we may think of as Green Belt is in fact designated as Sites of Nature Conservation interest (SNCIs) and wildlife corridors, and that whilst this land has some protection granted under local planning regulation, policy may override these protections.



Full Council resolves:

- 1. To call for a halt to the proposed redevelopment of or incursion into any remaining productive wildlife rich agricultural land.**
- 2. To ask the Mayor 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 where not also needed as space for nature rather than continuing to erode our surrounding fields and countryside.**
- 3. In the forthcoming update of the site allocations policies, to make every effort to avoid designating any SNCIs for development.**
- 4. To create policy to prioritise the preservation of the integrity of any wildlife corridors contained within sites designated for development.**
- 5. To work with adjacent local authorities and WECA to reinforce our policies on preserving Green Belt, and to work with these bodies to preserve our cherished countryside.**
- 6. To assign or instruct officers to consider adopting the Western Slopes and Brislington Meadows as Local Green Space as provided for within NPPF guidance, providing similar planning protection as for the Green Belt.**
- 7. Furthermore, to work with local communities across Bristol to similarly make every effort to designate much loved green space in other parts of the city and noting that such protection for green space was proposed as part of the recent Bristol Local Plan Review.**

Silver Motion - Achieve Zero Carbon Development

Councillor Stone moved the following motion:

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 due to be published in December 2021 for implementation from June 2022



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. Local Planning Authorities must do this through their development plan documents, following consultation and examination by planning inspector.

6. The Council's Local Plan is currently under review and often goes above-and-beyond the proposed 2021 building regulations. The Council also notes that the draft 2019 Local Plan would encourage all new developments to be zero carbon and this aim was reiterated in Progressing Bristol's Development – a Bristol City Council statement on planning in Bristol.

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 principles of the proposed building regulation requirements for Part L discussed in the Futures Homes Standards 2025, in December 2021, would contribute to Bristol reaching our zero carbon targets by 2030.
3. The Council's revised Local Plan should seek to require rather than simply 'encourage' zero carbon development of all types of buildings.
4. It will be necessary to set out a strategic plan and use the powers in the revised Local Plan to ensure that all buildings which receive planning consent from 2024 are to be built to a 100% zero carbon standard.

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 zero carbon Standards at the earliest possible opportunity through revision of the Local Plan.
2. That the administration promote all new buildings to be built zero carbon from 2025, and that a strategic plan is established in partnership with the homes board and in consultation with the building development industry to enable some Bristol City Council and private projects to achieve this standard earlier

Councillor Pearce seconded the motion.



Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was **CARRIED (61 For, 0 against, 0 abstention)** it was **RESOLVED**:

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 due to be published in December 2021 for implementation from June 2022**
- 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. Local Planning Authorities must do this through their development plan documents, following consultation and examination by planning inspector.**
- 6. The Council's Local Plan is currently under review and often goes above-and-beyond the proposed 2021 building regulations. The Council also notes that the draft 2019 Local Plan would encourage all new developments to be zero carbon and this aim was reiterated in Progressing Bristol's Development – a Bristol City Council statement on planning in Bristol.**

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 principles of the proposed building regulation requirements for Part L discussed in the Futures Homes Standards 2025, in December 2021, would contribute to Bristol reaching our zero carbon targets by 2030.**
- 3. The Council's revised Local Plan should seek to require rather than simply 'encourage' zero carbon development of all types of buildings.**



4. It will be necessary to set out a strategic plan and use the powers in the revised Local Plan to ensure that all buildings which receive planning consent from 2024 are to be built to a 100% zero carbon standard.

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 zero carbon Standards at the earliest possible opportunity through revision of the Local Plan.**
- 2. That the administration promote all new buildings to be built zero carbon from 2025, and that a strategic plan is established in partnership with the homes board and in consultation with the building development industry to enable some Bristol City Council and private projects to achieve this standard earlier**

Meeting ended at 8.45 pm

CHAIR _____



**Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Full Council**

12 October 2021 at 3.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Mayor Marvin Rees, Amal Ali, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Kerry Bailes, Nicola Beech, 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, Lily Fitzgibbon, Tessa Fitzjohn, Martin Fodor, John Geater, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Katy Grant, Fi Hance, Alex Hartley, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Katja Hornchen, Jonathan Hucker, Philippa Hulme, Farah Hussain, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Ellie King, Tim Kent, Heather Mack, Mohamed Makawi, Brenda Massey, Yassin Mohamud, Graham Morris, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Guy Poultney, Tom Renhard, Tim Rippington, Steve Smith, Ani Stafford-Townsend, Lisa Stone, Christine Townsend, Mark Weston, David Wilcox and Chris Windows

Officers in Attendance:-

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 Bailes, Bartle, Bradshaw, Cheney, Craig, Davies, Denyer, English, Fitzgibbon Fitzjohn, Francis, Godwin, Goodman, Hathway, Michallat, Parsons, Plowden, Quartley, Rippington, James Scott, Sharon Scott, Morris, Varney and Wye.

3 Appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen



1. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Mark Brain as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Goggin moved the appointment of Mark Brain as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor Gollop seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Mark Brain be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Mark Brain received his badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

2. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Barry Clarke as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Jackson moved the appointment of Barry Clarke as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor O'Rourke seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Barry Clarke be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Barry Clarke received his badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

3. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Jeff Lovell as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Jackson moved the appointment of Jeff Lovell as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor O'Rourke seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was

RESOLVED: That Jeff Lovell be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Jeff Lovell was unable to attend the meeting.



4. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Margret Hickman as Honorary Alderwoman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Alexander moved the appointment of Margret Hickman as an Honorary Alderwoman.

Councillor Kent seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Margaret Hickman be appointed as an Honorary Alderwoman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderwoman Margaret Hickman received her badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

5. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Olly Mead as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Renhard moved the appointment of Olly Mead as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor Fodor seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Olly Mead be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Olly Mead received his badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

6. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Mhairi Threlfall as Honorary Alderwoman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Bennett moved the appointment of Mhairi Threlfall as an Honorary Alderwoman.

Councillor Weston seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Mhairi Threlfall be appointed as an Honorary Alderwoman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderwoman Mhairi Threlfall received her badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.



7. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Estella Tinknell as Honorary Alderwoman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Holland moved the appointment of Estella Tinknell as an Honorary Alderwoman.

Councillor Dyer Seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Estella Tinknell be appointed as an Honorary Alderwoman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderwoman Estella Tinknell received her badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed the Full Council.

4 Appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen

8. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Charlie Bolton as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Stafford-Townsend moved the appointment of Charlie Bolton as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor Clark seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Charlie Bolton be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Charlie Bolton received his badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

9. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Stephen Clarke as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Dyer moved the appointment of Stephen Clarke as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor Gollop seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:



That Stephen Clarke be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Stephen Clarke received his badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

10. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Ashley Fox as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Gollop moved the appointment of Ashley Fox as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor **Clark** seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Ashley Fox be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Ashley Fox received his badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

11. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Claire Hiscott as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Weston moved the appointment of Claire Hiscott as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor Hulme seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Claire Hiscott be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman Claire Hiscott received her badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

12. The Full Council considered a report from the Director, Legal and Democratic Services recommending the appointment of Sultan Khan as Honorary Alderman of the City and Council of Bristol.

Councillor Hopkins moved the appointment of Sultan Khan as an Honorary Alderman.

Councillor **Eddy** seconded the motion.

On being put to vote it was:



RESOLVED:

That Sultan Khan be appointed as an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

Honorary Alderman **Sultan Khan** received his badge and certificate from the Lord Mayor and addressed Full Council.

Meeting ended at 6.15 pm

CHAIR _____



Full Council

9th November 2021



Report of: Tim O’Gara, Director Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Petition Debate- Disabled Adults Play Park

Recommendation

That Full Council debates the petition and refers it to the Mayor / relevant Cabinet member for a formal response.

Summary

Under the Council’s petitions scheme, where a petition has 3,500 or more signatures from people who live, work or study in Bristol, the petition organiser can request a Full Council debate.

The Council has received a petition in relation to the Disabled Adults Play Park.

The petition organisers have requested that Full Council debates the petition.



Details of the petition

1. The wording of the petition is as follows:

Petition title / subject: Disabled Adults Play Park

Petition wording:

“My name is Michele Morrice, I am a full-time carer to my son, Declan who is 28 years old. He is 6ft 5 and has severe Autism, is nonverbal, with challenging behaviour, Tourette’s, and Bipolar. Dec loves the park especially the bird swing, but a large man with a disability at a public park causes stress for both of us, as other people attending the park can be very unkind.

Bristol City Council needs to provide a safe play setting for people aged 16 years and older with additional needs; for only them, their families, and carers to be able to access.

People with all types of disabilities including Autism, Dementia, Learning Difficulties and more, could benefit from a space for them to safely be themselves. Many disabilities result in individuals developmental ages being much younger than their birth date.

Play equipment helps with relaxation and being in a calming environment helps with mental health. As a carer, I find it upsetting that we have nowhere to access with our loved ones. It would give carers peace of mind that everyone there is understanding to the issues we all face daily, so we would not be stressing when they display unpredictable behaviour. It would also be a great opportunity for carers to meet others in the same position, and we could share experiences.

Bristol City Council's answer so far has been to allocate, in just a couple of parks, a one hour at 9 am on Sundays for people with additional needs. This is not acceptable who wants to rush there for that time, concerning it often takes hours to assist someone with additional needs to get ready and must upset them after 1-hour play to go home. Bristol City Council needs to take notice of the need for this.

I am firstly campaigning to everyone in Bristol, for support in creating an outdoor space allocated to people with additional needs in North Bristol; I would then like to campaign for another in South Bristol. This situation is affecting loads of disabled people and their carers in the Bristol area.

We were accessing Bournstream at Wotton-under-Edge which is a play and picnic site now just for children with special needs. **We want places like this in Bristol for adults with additional needs. We currently have nowhere!”**

2. The petition has been organised by the Carina Andrews & Michele Morrice.
[Petition · Disabled Adults Play Park · Change.org](#)
3. The petition has secured 53,472 signatures to date, 3,558 from Bristol residents.

4. The Full Council is asked to debate the petition.
5. Under the petition scheme, the petition organiser is permitted up to 5 minutes to present and speak to the petition. The petition scheme allows a further period of up to 15 minutes for discussion of the petition by councillors at the Full Council meeting.
6. The Full Council has agreed the following in relation to dealing with petitions with over 3500 signatures: The topic of the debate should be referred to the Mayor/Cabinet, or other relevant body with the petitioner's views and Full Council's views.

RECOMMENDATION

Following the debate, the Full Council is recommended to refer the petition to the Mayor, in order that the Mayor can consider his response, in liaison with the relevant Cabinet member.

Mayoral Commission Update – Introduction from the new Disability Equality Commission

On 21 September 2020 Councillor Asher Craig announced the establishment of the Mayor's Disability Equality Commission. The commission is being established in recognition of the inequalities faced by Disabled people in the city, and the negative impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having on Disabled people. The Disability Equality Commission will join the Commission on Race Equality and Women's Commission as mayoral commissions taking forward equality in the city.

Councillor Craig chaired a steering group made up of Bristol's key disability equality organisations who worked in partnership to set up Bristol's new Disability Equality Commission. Steering group members include West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL), Bristol Independent Mental Health Network, Sight Loss Council, Bristol Disability Equality Forum, Bristol Reclaiming Independent Living, Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Thomas Pocklington Trust, North Bristol NHS Trust and Second Step.

Alun Davies MBE, an experienced and respected campaigner for Disabled people's rights in the city, was appointed the first Chair of the Disability Equality Commission in August 2021. In September 2021 WECIL was appointed as the support organisation for the Commission.

The recruitment process for Commissioner roles has opened and it is hoped a diverse group of intersectional Disabled people will be recruited to the Commission by February 2022. The Chair and Commissioners will lead the work of embedding disability equality in every part of Bristol, to improve the lives and opportunities of its Disabled people.

A citywide consultation will support the Commission to identify an initial list of priorities to review and develop a strategic plan to tackle disability inequality in Bristol, including through influencing future decisions and presenting recommendations to the Mayor and One City boards.

Alun Davies, Chair of the Commission

Full Council

9 November 2021



Report of: Penny Gane, Chair Bristol Women's Commission (BWC)

Title: Annual Update: Work of Bristol Women's Commission 2020/2021

Ward: City-wide

Presenting the Report: Penny Gane Chair, Bristol Women's Commission

Recommendation

- To note the report
- To ensure Bristol City Council continues to support the Bristol Women's Commission to implement its work plan
- To continue to support the Women's Commission

Summary

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by BWC during November 2020 – October 2021

The significant issues in the report are:

The report sets out the work undertaken by the Women's Commission in the priority areas of; Safety, Health, Education, Economy and Business. Appendix 1 and 2 details responses from the Health and Safety task group.

Relevant Strategies

1. European Charter of Equality for Women and Men in Local Life
2. The One City Plan
3. Bristol Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy
4. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Women’s Health Strategy
5. Bristol City Council’s Equality and Inclusion Policy and Strategy 2018-2023
6. Mayoral Commission on Domestic Abuse task and finish group

Consultation

1. Internal

BWC has a cross party membership of Elected Members and has been supported by Cllr Helen Godwin in her role as Cabinet member for Women, Families and Homes and more recently Cllr. Helen Holland. Ann James is the lead BCC officer on the Commission. The Commission is supported by Cherene Whitfield, Equalities Officer.

2. External

Please see the list below of all the organisations which make up the Commission and its 5 task groups. More than 70 external agencies are participants in the work of the Commission.

BWC has the following membership:

Bristol City Council (Councillors and Officers), Bristol City Office, Bristol Women’s Voice (BWV), University of Bristol (UOB), University West of England(UWE), City of Bristol College (CoBC), Avon and Somerset Police, Trade Union Congress (TUC), Business West, University Hospitals Bristol (UHB), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Volunteering Organisation Standing Conference on Urban Regeneration (Voscur), First Bus, Bristol Headteachers Forum, Be on Board, Task Group leads on Economy, Health, Business, Education, Safety.
Chair: Penny Gane BWV

The commission has representatives on the Economy and Skills Board.

Members of the commission have also taken part in the Commission on Domestic Violence task and finish group set up by Cllr Asher Craig and Cllr Helen Godwin. Two members of BWC will join the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police in setting up a region wide summit on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including a review of the Force itself.

This year the Bristol Women’s Commission has established two Task and finish groups in addition to its five Task Groups to work on Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEV) and the Councillor survey. A report on the survey will be sent to party leaders shortly.

Context

1. 2020-1 has seen shocking murders of women including that of Sarah Everard at the hands of a serving Metropolitan Police Officer and brutal treatment of women at the hands of police officers. Many questions have been raised about sexism and misogyny in policing.

2. A damning Ofsted report followed the ‘Everyone Invited’ Initiative which showed the huge scale of sexual harassment including rape of young women and girls in our schools. 22 Bristol schools were named where such incidents had taken place.
3. Bristol’s Licensing Committee has launched a consultation on the number of sex establishments appropriate for Bristol. Prior to the survey, the Licensing Committee awarded licenses to the two SEV’s in the city.
4. Drink spiking has been recorded on video in the city and has led to important conversations on how to keep women safe in the night-time economy.
5. The impact of Covid 19 continues to hit women hard, with more women likely to lose their jobs, suffering long covid and mental health issues and having to go through pregnancy, childbirth and sometimes miscarriage without the usual support. More women have been subjected to violence and abuse in what has been called the ‘shadow pandemic’. Women took a disproportionate share of the domestic burden due to closure of schools and nurseries, and women were and are hugely overrepresented in adult social care and nursing posts.
6. Bristol Women’s Voice’s City Listening Project showed that Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic women experience particular inequalities in relation to the access of services such as maternity, health and employment.
7. Bristol City Council’s White Ribbon status has lapsed.

2020/2021 Progress

BWC meetings

This year BWC has hosted the following speakers:

Month, Year	Speaker	Topic
November 20	Carol Watson, Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning BCC, Cllr Helen Holland	Health and Social Care response to economic factors
January 21	Jane Taylor, Employment Skills and Learning BCC	Kickstart and other interventions to support women affected by covid 19
	Lizzie Henden, Sue Moss PH	How BCC is dealing with DVA in lockdown
March 21	Jonathan Downing, Mayor’s Office	Mayor Commission on Domestic Abuse report
	Anna Smith, Safety Task Group lead	Progress on work on femicides
May 21	Mayor of Bristol Marvin Rees Cllr. Helen Godwin- Cabinet Member for Women BCC	Support for BWC and women’s equality
July 21	Kalpna Woolf-Be on Board, Zara Nanu- Lead Women in Business (WiB) task group, Sandra Gordon- WiB Charter, Victoria Matthews-Business West	Women in Business

August 21	Mark Shelford, Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon and Somerset Police	How to deliver on Manifesto for Women’s Safety
September 21	Marian Curran, Laura Beynon, Education Task Force	Girls’ conference, Mentoring Scheme
	Dr. Lisa Brodie- Head of Engineering Design and Mathematics, UWE	Re-engineering Inclusion
	Rav Bumbra - Cajigo	STEM in schools

1. Women and the Economy task group

Lead: Diane Bunyan BWV

Task group membership: UoB, UWE, TUC, BWV, Fairplay SW, Women’s Budget Group

The task group has continued to advocate for the contribution of women to the local economy to be recognised and facilitated specifically in the light of the disproportionate impact of the covid-19 pandemic on women.

This year the group has focussed on raising the importance of care, both childcare and other care for women to be able to participate at all levels in the workforce and their role as the main providers of paid and unpaid care.

The task group has produced evidence-based reports to highlight:

1. the role of care in providing a functioning, flexible and fairer economy;
2. the need to get care recognised as infrastructure in the funding of economic recovery
3. the place of care in the building of a green sustainable economy;
4. the contribution of care provision and good employment practices in addressing inequality and social mobility.

The group represents the Women’s Commission on the Economy and Skills Board. It has commented on the draft Corporate Strategy, had meetings with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), and with care providers. The group has also raised issues with major developers in the city; has produced briefings for Bristol MPs on the importance of childcare and other care, one member even appeared on Woman’s Hour.

The task group will continue this work including supporting the development of a Bristol model of municipal childcare and working with women from the City Listening Project to raise their concerns about the barriers they face in accessing employment.

2. Women and girls' education

Education Task Group

Chairs: Marian Curran, Principal- St Brendan's and Laura Beynon, Deputy Head- Redmaids' High

Organisations represented (2020-21): St Brendan's Sixth Form College, Redmaids' High School, Oasis Brightstowe, St Mary Redcliffe and Temple, Orchard School, Cabot Learning Federation, Backwell School, Badminton School, We the Curious, Cajigo

Areas of focus

1. Developing female leaders: Members of the Education Task group have acted as mentors for 17 aspiring female leaders. Each mentee has had two-three mentoring sessions. The programme for 2020-21 culminated in a Women Leadership online conference with sessions on Imposter Syndrome and stepping up to Senior Leadership as well as an opportunity to ask a panel questions about their journey into leadership. Delivering statutory guidance on VAWG in the classroom: Following a sharing of existing teaching resources to support this topic, the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lead at Redmaids' High School has been working to develop new resources which will be shared across the Education Partnership.
2. First of joint meetings with Council Officers and VAWG specialists on sexual harassment in Bristol Schools
3. The Task Group was unable to hold the planned girls' conference this year but has plans for later in the year.

Planned Areas of focus (2021-22)

1. Developing female leaders: The group hopes to have a second cohort of aspiring female leaders to match with mentors. They will also explore the possibility of leadership shadowing in a different setting for cohort 1. An in-person networking event and a second conference are also planned.

Responding to everyone's invited: The Education Task Force will be putting this firmly on the agenda over the coming year.

2. Student conference: The exact focus is to be confirmed but it is likely to be set up to maximise student participation with a focus on the issues that they are facing and what they would like to see included in PSHE and pastoral programmes (linked to item 2 above). It is the group's aim to hold an online event in the Autumn term with the intention of using the student voice from this to shape a full student conference in the summer term.
3. Expanding the Task Force reach: the group hopes to widen its membership to include representatives from other Bristol schools, colleges and universities.

3. Women’s Health

Lead: Monira Chowdhury- North Bristol Trust, Sarah O’Leary- Missing Link, Next Link and Safe Link

Membership: North Bristol Trust, BWV, Missing Link, Community Access Support Service, Self-Injury Support, Womankind, GPs, UoB, UWE and UHB Centre for health and clinical research

The Women’s Health Task Group has largely focussed on the disproportional and long-term impact of Covid 19 on different groups of women i.e. women who are victims of violence and abuse, women who are carers, younger women working in health & care, disabled people, older women and particularly Black & Asian women.

The task group members have been working on projects and issues concerning those impacted by the pandemic;

1. Ensuring women’s needs are represented and understood in the Community Mental Health Target Operating Model and Implementation Process
2. Responding to the increase in women experiencing domestic and sexual violence and abuse who have a mental health need
3. Burnout and women who work in the health and social care sector
4. The group asked for and received from the CCG a strategy for improving care and maternal health outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women

The Task Group responded to the parliamentary call for evidence on Menopause policies and guidance in the workplace. **See Appendix 1**

This year the group responded to the Department of Health and Social Care’s Women’s Health Strategy: Call for Evidence by collating members’ experience and evidence on the response to women’s health, including case studies and patients’ feedback. It highlighted the impact of the pandemic, and included evidence on the following:

1. Women report feeling unheard by medical professionals
2. Negative stereotyping of women with mental health issues
3. Differences in healthcare professionals’ treatment of women
4. Menopause support
5. Intersection between domestic/sexual violence and women’s mental health
6. Intersection between menopause and women’s mental health
7. Autism in women
8. Alcohol misuse in women
9. GP training on women’s health
10. Emergency contraception
11. Medical experiences of women with less visible/hidden long-term illnesses (that disproportionately affect women)
12. Incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse
13. Intersection between self-harm and Domestic Violence and Abuse
14. Young women, puberty and periods
15. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women and mental health
16. Younger women and self-harm

17. Sole carers and Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic carers
18. Disabled women in work
19. Chronic health conditions which disproportionately affect women
20. Alzheimer’s Disease/dementia
21. Impact of lockdown on women, self-harm and DVA
22. Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities, long covid and bereavement

See Appendix 2

The priorities over the next year will be the intersection between women’s mental health and VAWG, menopause, women with chronic pain & hidden long-term illnesses, maternity health especially for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women, a campaign on health professionals dismissing women’s health issues.

There will also be an update to the Women’s Health Strategy.

4. Women’s Safety

Lead: Anna Smith- CEO, One25

Member organisations: St Mungo’s, Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRISi), UWE, UoB, BCC, Bristol Drugs Project, Avon and Somerset Police, Probation, Services, Working Links, Somerset & Avon Rape & Sexual Abuse Support (SARSAS)

Women’s Safety is a key focus of Bristol Women’s Commission as more and more women and girls in the City report not feeling safe - on our streets, in our schools, workplaces, clubs and bars and some in their homes.

The Safety Task Group has focused on three key issues this year:

1. **Domestic violence:** We have requested an analysis of the high number of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in Bristol, the second highest in the country at the time of the request. The chair of The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership, Ivan Powell, agreed to produce this and it has been recently received by the task group chair and will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. **Women’s safety on public transport:** We know there to be a significant issue and the group is trying to get more data/quantitative evidence through a question in the City Council questionnaire to the Bristol public, to ascertain if women have experienced this and, if so, what form it took. Bristol Women’s Voice conducted its own survey which revealed more than fifty women from a brief survey had experienced sexual harassment on public transport. The chair of the task group has been attending meetings hosted by SARI in relation to public transport and hate crime.
3. **Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs):** The Commission has objected to the continued licensing of SEVs and is calling for there not to be any SEV’s in Bristol, proposal currently out for consultation. The outcome will be determined by the Licensing team. The group has met with Bristol Sex Workers Collective to hear their views on working in SEVs. The group has gathered substantial evidence to show the negative impact of SEVs on women as a group in the City. The task group has engaged with stakeholders and made representations at licensing meetings outlining the way SEVs fuel a sexist culture that can lead to gender-based violence.

Women’s Safety on public transport will be one of the focuses of the coming year, as will using the data on DHRs to try and push some strategic change across the city around the response to VAWG. It is hoped that the funding for responding to women with complex needs experiencing DVA -which is an integral part of the Changing Futures bid- will support a better response. The task group welcomes the funding for Respite Rooms coming into Bristol. The group will also continue its push to have no sex establishments in the City to help tackle the harmful culture that paves the way for male violence against women and girls.

5. Women in Business Task Group

Lead: Zara Nanu, member of Economy and Skills Board.

Member organisations: Rolls Royce, OVO Energy, Destination Bristol, UWE, Shift Consultancy, Strategy Hive Ltd, Moon Executive Search, BWV, Structur3dPeople, Women’s Work Lab, Community of Purpose, Business West, KPMG, Gapsquare

The task group has been supporting women in business during the Covid recovery with a focus on returning to work, support packages from the government and the impact on women in Bristol businesses. The impact is lacking as packages did not take women into account. The group has the objective of working with the DWP to support women in work in Bristol. The group has set up a kickstart guide designed to create opportunities for women. They also support women who want to set up their own business. Women in business shared their stories on International Women’s Day. Be on Board has 350 professionals on their database and have placed 20 trustees.

Women in Business Charter: Lead – Jane Ginnever, Sandra Gordon

Women in Business Charter signatories: OVO, Burges Salmon, UWE, Moon Executive Search, Manor Community, National Composites Centre, Business West, Chickp Ltd, Hargreaves Lansdown, ADLIB, Flipper, Stephenson Law, Redington, Sawdays, Action M.E, Bishop Fleming, Pelican, BCC, Bristol Airport, TLT LLP Solicitors, One Big Circle, Clarke Wilmott, GCP, Ian Williams, water2business, Rolls Royce, Simitive, Centre for modelling and simulation, SR2, Tech Talent Academy, Stride Treglown, Triodos Bank.

Signatories to the Women in Business Charter have continued to make progress on all aspects of gender equality for the last 12 months:

1. Some signatories have stated that flexible working is core to their “return to the office” planning, and all flexible working requests are being accepted by default. Declined requests must first be authorised by the Managing Director.
2. By reviewing and offering all vacancies on a part-time and full-time basis, signatories have increased the range of roles available
3. Business West and ADLIB introduced two female executives to their Board. Burges Salmon reported that 50% of those promoted into senior positions were female. Small business Flipper Ltd saw two women being appointed to senior roles in recent internal promotions, and GCP Chartered Architects now have 42% women in senior management team. Representation of women on the TLT Governance and Oversight

Board increased from 40% to 60% and OVO Energy appointed their first female board member in April 2020.

4. The National Composites Centre reported that one of their female directors is now responsible for reporting on gender Equality and Inclusion.
5. One Big Circle Ltd, OVO Energy and Simitive have introduced mentoring schemes for women.
6. TLT reported an increase in representation in the number of female partners at TLT which has increased from 25.5% (as per our last report) to 28% as at May 2021.
7. Pelican implemented gender de-coding for all job adverts which resulted in 62% of applicants being female and completed gender composition analysis of every department and level of management identifying areas for improvement.
8. Hargreaves Lansdown this year launched a pilot Sponsorship program for mid-level female and ethnic minority talent to support their progression through to more senior levels. H&L exceeded their Women in Finance Charter target of 25-30% female RL2 and above by reporting 30.4% up from 21.7% in 2016.
9. Burges Salmon developed a gender taskforce in 2020 with the specific remit of increasing representation of women into senior leadership. They have partnered with the Women’s Work Lab, a community collaboration that supports unemployed mums, aged 25+ and receiving benefits, to become work ready.
10. In spite of the impact of Covid-19 on the working world Charter signatories have made significant progress in the last year. Signatories have continued to report on their Gender Pay Gap despite that not being mandated by the Government. They have responded to the Black Lives Matter movement and engaged with employees and members of the wider community who have experienced discrimination and exclusion.

6. Bristol Women’s Commission Communication

The budget for the commission is provided by the Mayor’s office which has enabled us to employ a Communications freelancer to bring our work together.

Investment in comms over the past year has seen Bristol Women’s Commission launch a new micro website hosted by Bristol Women’s Voice and create a communications toolkit and establish documents and processes to help share the work it’s undertaking with the public and other stakeholders.

This investment has seen its audience grow from 150 to over 700 followers on Twitter with Instagram and LinkedIn channels launched, with almost 500 and 235 followers respectively. We also launched a YouTube channel to host videos. It has raised the profile of the Commission and put it on the radar of some high-profile leaders including the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England & Wales and the Avon & Somerset Chief Constable.

We’ve run some high-profile campaigns around 16 Days of Action in November/December 2020 with videos from city leaders (including Bristol City Council’s incumbent Mayor, MPs, PCC and charity leaders) highlighting violence against women and girls in the city, outlining how they were tackling it and what viewers could do. Around International Women’s Day in March 2021, where we focused on 8 achievements of Bristol Women’s Commission for

our 8th anniversary and asked City leaders what they were doing for women and girls, with videos from the Mayor, MPs, PCC, NHS lead, UWE deputy Vice Chancellor and more.

We engaged regional and Bristol Mayoral and Police Crime Commissioner candidates around the May 2021 election, pressing them on what they’d do for gender equality. All regional mayor and PCC candidates and the front-runners in the Bristol Mayor election submitted videos outlining this, which we know helped inform voters in the city. It also launched a relationship with the new regional Mayor and PCC.

We’ve secured press coverage with local newspapers and websites and have featured on broadcast reports, we’ve hosted guest blogs from commissioners and partners and have delivered key comms - from position statements to responses and opinion pieces around the topic of tackling violence against women and girls by not having SEV’s in the City.

Penny Gane, Chair Bristol Women’s Commission 19th October 2021

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Evidence on Menopause and the workplace

Appendix 2: Department of Health and Social Care’s Women’s Health Strategy: Call for Evidence response

Bristol Women's Commission

Evidence on Menopause and the workplace

Introduction

Established in 2013, Bristol Women's Commission (BWC) brings together representatives from key agencies across the city, working in partnership to identify and address issues that impact women and girls. An independent body, BWC works closely with Bristol Women's Voice, Bristol City Council and Bristol One City.

BWC has five dedicated task groups: Women's Health, Women's Safety, Women in Business, Women and the Economy, and Women and Girls' Education. Each task group is chaired by a commissioner and has a mix of academics, experts and women working in the field.

Background

Bristol Women's Commission has been working for several years to influence employment policy around the menopause in Bristol.

Responding to a lack of information about the menopause, we set up a city-wide collaborative working group with other organisations to develop guidance and advocate for menopause policies.

In partnership with University of Bristol and Bristol City Council, we ran 'Our Menopauses... the Great Menopause Event' in November 2017 which invited clinicians, researchers, and women to share their experiences of the menopause and to challenge the stigma and silence surrounding it. Bristol Women's Commission have been working to share best practice and support employers in Bristol to develop robust menopause policies ever since.

Bristol Women's Commission have been supported in this work by our sister organisation, Bristol Women's Voice, who have run menopause workshops and worked with communities to understand women's lived experiences of the menopause and the type of support they require at work.

We felt compelled to respond to this government call for evidence and share our expertise and advice on developing menopause policies for the workplace.

Evidence

Bristol Women's Commission is responding to the question: **How can businesses factor in the needs of employees going through the menopause?**

Based on our research with working women experiencing the menopause, Bristol Women's Commission strongly argues for **menopause policies** to be developed and adopted by all employers.

In combination with menopause policies, we advocate for **mandatory training for managers** and awareness raising sessions for all employees about menopause and the workplace.

When developing guidance for how employers can implement robust menopause policies, the following areas should be considered and included:

Introduction

- Menopause is a natural part of every woman's life; some experience worse symptoms than others.
- It shouldn't be a taboo, stigmatised or 'hidden' topic.
- It isn't just an issue for women, men need to be aware too.
- Employer should proactively adjust where necessary to support women and ensure that working doesn't make menopausal symptoms worse.
- Menopause policy should apply equally to transgender employees as needed.

Purposes / Aims

- Foster an environment in which colleagues can openly and comfortably start conversations and engage in discussions about menopause.
- Educate and inform managers about the potential symptoms of menopause, and how they can support women at work.
- Ensure that women suffering with menopause symptoms feel confident to discuss it, and ask for support and any reasonable adjustments so they can continue to be successful in their roles.
- Reduce any absenteeism, presenteeism, performance issues or turnover that may arise due to menopausal symptoms.
- Eliminate the risk (and associated fear) that women will be discriminated against and/or lose their jobs due to menopause-related issues.

Definitions

- Information on the definitions of menopause, perimenopause, postmenopause and menopause transition.
- This is important to clarify terms and raise awareness of the menopause and its related stages.

Legal framework

- The Health and Safety Work Act 1974 (section 2) requires employers to ensure 'the health and safety and welfare at work' of all employees. Under the Act, employers are required to do risk assessments under the Management Regulations which should include specific risks to menopausal women if they are employed.
- The Equality Act (2010) prohibits discrimination against people on the grounds of certain 'protected characteristics' including sex, age and disability. It is also important to note that conditions linked to the menopause may meet the definition of an 'impairment' under the Equality Act and require reasonable adjustments.

Symptoms

- Many women will experience menopausal symptoms. The severity of these symptoms can vary; some may have a significant impact on women's everyday activities including work life. 75% of women do experience some symptoms. Symptoms may change and/or develop over time. Common symptoms include:
 - hot flushes
 - palpitations
 - headaches
 - night sweats (and/or increased sweating during the daytime)
 - joint problems/osteoporosis
 - insomnia and sleep disturbances
 - fatigue
 - skin irritation
 - changes to periods such as irregular, heavy bleeding and/or painful periods
 - urinary problems
 - vaginal dryness
 - low mood or anxiety
 - panic attacks
 - depression
 - problems with memory and concentration
- The impact of physical and psychological symptoms in the workplace will vary from individual to individual. As part of the menopause policy development, employers and managers should identify how symptoms can affect women at work and consider the reasonable adjustment(s) that may be required as support. These should then be discussed with the employee to agree the support needed.
- For example, irregular and/or heavy periods could cause distress or embarrassment and may mean that employee needs to use washroom facilities more frequently. Suggested reasonable adjustments might include: easy access to well-maintained, private washroom facilities or single sex facilities; more frequent work breaks to go to washroom; easily available sanitary products; cover for staff to leave posts if needed; provision of an extra uniform.
- For example, insomnia or sleep disturbances could produce fatigue which may be increased by rigid start/finish times and a lack of flexible working options. Suggested reasonable adjustments might include: temporary adjustment of hours; flexible/home working; allowance for additional sickness absence; reassurance that employees won't be penalised if they require adjustments to workload or performance management targets.
- Requests for flexible and/or remote working should be supported.

Support and signposting

- Employers should offer support and signposting to employees about navigating the menopause. This could take the form of:
- Support for managers and HR in identifying appropriate reasonable adjustments as needed, in conversation with the employee.
- Support and up-to-date training for Occupational Health to offer a holistic assessment in line with latest research and guidelines (including possible treatment options).
- Guidance for employees on how to talk to GP about menopause.
- Access to counselling for all staff as required.
- Signposting to other forms of help and advice (including support groups, online information, NHS guidelines).

Contact details and further information

This evidence has been collated and edited by **Penny Gane** (Bristol Women's Commission Chair) and **Alice Clermont** (Bristol Women's Commission Health Task Group).

For further details, please contact Alice Clermont on aliceclermont8@gmail.com.

BRISTOL WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Introduction

Key priorities

- 1. Women's reproductive life course

 - 1.1. Young women
 - 1.2. Maternity
 - 1.3. Menopause.....

- 2. Incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse
- 3. Awareness and understanding of women's health issues

 - 3.1. Women not feeling listened to
 - 3.2. Training and research about women's health.....

Additional issues

- 4. Mental health.....

Introduction

Key Priorities

1. Women's reproductive Life Course

Women have as the backdrop to their lives and all other health conditions their normal reproductive life course, including menstruation, birth control, childbirth, breastfeeding, and menopause.

1.1. Young women

Puberty and periods

We hear that many young women of secondary school age feel that they are not supported properly with regards their menstrual health, e.g. they are often not allowed to go to the toilet during lessons. Young women who experience painful and/or heavy periods get little support and have little access to info etc.

Authentic education about how girls' bodies transition through puberty, and the impact of hormones on emotional wellbeing, is not available in appropriate places such as schools. This can lead to disordered eating due to body image issues.

Self-harm

Emergency Department (ED) presentations in Bristol are consistently highest among

females aged 20-24 and second highest among females aged 15-19. The Bristol Self-Harm Surveillance Register reports that 1,831 episodes of self-harm have been recorded amongst students (aged 15 and above) between 2010 and 2018; these episodes account for 12.7 % of attendances. The majority of students were aged <25 years (95%) and were female (75.7%).¹

1.2. Maternity

Around 80% of women will give birth (Davies, 2015) and many women will also experience pregnancy through termination, miscarriage, and stillbirth.

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women

Evidence has long shown that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and Minority ethnic women are more likely to experience lower quality of care, poorer health outcomes and higher maternal and perinatal morbidity rates, when compared with white women. In addition to this, Public Health England reports indicate that mortality and serious complications from Covid-19 disproportionately affect those from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background. Black women are eight times more likely and Asian women four times more likely than a white woman to be admitted to hospital with Covid-19.²

Following engagement and advocacy from Bristol Women's Commission, the CCG has now developed a maternity strategy for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women.

Bristol Women's Commission supports the 'Five Steps' campaign for health professionals (developed by Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Five X More³) to improve care for Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority women to change attitudes and eliminate inequalities:

1. Listen
2. Remove any barriers to communication
3. Check you are providing clear information
4. Provide access to detailed documentation
5. Be a champion

¹ Bristol Self-Harm Surveillance Register Annual Report 2018 - https://cpb-eu-w2.wpmucdn.com/blogs.bristol.ac.uk/dist/3/343/files/2019/09/BSHSR_AnnualReport-27062019-PRINT.pdf

² Perinatal support for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and Minority Ethnic women during Covid pandemic, joint guidance from North Bristol Trust and University Hospitals Bristol.

³ <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/news/campaigns-and-opinions/race-equality-taskforce/five-steps-for-healthcare-professionals/>

1.3 Menopause

Menopause support

The Bristol City Listening Project research⁴ revealed that many women are concerned about the availability and quality of menopause support services. We heard negative experiences of healthcare professionals, especially GPs. Women told us how they had visited GPs seeking support for menopausal/peri-menopausal symptoms and had been prescribed hormone replacement therapy (HRT) without any accompanying advice on the impact of HRT or alternative treatment options.

There is patchy coverage of menopause specialist centres across England, e.g. 12 in London, less than 10 for the whole of North England. Only 10% women in menopause take HRT. This low take-up is influenced by anxieties around breast cancer, legacy of media shock stories, and misquoting scientific research in this area.

Intersection between menopause and women's mental health

40% women report not being prepared for mental health impact of menopause. Reports from a Bristol-based domestic/sexual abuse support organisation reveal that many of their clients accessing mental health support are either peri-menopausal or menopausal. During their admission, this topic often comes up and usually the women have spoken to their GPs etc but not been given any practical advice. The organisation now offers sessions on menopausal symptoms/depression etc as this seems to be an area that is often missed out on with GPs. One client in particular was given anti-depressants for depression even though she was fully aware that the menopause, not depression, was causing her symptoms.

Menopause and the workplace

Bristol Women's Commission has been working for several years to influence employment policy around the menopause in Bristol. We have been supported in this work by our sister organisation, Bristol Women's Voice, who have run menopause workshops and worked with communities to understand women's lived experiences of the menopause and the type of support they require at work.

Based on our research with working women experiencing the menopause, Bristol Women's Commission strongly argues for robust **menopause policies** to be developed and adopted by all employers. In combination with menopause policies,

⁴ Bristol City Listening Project – full report available here (*names have been changed for confidentiality): <https://www.bristolwomensvoice.org.uk/project/city-listening-project/#:~:text=In%20summer%202019%20Bristol%20Women's,contribute%20to%20better%20policy%2Dmaking.>

we advocate for **mandatory training for managers** and awareness raising sessions for all employees about menopause and the workplace.

2. Incontinence and Pelvic organ Prolapse

Pregnancy and childbirth can damage the pelvic floor leading to disturbances of the bladder, bowel, sexual function. From these, urinary and faecal incontinence and utero-vaginal prolapse may arise. Estimating the exact UK prevalence of incontinence is difficult as it is reliant on disclosure which is notoriously poor due to the embarrassing nature of symptoms. However, it is known that over 14 million adults experience urinary incontinence and 6.5 million experience bowel control difficulties in the UK.⁵

Earlier identification and management can save costly years with incontinence from a personal perspective: e.g. quality of life and cost of incontinence pads (£226 million per annum spent by individuals on continence products), and societal perspective. Indeed, there is increased cost to health and social care from falls, skin breakdown, infections, hospital admissions, delayed discharges, placement in nursing or residential care all associated with incontinence, aside from the £700 million annual NHS spend associated directly with incontinence. In women over the age of 80, many affected women are unable to look after themselves at home, particularly if cognition is affected, and are looked after in residential institutions.⁶

More recently the issue of **Pelvic Mesh Implants** used in the surgical repair of pelvic organ prolapse and management of incontinence has emerged. This procedure has been linked to a long list of life changing complications including chronic pain, reduced mobility, loss of sex life, recurrent urinary symptoms, and impact on mental health.⁷ A review launched in the House of Commons in 2018 to investigate this and two other medical treatments associated with women's health reported that long-term monitoring of outcomes was lacking, affected women had been dismissed and ignored, and the healthcare system is disjointed, siloed, unresponsive and defensive in its ability to identify when things are not going well. As summarised by a patient interviewed in the review process: "The person I once was, she has gone and no-one seems able to help me. No-one is listening."

⁵ NHS England, *Excellence in Continence Care: Practical guidance for commissioners, and leaders in health and social care* (2018)

⁶ Elneil in Davies (2015) p. 124

⁷ Cumberlege, J., *First do no harm: the report of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review* (2020)

3. Awareness and Understanding of Women's Health Issues

3.1. WOMEN

Not Feeling Listened to

Women report feeling unheard by medical professionals

We hear that many women feel they are not listened to because the health practitioner considers themselves better educated. These can be fears and perceptions of the individual or based on actual experiences. One woman stated that due to the medical professional coming from a good upbringing and being intelligent she felt unheard and not believed when discussing her mental health and traumatic experiences. It was to the extent that the individual used her own funds to seek professional medical support and assessment.

Medical experiences of women with less visible/hidden long-term illnesses

In the Bristol City Listening Project, most of the women with chronic illness spoke about a lack of support through their doctors and within NHS services more broadly. We heard how women were being sent away from their GP practices without any support or follow-up treatment. All but one woman who had a hidden/less visible illness had struggled to get their condition recognised and taken seriously through health services, resulting in a sense of systemic failure regarding healthcare. We heard from women with chronic health conditions who had found themselves being passed between services without receiving any treatment.

Diagnosis challenges

We know from both national reports and local research that women often endure lengthy and complicated processes before receiving a diagnosis; for example, women have to wait an average of eight years before being diagnosed with endometriosis. From listening to women in Bristol, we hear that many women don't feel listened to or believed by medical professionals and this often leads to them not receiving the diagnosis, care and treatment they require within suitable timeframes. Building on this qualitative research, it is important to consider quantitative data around primary and secondary care referral rates to understand how and where women are falling through gaps in the diagnosis pathway.

Negative stereotyping of women with mental health issues

We hear from women who say they feel their concerns have been dismissed or they have been judged because of their presentation around mental ill health. Myths around women being seen as 'attention seekers' or 'hysterical, over emotional' still persist from some health care providers and have a negative impact on the health of women we work with and these experiences can stop women from seeking help.

Differences in healthcare professionals' treatment of women vs support staff

A Bristol-based organisation supporting women experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse tell us that they frequently see their clients being treated

differently by healthcare professionals depending on whether or not a support worker is present in appointments. For example, a woman with substance misuse had an emergency script for methadone. When the pharmacist wasn't aware that the client was with a support worker, they used language that seemed to patronise and shame the woman who was seeking support causing distress. When the support worker stepped in and advocated for the young woman, their tone changed and the client was given the help she needed.

Women not being listened to re genital medical issues

We heard from a partner organisation about a woman with depression and anxiety who has been unwell with a cyst flare up, this cyst is on her genital area but not related to an STD or any other female-specific body parts. It's a regular cyst which could occur in any part, however she related that as soon as she told male doctors where the location of the cyst was they stopped listening and were not particularly helpful. When she called 111 the operator tried to refer her to a sexual health clinic despite her saying it wasn't related to sexual health as this had already been explored.

3.2 Training and Research about Women's Health

GP training on women's health

It is crucial that GPs receive ongoing, compulsory training around women's health and female health conditions. This will create an empathetic, supportive and informed environment in which women feel comfortable coming forward to discuss issues, focusing on prevention rather than being reactive. This will also help counter the criticism that many women feel that they are not fully listened to by GPs and primary healthcare staff.

Chronic health conditions which disproportionately affect women

It is reported that almost all autoimmune diseases affect women more than men, with lupus as a key example. Long-term health conditions characterised by persistent pain and chronic fatigue, for example fibromyalgia and M.E., also disproportionately affect women. Under-researched for many years, it is vital that attention and funding is directed towards better understanding these chronic health conditions in order to improve the long-term health and well-being of women in future. With chronic pain and fatigue appearing as significant symptoms in Long Covid (which itself is more commonly experienced by women), it is especially timely to research these aspects of health with a gendered view.

Rosie*, a woman who has been unwell with chronic fatigue, and related health issues, for many years talked about the lack of awareness around hidden and chronic illnesses: "No-one understands how systematic the illness is – it affects every bit of your being". Women reported that chronic illness has a negative effect on many aspects of their lives, including mental health, relationships, isolation, transport, work, and finances. They also shared that not many people understand

the fluctuating and unpredictable nature of chronic illness, which means that accessing employment (and/or financial support) is a particular challenge.

Autism in women

We understand that the usual diagnostic and assessment processes for autism are likely to have unconscious bias towards diagnosing boys and young men. Girls and young women are more likely to receive a diagnosis of social anxiety.⁸

We recently heard about a woman with PTSD who has been trying to get an assessment for autism. She feels that it is harder for women as the information, signs, and traits are based on men's experiences and presentation of autism. She recognises many of the symptoms from her own research but has been unable to be diagnosed and feels dismissed. She also feels that potentially having undiagnosed learning disability has made her more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse in the past.

Alzheimer's Disease/dementia is the biggest killer of women aged 70+. There is very little research into the effect of reduced oestrogen on brain health which could help towards prevention of, and/or better drug treatments for, dementia.

Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority women

Reports from partner organisations reveal that many Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority women don't access the health support they need due to language barriers, fear of accessing health care due to previous experiences of racism and a lack of trust in health care research and understanding of black and minority ethnic women. We hear women say they feel if they go to a health professional they could be labelled with a mental health diagnosis that would then be used against them, or that by seeking help with their mental health they risk being ostracized from their community.

Other women say that they could be given medication and treatment that will cause them further harm; some women feel strongly that it is designed to cause harm to black and minority ethnic women.

Advice around domestic violence and abuse (DVA)

We hear that some women who have sought support around domestic abuse from a health professional have felt unsupported and given the wrong advice. Reports include women being offered mediation as a path to resolution; men being advised to have anger management support. This has caused further distress for the women as they question whether they have indeed been a part of the problem. It is a misunderstanding of the causes of DVA and increases risk as well as the barriers to accessing support, as women are unsure whether their partner can help what they are doing due to anger, or whether it can be mutually resolved which can give more power to the perpetrator.

⁸ Professor Francesca Happé's research on girls and autism

An example of good practice in this area is the **IRIS programme** (<https://irisi.org/>)⁹ which delivers training to clinical and non-clinical staff on domestic violence and abuse where women and children are victims. When trauma-informed training is delivered, there are increased referrals and an increase in health professionals seeking advice for patients. Similar training is also delivered to A&E staff which has a similar impact. Involving women with lived experience in training and co-production of the services results in greater impact and should be central to any service development.

However not all practices are signed up to IRIS training and not all health professionals attend. There is a further need for this training in other hospital departments and sexual health clinics. Attention must also be paid to which groups are able to access DVA support and how. For example, a Bristol-based domestic/sexual abuse support organisation reports a very high level of women from under-represented groups seeking support, apart from through the IRIS programme which relies on staff at GP practices making referrals. This highlights that women from these groups seem less likely to go to a GP.

Additional Issues

3. Mental Health

Mental health services

The Bristol City Listening Project research showed that many women experienced long waiting lists for free or reduced rate counselling. We heard how women had waited up to 12 months to access counselling through the NHS. Women reflected that NHS mental health services are reactive, rather than proactive in supporting people before they reach crisis point. This feeling was especially prevalent in areas with higher levels of deprivation. A number of women told us that they had been unable to access services when they became aware that they needed support; for some of these women the impact of this has been devastating, resulting in suicide attempts. This feeling of inadequate support was echoed in women's experiences of receiving counselling and mental health support through the NHS, with many highlighting the problems produced by the cap on available sessions. Nikki* spoke about her experience of being restricted to six counselling sessions before she had to go back on the waiting list: "Services are not there to support you to make long-term change which takes account of people's histories in order to bring about long-term change".

Black, Asian and Ethnic minority communities and mental health

Evidence shows that more Black women report low mental health than white women, but less frequently seek help/support/advice (cited in Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos CCG Mental health framework spec).

⁹ Developed at University of Bristol - <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/research/impact/iris-training-helps-victims-of-domestic-abuse/>

The Bristol City Listening Project supports this finding, and recommends a focus on:

- Ensuring that mental health services are adequately reaching Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Bristol and looking to create funding specifically for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic mental health service providers;
- Using established community representatives to reach out to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in order to better understand the most helpful format for any future mental health support programmes.

Young women and mental health issues

It is increasingly evident that more young women are experiencing mental health and anxiety, especially since lockdown, and there isn't enough funding or resources to ensure these individuals are assessed and treated in a good time frame. Waiting lists are too long and there seems to be less priority, which in turn affects these young individuals long-term. There are exceptionally long waiting lists for specialist sexual violence counselling. Thresholds for support around mental health within statutory services seem higher.

Trauma-based counselling

In the Bristol City Listening Project, we heard many stories about the need for longer-term approaches to mental health support. For example, Asya* told us how she had received NHS trauma-based counselling after she was treated for a suicide attempt. Key to the success of this treatment in Asya's eyes was the long-term nature of the support, which enabled her to address deep-rooted childhood trauma.

Challenging stigma

Bristol Women's Voice have been proactively breaking down the barriers around talking about mental health by running workshops on 'Recognising the Signs and Busting the Stigma Around Women's Mental Health'.¹⁰

Intersection between domestic/sexual violence and women's mental health

We hear that many women accessing domestic support services also receive treatment and support with mental ill health, including being in and out of hospital, and they have often never been asked about experiences of domestic or sexual abuse. We have had some examples of women who have disclosed they are in an abusive relationship and yet no further questions were asked about how to support them with their safety, get them help, or the link between being abused and presenting with mental ill health.

We also find that some perpetrators are also carers for women with mental ill health, and use this as another tool to control and isolate her. They will attend all health appointments and speak on behalf of the victim.

A Bristol-based domestic/sexual abuse organisation reports that many clients who access support for mental ill health have a diagnosis of EUPD [emotionally unstable

¹⁰ <https://www.bristolwomensvoice.org.uk/project/womens-health/>

personality disorder] on their referral form, although on further investigation they often do not have this as a formal diagnosis and it appears to be a diagnosis that is given to women informally. Some of the women we support don't seem to fully understand what this informal diagnosis means, and how to navigate and get support with it. Most of the women who have this written on their referral have also experienced significant trauma and have complex PTSD.

5. Domestic Violence and abuse

It is proven that domestic violence and abuse (DVA) has a significant impact on women's health; if correctly and quickly recognised, this can help with early intervention for women experiencing DVA and also prevent further health issues.

Older women and DVA

Recognising that elderly women are just as likely to be experiencing DVA and rape and sexual assault, as well as the mental ill health caused by this, or care and support needs that make them more vulnerable to being abused, needs to be a priority group as much as any other age group.

A Bristol-based domestic/sexual abuse support organisation reports increasing numbers of older women accessing domestic abuse services through a GP practice, compared to very few over 3 years ago. However, many of these women describe missed opportunities for disclosure in the past, due to feeling like they were seen as an older woman and dismissed by professionals as being 'difficult, frail, overly anxious or overly demanding of their family/partner'. Some women said that, despite disclosing extreme control – such as not having access to their finances or not being allowed out at certain times – this has been viewed as a cultural and traditional family life rather than domestic abuse.

Domestic/sexual violence policy in the workplace

Many workplaces don't have a domestic or sexual violence policy. A local domestic/sexual abuse support organisation reports that many women they support have had significant time off work due to either made-up health care issues because the perpetrator isn't allowing them to go to work, or multiple health issues caused by DVA. Many of these women struggle with depression and PTSD and aren't given the support they needed, meaning they have had to leave employment by the time they access DVA services. If they are still in employment when being supported, professional advocacy highlighting their mental ill health and experiences of trauma is often very successful in them adjusting their employment so they can continue to work.

Flexible working arrangements, wellbeing action plans and safety plans around domestic abuse risks all help women experiencing DVA to stay in their employment.

When employers receive training around trauma-informed management, this is beneficial to all staff; specific needs of women should be central to this.

Impact of DVA on female carers' employment

We hear that many women accessing DVA support don't feel they can work due to being the sole carer. Those that do often have to have time off work due to their children's needs, being sick and off school, and having no family to rely on. Many women describe exhaustion at being sole parents, often for children who have additional needs due to experiencing trauma and/or SEND, and they don't have the physical or mental capacity to focus on their work or career. This 'carers' burnout' affects women's health and work.

6. Impacts of COVID-19 on Women's Health

Domestic abuse increase during lockdown

The increase in Domestic Abuse during lockdown by over 35% has had a big impact on women's health alongside increased isolation, fewer resources available to help support women at risk and women who are sole carers, and more women presenting with mental ill health.

Research by Counting Dead Women calculated at least 16 domestic abuse killings of women and children had taken place in the first three weeks of lockdown. This is double the average rate and the largest number of killings in a three-week period for a decade.

Certain legal duties were removed under temporary changes to the Care Act (2014) resulting in less access to care provision due to prioritisation of people with greatest care needs. This may impact people with caring responsibilities, e.g., survivors who are caring for perpetrators or perpetrators who are caring for survivors.

Self-harm during pandemic

Research has shown that young women have experienced the highest levels of distress during the coronavirus crisis, with specialist services raising particular concerns about the impact of the pandemic on Black and ethnic minority young women. Rates of self-harm are highest amongst young Black women (16-34) but they are less likely to receive support for this. Studies suggest South Asian young women (16-24) are significantly more likely to self-harm than white young women.¹¹

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and Long Covid

There is recent evidence showing that women who have had Covid-19 are more at risk of developing Long Covid. In Bristol, there are reports of low numbers of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority people attending the new Long Covid Clinic. Therefore,

¹¹ See <https://weareagenda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Struggling-Alone-3.pdf>

women of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority origins with Long Covid are likely to not be proportionally represented in patient numbers here.

Black Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities and bereavement

There is likely to be more experience of bereavement among many Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities due to Covid-19. There is a low take-up of grief-specific counselling support by people of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority origins (cf: Cruse Bereavement reporting). Attending funeral services has not been possible due to lockdowns. Thus, there is the possibility of unresolved grief leading to ongoing trauma, anxiety, depression. There is also evidence of low take-up of counselling/therapeutic support by women of many Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities, e.g. due to lack of cultural sensitivity, languages other than English, flexible times of appointments.

Contact Details

For further information or any questions, please contact **Penny Gane**, Chair of Bristol Women's Commission on pennygane.bwc@gmail.com.

Information collated and edited by Alice Clermont from BWC Health Task Group

Full Council

9th November 2021



Title: CoRE Annual Report 2020-2021

Report of: This report covers the main period in office of Professor Olivette Otele and is presented by her successor Museji Ahmed Takolia CBE who took up his appointment on 5th October 2021.

Ward: City-wide

Person Presenting Report: Museji Ahmed Takolia CBE, Independent Chair of CoRE. He is accompanied by Vice Chair, Margaret Simmons-Bird MBE, who was interim Chair from June 2021 to October 2021.

Recommendation

For Bristol City Council to:

- Note report and contribution to policy locally and nationally
- Continue supporting implementation of the strategic work and recommendations of the Commission on Race Equality

Summary

This Annual Report of CoRE summarises the activities of the Commission during the height of the pandemic when meetings were held virtually only. The first opportunity for many of the commissioners to meet together will only take place later this month.

More specifically it reports on:

- The activities undertaken between October 2020 and September 2021 by CoRE Independent Chair and BSWN, the Secretariat

The significant issues in the report are:

The report will provide progress against milestones within Education, Criminal Justice, Health and Wellbeing, the Economy and Community Engagement work streams, and its objective is to tackle systemic racial inequality, and outline CoRE's direction for 2021/22.



Policy

CoRE's recommendations related to existing Council policy through the:

- One City Plan
- Bristol City Council Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy
- House of Commons Women's & Equalities Committee: Coronavirus (Covid-19-) Inquiry
- Bristol City Council's Equality and Inclusion Policy and Strategy 2018-2023
- Bristol City Council's 'Advancing Equality and Inclusion' new actions 2020/21
- Transforming Race and Equality at Bristol City Council (BCC) - conclusions and recommendations June 2020

Consultation

1. Internal

This report was informed in consultation with Deputy Mayor Asher Craig, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Equalities BCC; Rebecca Baldwin-Cantello, Head of Equality and Inclusion BCC; and Cherene Whitfield, Equalities Officer BCC. The secretariat, Black South West Network (BSWN), has further contributed to planning and direction for 2021/22.

2. External

Participants and contributors to the work of CoRE include local strategic groups and bodies such as the new Education and Skill Race Equality Steering Group, Bristol One Curriculum Project, the Local Lammy Review Group, the Covid-19 Steering Group, the Race Equality Strategic Leaders Group, and various city-wide council-led boards such as the Health Board. Several recommendations for future activities of the Commission, as part of this report, were conducted during a series of 5 cross-sectoral community consultations.

Context

CoRE was set up by Bristol's Mayor, Marvin Rees, in response to the Bristol Manifesto for Race Equality, to look at race and ethnicity discrimination in Bristol. Bristol has a long-standing history of challenging inequality and this is reflected in the core principles developed in memory of Batook Pandya, as a precursor to Bristol's Manifesto for promoting race equality. The need for this Commission is long-standing but now, as we move into a new era of post Covid-19 and Brexit, CoRE can play a critical role in furthering race equality in Bristol.

The key functions of the Commission include:

- Ensure the effective engagement of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in the city
- Provide challenge to public, private, and voluntary institutions and organisations in relation to race equality.
- Engage with policy and strategy developers to inform processes to ensure that race equality is embedded into planning, delivery, and outcomes.
- Engage with organisations and institutions (regardless of their geographical coverage) whose operations impact directly on the Black, Asian Minority Ethnic communities of Bristol.
- Provide independent scrutiny, including through collaboration with The Bristol Strategic Race Equality Leaders Group, Learning City Partnership, One City Partnership Boards, HR Race

Strategic Leaders Group and Bristol Equality Charter Network.

- Progress a strategic action plan to be reviewed annually.

The Commission's focus included to:

- work with Bristol's communities and organisations to improve and prioritise race equality to achieve an inclusive, cohesive, thriving, and representative city
- guide Bristol's policy and strategy developers to make sure race equality is included in all their work
- hold public, private, and voluntary sectors to account in relation to race equality to uphold the Bristol Race Equality manifesto
- report on progress on race equality and the general impact of inequality and discrimination on the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities of Bristol

CoRE would like to thank the Commissioners for their dedicated work so far.

1. Update on activities since last report (undertaken between October 2020 and September 2021)

1.1 Education work stream - Lead: Fatima Mohamed Ali

Education was identified as a top priority at each of the CORE community consultations and therefore must be a key focus for the work of the commissioners.

Since the consultation the Education Task Group has produced a brief action plan which sets out the strategic focus of its work for the year. The Task group has used published, validated education data to inform its action plan. The data shows a significant gap in educational attainment over decades for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic learners across primary and secondary schools when compared to their white peers. In addition, the data also shows over-representation of these groups in exclusions and attendance levels, with the over-identification of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic learners with additional needs over-represented in SEND data.

Two commissioners are members of the newly reformed Education and Skill Race Equality Steering Group and co-chair the meeting. While this group builds on the work of the previous Race Equality in Education Group (REEG), the membership and terms of reference has changed to reflect a more strategic and advisory role. The membership includes a diverse range of senior education professional across the City with the authority and ability to transform and challenge race inequality within the sector. There is representation from CEOs, headteachers, other school leaders, teaching practitioners, the independent sector, and colleges. The group has met twice, and the initial focus has been to establish a shared understanding of the racial disparities in education outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic learners. Local authority officers have shared local data on education outcomes up to summer 2019 (exams and assessment changed in 2020 & 2021 therefore this data is unavailable) and current data on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic exclusions, attendance and SEND. It was vital to share this data to demonstrate why addressing race equality in education is an urgent action for schools, colleges and setting across the city. Significantly, the data confirms unequivocally the commonly held view of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic parents and carers that schools are systematically failing our children and young people. Policies and practices intentionally or unintentionally consistently discriminate against our children and impact disproportionately on their learning and future career prospects.

Two CORE commissioners will contribute to the Education & Skills Race Equality Steering group and ensure that it is aligned with that of the Education Task Group. The group is also beginning to work alongside the Criminal Justice Task Group, to deliver rights awareness training around school exclusions to affected Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. The Education Task Group have commissioned a mapping of the local and regional education eco-system. The next step is to map a portfolio of race equality work being done in education so that we do not duplicate scarce resources and efforts. In addition, the task group has made early links with the Prince's Trust project to discuss the involvement of CORE in shaping the project so that it is sustainable and meets community-based needs. Collaboration with and building on work by EmbRACE and Growing Future to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic parental advocacy, recruitment of more Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic school governors and provide training for governors on promoting race equality in schools will further enrich the work of the task groups.

1.2 Criminal Justice work stream – Lead: Maya Mate-Kole

As the Commission on Race Equality was relaunched and following community consultations the criminal justice system was not identified as a priority theme and so a task group was not established initially. However, amidst the global Black Lives Matter movement, a response to police brutality, racism and structural inequality, the introduction of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, local Police and Crime Commissioner elections and violence against women and girls the role of CoRE in relation to this system was recognised as imperative.

We know Black and minoritised communities continue to be overrepresented throughout various stages of the criminal justice system including stop and search, use of force and in custody. Within Avon and Somerset Constabulary in the last quarter there was a decrease in stop and search disproportionately with those from a Black Ethnicity 6.6 times more likely to be stopped and searched than their white counterpart (Avon & Somerset Police April-Jun 2021). This data combined with several high-profile police incidents, community concerns, fractured relationships, serious violence, and street conflict highlights just how far we still must go.

Subsequently the Criminal justice Task Group was re-established May 2021 with the aim to address race disparity within the city relating to the Criminal Justice System to be achieved by focussing on the following key priorities:

Avon & Somerset Lammy Review

- To support the work of local Lammy review including the development of a framework and working group to monitor the implementation of final report recommendations.

Training

- Scrutiny and review of Equality and Diversity, cultural intelligence and de-escalation training delivered across Avon & Somerset Constabulary including outcome measures and impact

Representation

- Increase Black, Asian & minoritised communities' representation within strategic groups/boards and governance structures relating to criminal justice within the city.

Community Engagement

- To increase community awareness of criminal justice system including pathways, rights &

responsibilities & tackling serious youth violence.

Commissioning

- Review commissioning, tendering and resource allocation processes in relation to service delivery and support services for those involved in serious youth violence and community.

Strategic Planning

- To influence the OPCC and ASP's priorities and objectives to identify and address where there is disproportionate impact on Black and marginalised communities.

1.2.1 Updates:

- Ongoing collaboration with ASC in relation to inclusive policing strategy plan and community engagement plan.
- Chaired Youth Task Group as part of local Lammy Review.
- Scrutiny of police incidents/arrests.
- Ongoing collaboration with ASC in their development of young people's Scrutiny of Powers Panel and accessible pathways to SOP panel to increase representation
- Mapped representation amongst criminal justice advisory groups and strategic boards to identify gaps in influence and opportunities to widen participation to link to auditing workstream.

1.2.2 Aims for the future:

- Develop auditing tool and framework to assess inclusivity of boards relating to the criminal justice system; identifying areas for improvement & establish best practice.
- Work with Independent Office for Police Conduct to explore opportunities for collaboration to improve trust with Black and minoritised communities.
- Collaborate with local solicitors and Safer Options to develop rights & responsibilities workshop series that can be delivered with local community groups, parenting groups and education settings.
- As far as possible, while remaining legally compliant, we aim to map commissioning landscape within criminal justice system and review process and framework used by partners for service needs assessment, service gap analysis, procurement, and resource allocation; identifying barriers for community/ Black led organisations to inform the revision of processes to promote inclusive procurement and commissioning.
- Review and interrogate use of equality impact assessments by OPCC and ASP in relation to priorities, policing practices, and strategic plans.
- Agree mechanism with police partners to review training and offer feedback including developing a mechanism for sharing evaluation and impact of training delivery.

1.3 Health and Wellbeing work stream - Lead: Euella Jackson

The Health and Wellbeing task-group was formed out of the Bristol Commission of Race Equality in Spring 2021. In March 2021, we invited Carol Slater, Head of Public Health at Bristol City Council to inform the task group of the current state of public health in the city and the racial disparities - particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Advisory members from a range of different community and mainstream health organisations in

Bristol were invited to join in April 2021 and at our first meeting we shared the task-group's three key objectives. We have spent the past few months developing a realistic strategy. In order to narrow down our focus, in September 2021, we took the decision to prioritise supporting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic refugee and asylum seekers and use our three objectives (see below) to measure and focus our impact.

Objective 1: To empower the community to access and take full advantage of the city's (mental) health and wellbeing services, provisions and resources.

- In the short-term, the task group wants to engage with the existing support organisations that work with these communities and refugee and asylum seekers to identify challenges, support and service offerings.
- The workstream's Chair, has been attending meetings alongside the other task group Chairs to ensure synergy and consistency across the CoRE. The health and wellbeing group hopes to work with Sister Jendayi to engage, talk with and speak with the community about taking full advantage of the city's services and understand the challenges they may face.
- The health and wellbeing task-group is working on developing a communication strategy to increase the group's visibility among the community and remain connected to the concerns of the community.

Objective 2: To influence and interrogate the commissioning of health (and mental health) and wellbeing services, provision and procurement in the city.

- Link up with the work being done with Black South West Network's Make It Work initiative that supports Bristol's Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic enterprises and VCSE organisations to work with Bristol City Council's care commissioning framework.
- As far as possible, while remaining legally compliant, we aim to acquire Bristol City Council's Care Commissioning Timetable for the next few years, so we can influence commissioning in advance of deadlines.

Objective 3: To promote the use of community-centred/led data in decision-making as an industry standard/ best practice.

- We plan to use the information acquired from community and organisational consultation to develop a best practice framework for commissioning bodies.
- Alongside this, we will conduct a mapping exercise to identify where the commissioning opportunities are in the region - identify where the gaps are.
- We hope to compile a letter to the commissioning and public bodies with a call to action, requesting that they give commitment to reducing health inequalities for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic refugee and asylum seekers, with the priorities we identify in the letter.

1.4 Community Engagement work stream - Lead: Jendayi Serwah

The Community Engagement Committee is the newest of the CORE committees. In spring 2021 Commissioners agreed that a community engagement committee needed to be established to fulfil our commitments to engage with and hear the voices of Black and Brown communities as it carries out its primary role of influencing and securing racial equity within structures and institutions within the city. The terms of reference are being developed and it is envisaged that there may be a co-chair for the committee as well as co-opted individuals.

The Community Engagement Committee aspires to create spaces where the community can be

heard on issues that matter to them, and for commissioners to take key messages and concerns into these strategic spaces that it interfaces with. This would also include targeted activities, for example with young people, whose voices are often unheard. There is a need for Commissioners to be very visible, grounded, accessible and establishing a series of community engagements will facilitate this. It is important for these independent commissioners be endorsed and supported by communities they serve, who also have a role in the quest for racial justice and equity. These are important principles beyond inclusion, which for the most part is demonstrated by racial visibility and statistics rather than through systemic change.

There is a need to build confidence in the commissioners and support them to shape the landscape of city leadership so that substantive, rather than numerical and visible representation of Black and Brown Global South community interests, are part of the decision-making processes in the city. Community engagement is central to driving this in a credible way and I look forward to working with the beautiful range of communities in Bristol. ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’.

In the coming months the community engagement committee will:

- Appoint a co-chair and committee members
- Agree a series of engagements aimed at specific groups e.g., Asian Communities, Youth, Afrikan Heritage communities
- Facilitate some online conversations and polls for those who feel vulnerable due to Covid-19
- Conduct a series of radio interviews/features to build engagement with Commissioners on various topic related to our core priority areas of education, health & wellbeing, criminal justice, economy (employment & enterprise)

1.5 Economy work stream (March – October 2021) – Lead: Dr Marcus Walters

The Economy Task Group within CoRE was established in March 2021 with an assigned focus to develop and implement a strategy to take steps to address racial inequality in the identified ‘key priority area’ of ‘Economy’ (i.e., Employment and Enterprise – see below for further detail). The Economy Task Group is comprised of four Commissioners: Marcus Walters (Chair of the Task Group), Jane Khawaja, Zain Shaffi and Forward Maisokwadzo.

1.5.1 Background to the Economy Task Group

During the Summer of 2020 (July through to September) CoRE, in partnership with BSWN, hosted several community consultations (five in total) with members of Bristol’s Black and Ethnic Minority communities, including key business leaders, for the purpose of gaining a critical insight into the consultees’ concerns, and the ways in which CoRE could promote and tackle racial inequality. One of the key areas of concern for the consultees centred on the ‘Economy’ of the City, which was broken down as follows (in summary):

(a) Employment

- High rates of unemployment – likely to be exacerbated by the impacts of COVID-19
- Lack of employment opportunities in the City caused by biased recruitment and retention practices
- Limited opportunities for career advancement

(b) Enterprise

- Disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on businesses and business owners
- Inequitable access to funding and resources
- Lack of support for local businesses and business owners

Following the establishment of the CoRE Economy Task Group in March 2021, having due regard to the outcome of the abovementioned community consultation (as well as other things – e.g., the One City Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy etc.), the Task Group put together an ‘Action Plan’ for the purpose of strategizing how it may best tackle the identified issues regarding economic racial inequality within the City.

1.5.2 High-Level Summary of the CoRE Economy Task Group Action Plan

In accordance with the outcomes of the community consultation referred to above, the ‘Action Plan’ has two key strands to it: (i) **Employment**; and (ii) **Enterprise**.

(i) Employment

In terms of ‘**Employment**’, we have summarised below the (current) two specific areas of focus for the Economy Task Group and the intended key outputs of the work and activities it is intending to carry out in these areas:

(a) Unemployment

The proposed key outputs of the work that the Economy Task Group will be doing in this area over the next 6 to 12 months is as follows:

- Create an area on Bristol City Council website/CoRE area on the website that provides an effective signpost for readers/viewers regarding the financial and non-financial support that may be available to unemployed persons.
- Understand the worst affected sectors and carry out a skills gap analysis to understand where the gaps are to support with identifying potential opportunities for unemployed persons – e.g., opportunities in new/emerging sectors, such as net zero/decarbonisation etc.
- Create a network of private sector organisations (see below) that can potentially be utilised to support in this area.

(b) Employment Opportunities

The proposed key outputs of the work that the Economy Task Group will be doing in this area over the next 6 to 12 months is as follows:

- Create a network of private sector organisations that the CoRE Economy Task Group collaborates with in respect of its vision, and which provides opportunities to unemployed persons from Black and Ethnic Minority communities. The intention is that this will cover both employment (e.g., access to jobs, work experience etc.) and business opportunities (e.g., pro bono support etc. – see the ‘Enterprise’ section below in respect of the latter).

- Work with these private sector organisations to support them (and in turn provide support and opportunities to Black and Ethnic Minority Communities) with initiatives around the ‘S’ in ‘ESG’ (Environment, **Social** and Governance factors).

(ii) Enterprise

In terms of ‘**Enterprise**, we have summarised below the (current) specific areas of focus for the Economy Task Group and the intended key outputs of the work and activities it is intending to carry out in these areas:

(a) Black and Asian-owned business directory

The proposed key outputs of the work that the Economy Task Group will be doing in this area over the next 6 to 12 months is as follows:

- To create or understand what support we can provide in relation to the creation of, a directory of Black and Ethnic Minority businesses in the City.
- Once created, we would also promote/signpost this directory – e.g., to the organisations within the networks described under the headings of ‘Employment Opportunities’ above and ‘Business Opportunities and Support’ below.

(b) Impact of COVID-19 on Black and Asian-owned businesses

The proposed key outputs of the work that the Economy Task Group will be doing in this area over the next 6 to 12 months is as follows:

- Creating an area on Bristol City Council website/CoRE area on the website that provides an effective signpost for readers/viewers re: support that may be available to such organisations.
- In addition, and where relevant/appropriate, provide such organisations with access to the networks described under the heading of ‘Employment Opportunities’ above – e.g., re: pro bono/discounted support, access to space/facilities etc. – and also under the heading of ‘Business Opportunities and Support’ below.

(c) Business Opportunities and Support

The proposed key outputs of the work that the Economy Task Group will be doing in this area over the next 6 to 12 months is as follows:

- Gain an understanding of what the various organisations say regarding Social Value (in the Race space) as part of their procurement policies and understand how they are doing against the targets/requirements they set for themselves.
- Create a similar network to the one at ‘Employment Opportunities’ above for the purpose of providing access to funding (or funding opportunities) for Black and Ethnic Minority-owned businesses. There will be some overlap with the network described under the heading of ‘Employment Opportunities’ above, as organisations on that network may be able to provide pro bono or discounted support to black and Asian-owned businesses.

2. Key activities: October 2020 - September 2021

2.1 Policy Contribution

- In partnership with BSWN, CoRE prepared a joint statement in response to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission review of the Home Office's hostile environment in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duty. CoRE welcomed the review of the Commission but warned of the continuation of racism in British immigration law and that proper engagement with Britain's history in this regard will help us to make better sense of how the past has shaped - and continues to shape - who 'belongs' in modern Britain.
- CoRE further prepared a joint submission with BSWN to the House of Commons Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities call for evidence which provided our responses to the Commission's ten questions around education, health, crime and policing, and employment and enterprise.
- In addition, BSWN and CoRE have partnered on several responses to local consultations such as the consultation on the new Traffic Clean Air Zone; the University of Bristol's draft strategy for civic engagement and social responsibility; or the Council's Corporate Leadership Board's economic alleviation strategy.

2.2 Recruitment of three new Commissioners and the Independent Chair

- During July 2021, the role of Independent Chair was advertised in a city-wide campaign, attracting significant interest and number of applications and on the 11th of October 2021, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor announced the appointment of Museji Takolia CBE as the new Chair of CoRE.
- We have now successfully recruited three new Commissioners, bringing forward a wide range of skills, expertise and perspectives to the task of tackling systemic racism: Newly appointed Commissioners from October 2021 are:
 - Abbigael Bainton, Assistant Principle and Science Teacher at Bristol Brunel Academy
 - Dr Adeela Shafi, Associate Professor in Education, University of Gloucestershire; Founding member of Bristol Muslim Strategic Leadership Group (BMSLG)
 - Enitan Amorolaran, Matter Support Paralegal RPC

They will join 11 existing commissioners, including:

- Zahra Kosar, Mental Health Coordinator at Bristol Somali Resource Centre
- Margaret Simmons-Bird, Education Consultant & Executive Lead for School Improvement at Wellsway Multi Academy Trust
- Marie-Annick Gournet, Senior Lecturer and Director of Part-time Programmes at University of Bristol
- Fatima Mohamed Ali, Teacher at Cabot Primary School
- Jane Khawaja, Head of Research Development at University of Bristol
- Zain Shaffi, Investment Consultant and Lead in Black, Asian Minority Ethnic Financial Inclusion CSR Group at Hargreaves Lansdown
- Forward Maisokwadzo, Inclusion Advisor to the Mayor's Office
- Euella Jackson, Engagement Producer and Talent Manager at Rising Arts Agency
- Maya Mate-Kole, Senior Service Coordinator at Golden Key Partnership Programme
- Marcus Walters, Senior Associate at Burges Salmon LLP
- Jendayi Serwah, Convenor of the Afrikan ConneXions Consortium

The Commission intend to deliver improved outcomes in the City, bringing together their collective

skills and abilities, knowledge, and influence to activate its scrutiny and accountability functions, in a framework that measures change.

Proposal

The Commission has an away-day followed by a board meeting later this month at which our work plans for 2022 will be developed to reflect several things:

- The Commission is likely to shift towards a more strategic role for its commissioners, and as a consequence for the Commission as a whole.
- We will work with local, regional (and where appropriate national partners) to use data and evidence to support the delivery of measurable outcomes in performance against a fewer set of key priorities.
- We will aim to increase our visibility and presence through engagement events and developing a communications plan, with a special effort with local communities.

Overall, our aim is to make the work of CORE felt through increasing visibility, collaboration, giving support where appropriate but looking to the city's leadership as individuals and institutions (across all sectors) – to evidence changes and positive impacts through policies, practices, culture, and priorities and be held accountable for improving racial equity and inclusion in the city in the process

Other Options Considered

None

Risk Assessment

None

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

The public sector equality duties are relevant to the proposals and these duties have been considered in developing the proposals. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

CoRE's key objective lies in addressing racial inequality however we recognise that many of the challenges are cross-sectional and impact communities based on multiple characteristics. The following key requirements have been addressed accordingly:

- a) To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

The reviewed key functions of CoRE ensure that advancing equal access to opportunity for local Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities is at the heart of its purpose.

- b) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

Through events and meetings such as the series of 5 community consultations conducted last summer, CoRE strives to encourage cross-sectoral and city-wide input into the work of the commission and facilitate conversation and networking between business owners, community organisations, and local community members of all backgrounds.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

None

Financial

(a) Revenue

CoRE request the council to continue with the annual funding of £5,000 for the Commission's function and core activities, as well as use of Main Hall for events as appropriate post-Covid-19.

(b) Capital

Not applicable

Land

Not applicable

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

Full Council

9th November 2021



Report of:	Service Director: Finance
Title:	Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21
Ward:	City Wide
Member Presenting Report:	Deputy Mayor – Finance, Governance and Performance

Recommendation

Council note the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix A.

Summary

The Council is required to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual treasury indicators in accordance with Local Government regulations.

The significant issues in the report are:

- The Council has complied with treasury management legislative and regulatory requirements during the period and all transactions were in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.
- The 2020–2025 Treasury Strategy identified a medium term borrowing requirement of £215m to support the existing and future Capital Programme. The Council’s agreed policy is to defer borrowing while it has significant levels of cash balances (£207m at March 2021), noting if the financial environment changes and borrowing was deemed advantageous the Council may borrow over appropriate maturity periods.
- The Council’s long term debt at 31 March 2021 was £451m with an average annual interest rate of 4.48%. Investments were £207m at the 31 March 2021 with an average annual interest rate of 0.30%.



Policy

1. There are no policy implications as a direct result of this report.

Consultation

2. Internal

Audit Committee, Strategic & Service Directors, and Deputy Mayor – Finance, Governance & Performance.

3. External

Link Asset Services – the Council’s external treasury management advisors

Context

4. The Council’s treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also requires reports to full Council mid-year and after the year end. The 2020/21 outturn report is set out as Appendix A.

The Code also requires the Council to nominate one of its Committees to have responsibility for scrutiny of its treasury management strategy, policy and activity. Council has delegated that responsibility to the Resources Scrutiny Board and Audit Committee. Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council. No treasury management activity is without risk; the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council’s treasury management objectives.

Treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”.

Proposal

5. Council note the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix A.

Other Options Considered

6. Not applicable

Risk Assessment

7. The principal risks associated with treasury management are:

Risk	Mitigation
Loss of investments as a result of failure of counterparties	Limiting the types of investment instruments used, setting lending criteria for counterparties, and limiting the extent of exposure to individual counterparties
Increase in the net financing costs of the authority due to borrowing at high rates of interest / lending at low rates of interest	Planning and undertaking borrowing and lending in light of assessments of future interest rate movements, and by undertaking most long term borrowing at fixed rates of interest (to reduce the volatility of capital financing costs)

Public Sector Equality Duties

8. None necessary for this report

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

9. The Council is under a duty to manage its resources prudently and therefore due consideration must always be given to its borrowing and lending strategy. A wide range of local authority financial activities, including borrowing, lending, financial management, and the approval of types of investment vehicle are governed by legislation and various regulations. The Council is obliged to comply with these. **(Legal advice provided by Tim O’Gara - Service Director: Legal and Democratic**

Services)

Financial

(a) Revenues

The financing costs arising from planned borrowing are provided for in the revenue budget and medium term financial plan. Any additional operating costs arising from capital investment must be contained within the revenue budget of the relevant department.

(b) Capital

Not Applicable

(Financial advice provided by Jon Clayton – Capital and Investments Manager)

Land

Not applicable

Personnel

Not Applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A – Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21

Purpose of the report:

1. Under the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) the Section 151 Officer is required to produce an outturn report on activities in the year to account for how the Strategy set at the start of the year has been implemented. This report meets the requirements of both the Code and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

Background

2. The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also requires reports to full Council mid-year and after the year end.
3. The Code also requires the Council to nominate one of its Committees to have responsibility for scrutiny of its treasury management strategy, policy and activity. Council has delegated this responsibility to the Resources Scrutiny Board and Audit Committee. Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council. No treasury management activity is without risk; the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council's treasury management objectives.
4. Treasury management is defined as:

"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

The Economy and Interest Rates for 2020/21

5. **UK. Coronavirus.** The first national lockdown in late March 2020 did significant damage to an economy that caused an economic downturn that exceeded the one caused by the financial crisis of 2008/09. A short second lockdown in November did "lesser" but by the time of the third lockdown in January 2021, businesses and individuals had become more resilient in adapting to working in new ways during a three-month lockdown so less damage than was caused than in the first one.

The advent of vaccines starting in November 2020, promises to lead to a return to something approaching normal life during the second half of 2021. This has been instrumental in speeding economic recovery and the reopening of the economy. The household saving rate has been "exceptionally" high since the first lockdown in March 2020 and so there is plenty of "pent-up" demand and purchasing power for services in the still-depressed sectors like restaurants, travel and hotels as soon as they reopen. It is therefore expected that the UK

economy could recover its pre-pandemic level of economic activity during quarter 1 of 2022.

Both the Government and the Bank of England took rapid action in March 2020 to provide support to financial markets to ensure their proper functioning, and to support the economy and to protect jobs.

The **Monetary Policy Committee** cut Bank Rate from 0.75% to 0.25% and then to 0.10% in March 2020 and embarked on a £200bn programme of quantitative easing QE, increasing this to £895bn in November 2020.

While Bank Rate remained unchanged for the rest of the year, financial markets were concerned that the MPC could cut Bank Rate to a negative rate; this was firmly discounted at the February 2021 MPC meeting when it was established that commercial banks would be unable to implement negative rates for at least six months – by which time the economy was expected to be making a strong recovery and negative rates would no longer be needed.

Average inflation targeting. This was a change adopted by the Bank of England in terms of implementing its inflation target of 2%. The key addition to the Bank's forward guidance in August was that "it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and achieving the 2% target sustainably". This would indicate that even if inflation rises to 2% in a couple of years' time, not expect any action from the MPC to raise Bank Rate – until it is clear that level of inflation is going to be persistently above target if it takes no action to raise Bank Rate. This raises the bar for increasing Bank Rate and no increase is expected by March 2024, and possibly for as long as five years. Inflation has been well under 2% during 2020/21; it is expected to briefly peak at just over 2% towards the end of 2021, but this is expected to be temporary.

Government support. The Chancellor has implemented support to businesses by way of cheap loans and other measures, and has protected jobs by paying for workers to be placed on furlough. This support has come at a significant cost in terms of the Government's budget deficit "ballooning" in 20/21 and 21/22 so that the Debt to GDP ratio reaches around 100%.

The Budget on 3rd March 2021 increased fiscal support to the economy and employment during 2021 and 2022 followed by substantial tax rises in the following three years to help pay for the cost of the pandemic. This will help strengthen the economic recovery from the pandemic and to return the government's finances to a balanced budget on a current expenditure and income basis in 2025/26. This will stop the Debt to GDP ratio rising further from 100%. An area of concern, though, is that the government's debt is now twice as sensitive to interest rate rises as before the pandemic due to QE operations substituting fixed long-term debt for floating rate debt; there is, therefore, much incentive for the Government to promote Bank Rate staying low e.g. by using fiscal policy in conjunction with the monetary policy action by the Bank of England to keep inflation from rising too high, and / or by amending the Bank's policy mandate to allow for a higher target for inflation.

BREXIT. The final agreement on 24th December 2020 eliminated a significant downside risk for the UK economy. The initial agreement only covered trade so there is further work to be done

on the services sector where temporary equivalence has been granted in both directions between the UK and EU; that now needs to be formalised on a permanent basis. There was much disruption to trade in January as form filling has proved to be a formidable barrier to trade. This appears to have eased somewhat since then but is an area that needs further work to ease difficulties, which are still acute in some areas.

USA. The US economy did not suffer as much damage as the UK economy due to the pandemic. The Democrats won the presidential election in November 2020 and have control of both Congress and the Senate. This enabled the Democrats to pass a \$1.9trn (8.8% of GDP) stimulus package in March on top of the \$900bn fiscal stimulus deal passed by Congress in late December. These, together with the vaccine rollout proceeding swiftly will promote a rapid easing of restrictions and strong economic recovery during 2021. The Democrats are also planning to pass a \$2trn fiscal stimulus package aimed at renewing infrastructure over the next decade. Although this package is longer-term, if passed, it would also help economic recovery in the near-term.

At the Federal Reserve September meeting the committee agreed a new inflation target - "to maintain the current target range until labour market conditions were judged to be consistent with the Committee's assessments of maximum employment and inflation had risen to 2% and was on track to moderately exceed 2% for some time." This change was aimed to provide more stimulus for economic growth and higher levels of employment and to avoid the danger of getting caught in a deflationary "trap" like Japan.

It is to be noted that inflation has been under-shooting the 2% target significantly for most of the last decade, (and this year), so financial markets took note that higher levels of inflation are likely. There is now some expectation that where the Federal Reserve has led in changing its policy towards implementing its inflation and full employment mandate, other major central banks will follow, as indeed the Bank of England has done so already.

The Federal Reserve expects strong economic growth during 2021 to have only a brief impact on inflation, which explains why it projects US interest rates to remain near-zero through to the end of 2023. The key message is still that policy will remain with near-zero rates and asset purchases – continuing for several more years.

This is likely to result in keeping treasury yields at historically low levels. However, financial markets in 2021 have been concerned that the high amount of fiscal stimulus, on top of highly accommodative monetary policy, could lead to a rapid elimination of spare capacity in the economy and generating higher inflation much quicker than anticipated.

There is also concern as to how and when the Federal Reserve will "wind down" its programme of monthly Quantitative Easing of treasuries. These concerns have pushed treasury yields sharply up in the US in 2021 and is likely to have also exerted some upward pressure on gilt yields in the UK.

EU. Both the roll out and take up of vaccines has been slow in the EU in 2021, at a time when many countries are experiencing a sharp rise in cases which are threatening to overwhelm hospitals in some major countries; this has led to renewed severe restrictions or lockdowns

during March. This will inevitably put back economic recovery after the economy had staged a rebound from the first lockdowns in Q3 of 2020 but contracted slightly in Q4 to end 2020 only 4.9% below its pre-pandemic level. Recovery will now be delayed until Q3 of 2021 and a return to pre-pandemic levels is expected in the second half of 2022.

Inflation was well under 2% during 2020/21. The ECB did not cut its main rate of -0.5% further into negative territory during 2020/21, it expanded its Quantitative Easing (Pandemic emergency purchase programme - PEPP) in March 2020 and added further to that in its December 2020 meeting when it also expanded its programme of providing cheap loans to banks. The total PEPP scheme of €1,850bn is providing protection to the sovereign bond yields of weaker countries like Italy. There is, therefore, unlikely to be a euro crisis while the ECB is able to maintain this level of support.

China. Following the efforts to get on top of the virus outbreak in Q1 of 2020, economic recovery was strong in the rest of the year; this has enabled China to recover all of the contraction in Q1 following implementing a programme of monetary and fiscal support that has been effective at stimulating growth.

Japan. Three rounds of government fiscal support in 2020 together with Japan's relative success in containing the virus without draconian measures so far, and the roll out of vaccines gathering momentum in 2021, should help to ensure a strong recovery in 2021 and to get back to pre-virus levels by Q3.

World growth. World growth was in recession in 2020. Inflation is unlikely to be a problem in most countries for some years due to the creation of excess production capacity and depressed demand caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Deglobalisation. Until recent years, world growth has been boosted by increasing globalisation i.e. countries specialising in producing goods and commodities in which they have an economic advantage and which they then trade with the rest of the world. This has boosted worldwide productivity and growth, and, by lowering costs, has also depressed inflation. However, the rise of China as an economic superpower over the last 30 years, which now accounts for nearly 20% of total world GDP, has unbalanced the world economy. In March 2021, western democracies implemented sanctions that led to a retaliation by China and is likely to mean that the China / EU investment is at risk.

The pandemic exposed how frail extended supply lines were around the world, likely to lead to a retrenchment of economies. It is, therefore, likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a reversal of world globalisation and a decoupling of western countries from dependence on China to supply products and vice versa. This is likely to reduce world growth rates.

Central banks' monetary policy. During the pandemic, the governments of western countries have provided fiscal support to their economies which has resulted in a big increase in total government debt in each country. It is therefore very important that bond yields stay low while debt to GDP ratios slowly subside under the impact of economic growth. This provides governments with a good reason to amend the mandates given to central banks to allow higher average levels of inflation than we have generally seen over the last couple of decades. Both the Federal Reserve and Bank of England have already changed their policy towards

implementing their existing mandates on inflation, (and full employment), to an average level of inflation. Greater emphasis could also be placed on hitting subsidiary targets e.g. full employment before raising rates. Higher average rates of inflation would also help to erode the real value of government debt more quickly.

Treasury position as at 31 March 2021

6. The table below indicates the balance of borrowing and investments at the beginning and end of the year and average borrowing cost and investment returns for each period:

	31 March 2020		31 March 2021	
	£m	Average Rate %	£m	Average Rate %
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) - PWLB ¹	341	4.74	331	4.63
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) – LOBOS ²	70	4.09	70	4.09
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) – Market	50	4.04	50	4.04
Short Term Borrowing	-	-	-	-
Total borrowing	461	4.56	451	4.48
Investments	149	0.85	207	0.30
Net Borrowing Position	312		244	

¹Public Works Loan Board

²Lender option Borrower option (LOBO)

7. The total borrowing excludes accrued interest of £5m (£5m at 31/3/20) and the outstanding finance on PFI and service contracts of £133m at 31 March 2020 (£141m at 31/3/20).

8. In addition to the Treasury investments above (£207m), the authority also has

- long term service investments costing £49m primarily relating to the holdings in Bristol Holdings Company (£37m), Bristol Port Company (£3m) and a property fund to support Homelessness (£9m), and
- long term service loans costing £14m, primarily relating to loans to wholly owned subsidiaries (£11m) and external organisations (£3m).
- These investments and loans support the delivery of council functions, provide service benefits and have positive social impact.

9. The Net debt has decreased by £68m from £312m to £244m primarily due to;

- Funding of the capital programme financed by Prudential borrowing +£30m as set out in Appendix 1 para 3.
- Net change in Reserves and provisions – (£61m)
- Other changes to working capital and balances (£23m)

Long Term Borrowing – Strategy and outturn

10. The 2020–2025 Treasury Strategy (approved 25th February 2020) identified a net medium term borrowing requirement of £215m to support the existing and future Capital Programme with the debt servicing costs predominately met from revenue savings from capital investment and the economic development fund. The £215m was planned to be borrowed in the following periods, 20/21, £75m, 21/22 - £50m, 22/23 - £35m, 23/24 - £30m and 24/25 - £25m.

11. The Council's Strategy is also to defer borrowing while it has significant levels of liquid treasury investments, £207m at March 2021 (£149m at March 2020). However, the Strategy also considers where the financial environment changes and borrowing is deemed advantageous the Council will seek to borrow over appropriate maturity periods. Deferring borrowing reduces the "net" revenue interest cost of the Authority as well as reducing the Council's exposure to counter party risk for its investments. The Council recognises that utilising investments in lieu of borrowing clearly has a finite duration and that future borrowing will be required to support capital expenditure (see 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy approved by Council 25th February 2020).

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s46390/Appendix%20-%20Treasury%20Management%20Strategy.pdf>

12. Borrowing activity in year was in accordance with the Strategy approved at the beginning of the year:

- **Borrowing** – No borrowing was undertaken as the authority maintained higher levels of investments than originally anticipated for a variety of reasons including the advance receipt of grants and the time taken to progress capital schemes where the source of financing is external borrowing.

The authority repaid a £10m loan that matured on 20th April 2021 that had an interest rate of 4.875%.

The Council arranged a short-term credit facility with West of England Combined Authority (WECA) at the start of the financial year because the Council was concerned of the financial risks arising from the pandemic, primarily the loss of local income. This facility added to the existing facilities providing the authority with a pool of resources to draw upon, ensuring the Council maintained adequate levels of liquidity to meet the Council's financial obligations.

However, as Central Government accelerated the receipt of grant funding, these facilities were not called upon.

- **PWLB Rate Change** – As mentioned in previous Treasury Management reports on the 9th October 2019 the Treasury and PWLB announced a 1% increase across all maturities to its new borrowing rates with no prior warning that this would happen.

Following a consultation, on the 25th November 2020 this increase was reversed but a prohibition was introduced denying access to borrowing from the PWLB for any local authority that plans to purchase any asset primarily for yield regardless of how this purchase is funded.

- **Rescheduling** – No debt rescheduling activity was undertaken in 2020/21. As set out in the Treasury Mid-Year report the total life cycle cost of rescheduling loans on a discounted cash-flow basis has been reviewed with no loans providing a positive cash-flow benefit to the authority. This would in part be due to the large early repayment penalties that the authority will incur, circa £270m penalty to repay the £331m of PWLB loans early as at 31st March 2021 (the penalty at 31/03/20 was £362m).

Annual Investment Strategy and Outturn

13. Investment returns which had been low during 2019/20, “plunged” during 2020/21 to near zero or even into negative territory. Most local authority lending managed to avoid negative rates and one feature of the year was the growth of inter local authority lending. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2020/21 was that Bank Rate would continue at the start of the year at 0.75 % before rising to end 2022/23 at 1.25%. This forecast changed by the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 which caused the Monetary Policy Committee to cut Bank Rate in March, first to 0.25% and then to 0.10%, in order to counter the negative impact of the national lockdown to the economy.

The Bank of England and the Government also introduced new programmes of supplying the banking system and the economy with “large” amounts of “cheap” credit so that banks could help “cash-starved” businesses to survive during the lockdown. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand to borrow, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates falling significantly.

While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.

Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

14. Security of capital remained the Council’s main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council’s policy for assessing institutions to which the council might lend. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).
15. Treasury Investments held by the Council - the Council maintained an average balance of £194m (£168m 2019/20) of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds received an average return of 0.30% (0.85% 2019/20). The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day LIBID rate, which was negative 0.07% .

Compliance with Treasury Limits and Treasury Related Prudential Indicators

16. The Council can confirm that:

- All treasury related transactions were undertaken by authorised officers and within the limits and parameters approved by the Council;
- All investments were to counterparties on the approved lending list
- The Council operated within the Prudential Indicators within Appendix 1.

Performance Indicators set for 2020/21

17. One of the key requirements in the Code is the formal introduction of performance measurement relating to investments, debt, and capital financing activities. Whilst investment performance criteria have been well developed and universally accepted, debt performance indicators continue to be a more problematic area with the traditional average portfolio rate of interest acting as the main guide. The Council's performance indicators were set out in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy.

18. The following performance indicators have been set:

- Debt / Borrowing – Average rate of borrowing for the year compared to the average available.
No borrowing undertaken during the year
- Investments – Internal returns above the 7 day LIBID rate
Average rate for the year 0.30% vs. annual average 7 day LIBID of negative 0.07%

Consultation and scrutiny input

19. The report has been discussed with the Council's external treasury management advisers and internally with Strategic & Service Directors, and Deputy Mayor – Finance, Governance & Performance.

Risk Assessment

20. The principal risks associated with treasury management are:

Risk	Mitigation
Loss of investments as a result of failure of counterparties	Limiting the types of investment instruments used, setting lending criteria for counterparties, and limiting the extent of exposure to individual counterparties
Increase in the net financing costs of the authority due to borrowing at high rates of interest / lending at low rates of interest	Planning and undertaking borrowing and lending in light of assessments of future interest rate movements, and by undertaking most long term borrowing at fixed rates of interest (to reduce the volatility of capital financing costs)

Public sector equality duties:

21. There are no proposals in this report, which require either a statement as to the relevance of public sector equality duties or an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Environmental checklist / eco impact assessment

22. There are no proposals in this report which have environmental impacts

Legal and Resource Implications

23. Legal- the Council is under a duty to manage its resources prudently and therefore due consideration must always be given to its borrowing and lending strategy. A wide range of local authority financial activities, including borrowing, lending, financial management, and the approval of types of investment vehicle are governed by legislation and various regulations. The Council is obliged to comply with these.

Advice provided by Tim O’Gara (Service Director: Legal and Democratic Services)

Financial**(a) Revenue**

24. The financing costs arising from planned borrowing are provided for in the revenue budget and medium term financial plan.

Advice given by Jon Clayton (Capital and Investment Manager)

(b) Capital

25. There is no direct capital investment implications contained within this report.

Land

26. There are no direct implications for this report.

Personnel

27. There are no direct implications for this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

28. Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s46390/Appendix%20-%20Treasury%20Management%20Strategy.pdf>

**Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service 2020/21 (Incorporating
Outturn Prudential Indicators)**

Introduction

1. This report summarises:
 - The capital activity during the year
 - What resources the Council applied to pay for this activity;
 - The impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement);
 - The reporting of the required prudential indicators;
 - Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
 - A summary of interest rate movements in the year;
 - The detailed debt activity;
 - The detailed investment activity;
 - Local Issues

The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2020/21

2. The Council undertakes capital expenditure to invest in the acquisition and enhancement of long-term assets. These activities may either be:
 - Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
 - If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

3. The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

	2019/20 Actual £m	2020/21 Original Budget £m	2020/21 P9 - Final Budget £m	2020/21 Actual £m
Non-HRA capital expenditure	129 ^{*1}	212	157	127 ^{*1}
HRA capital expenditure	49	80	50	39
Total capital expenditure	178	292	207	166
Resourced by:				
Capital receipts	31	55		35
Capital grants	53	98		74
HRA Self Financing	26	35		22
Prudential borrowing	35	85		30
Revenue	21	19		4
Service Concession Contract – Waste Vehicles ^{*1}	12	-		1
Total Resources	178	292		166

*1 – Technical accounting adjustment required for Waste Service Concession Contract in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

4. The Council's underlying need to borrow is called the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's debt position. It represents 2020/21 and prior years' net capital expenditure that has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
5. Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address this borrowing need, either through borrowing from external bodies, or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
6. Reducing the CFR – Whilst under treasury management arrangements actual debt can be borrowed or repaid at any time within the confines of the annual treasury strategy, the Council is required to make an annual revenue charge to reduce the CFR – effectively a repayment of the Non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing need. There is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR.
7. This statutory revenue charge is called the Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP. The total CFR can also be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

8. The Council's 2020/21 MRP Policy (as required by CLG Guidance) was approved on the 25th February 2020.

9. The Council's CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator. Accounting rule changes in previous years has meant that PFI schemes are now included on the balance sheet, which increases the Council's borrowing need, the CFR. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

CFR	General Fund 31 March 2020 Actual £m	General Fund 31 March 2021 Actual £m	HRA 31 March 2020 Actual £m	HRA 31 March 2021 Actual £m	Total CFR 31 March 2021 Actual £m
Opening balance	602	625	245	245	870
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	35	30	-	-	30
Less MRP/VRP	(4)	(5)	-	-	(5)
Less application of Capital Resources	(14)	(1)			(1)
PFI, Service Concession and finance lease adjustments	6	(8)	-	-	(8)
Closing balance	625	641	245	245	886

Treasury Position at 31 March 2021

10. Whilst the Council's gauge of its underlying need to borrow is the CFR, Finance can manage the Council's actual borrowing position by either:

- Borrowing to the CFR; or
- Choosing to utilise some temporary internal cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing or
- Borrowing for future increases in the CFR (borrowing in advance of need).

11. The figures in this report are based on the principal amounts borrowed and invested and so may differ from those in the final accounts by items such as accrued interest.

	31 March 2020		31 March 2021	
	Principal £m	Average Rate % ²	Principal £m	Average Rate % ²
Fixed Interest Rate Debt	341	4.74	331	4.63
Variable Interest Rate Debt	-	-	-	-
Market Debt – LOBO ¹	70	4.09	70	4.09
Market Debt	50	4.04	50	4.04
PFI / Service Contracts	141	-	133	-
Total Debt	602	4.56	584	4.48
Debt administered of behalf of Unitary Authorities (Ex Avon Debt)	(41)	-	(39)	-
Revised Debt	561	4.56	545	4.48
Capital Financing Requirement	870		886	
Over/(Under) borrowing	(309)		(341)	
Investment position				
Investments (Fixed & Call)	149	0.85	207	0.30
Net borrowing position (excl leasing arrangements)	312	-	244	-

1 Lender option Borrower option (LOBO) , 2 reflect the average rate for the year taking account of new loans and repayments.

12. The fixed Interest rate debt is apportioned between the General Fund and HRA as set out in the table below.

Fixed Interest Rate Debt	31 March 2020		31 March 2021	
	Principal £m	Average Rate%	Principal £m	Average Rate%
General Fund	216	4.41	211	4.26
HRA	245	4.68	240	4.68
Total	461	4.56	451	4.48

13. The maturity structure of the debt portfolio (excluding accrued interest) was as follows:

	Approved Min Limit%	Approved Max Limit%	31 March 2020		31 March 2021	
			Actual £m	%	Actual £m	%
Under 12 Months	0	20	10	2	-	-
1 to 2 years	0	20	-	-	5	1
2 to 5 years	0	40	10	2	20	4
5 to 10 years	0	40	49	11	34	8
10 years and over	25	100	392	85	392	87
Total			461	100	451	100

14. The Council hold £70m of LOBOS with maturities averaging 40 years. Inherent within these loan instruments are options (averaging an option every 3.5 years) that could give rise to the debt being repaid early. These loans are regularly reviewed with the current and expected structure of interest rates. The risk of the lenders exercising their options is currently low for the short to medium term. Therefore, the maturity of these loans in the above table is based on their maturity date, 10 years and over.
15. The Council will continually review these loans in accordance with economic forecasts and will update the maturity structure of the debt portfolio accordingly and assess the future re-financing risks exposed to the authority and report any changes within future monitoring reports.
16. The authority's borrowing strategy is to delay borrowing and use its existing resources to support the Capital Programme to reduce its exposure to counterparty risk and the net interest cost of the authority. The authority, as planned, did not undertake further borrowing while the authority maintained higher levels of investments than originally anticipated. This was due to a variety of reasons including the receipt of grants in advance and the time taken to progress capital schemes where the source of financing was external borrowing.
17. If it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in bank rate, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then further borrowing would have been considered. Most likely, further fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be over the short to medium term.

Prudential Indicators and Compliance Issues

18. Some of the prudential indicators provide either an overview or specific limits on treasury activity. These are shown below:
19. **Gross Borrowing and the CFR** - In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement over the medium term. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	31 March 2020 Actual £m	31 March 2021 Actual £m
Gross borrowing position	461	451
CFR (excluding PFI)	729	753

20. **The Authorised Limit** - The Authorised Limit is the "Affordable Borrowing Limit" required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once agreed the authorised limit cannot be

breached. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2020/21 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its Authorised Limit.

21. **The Operational Boundary** – The Operational Boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the Boundary is acceptable subject to the Authorised Limit not being breached.
22. **Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream** - This indicator identifies the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

	2020/21 £m
Authorised Limit	970
Operational Boundary	664
Average gross borrowing position (including PFI)	593
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream:	
General Fund	6.88%
HRA	8.81%

Borrowing Rates in 2020/21

23. Gilt yields fell sharply from the start of 2020 and then rose in March caused by the pandemic. This was quickly countered by central banks flooding the markets with liquidity. While US treasury yields do exert influence on UK gilt yields so that the two often move in tandem, they have diverged during the first three quarters of 2020/21 but then converged in the final quarter. Expectations of economic recovery started earlier in the US than the UK but once the UK vaccination programme started making progress in the new year of 2021, gilt yields and PWLB rates started rising as confidence in economic recovery rebounded.

At the close of the day on 31 March 2021, all gilt yields from 1 to 5 years were between 0.19 – 0.58% while the 10-year and 25-year yields were at 1.11% and 1.59%.

24. HM Treasury imposed two changes of margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates in 2019/20 without any prior warning. The first took place on 9th October 2019, adding an additional 1% margin over gilts to all PWLB period rates. That increase was then, at least partially, reversed for some forms of borrowing on 11th March 2020, but not for mainstream non-HRA capital schemes.

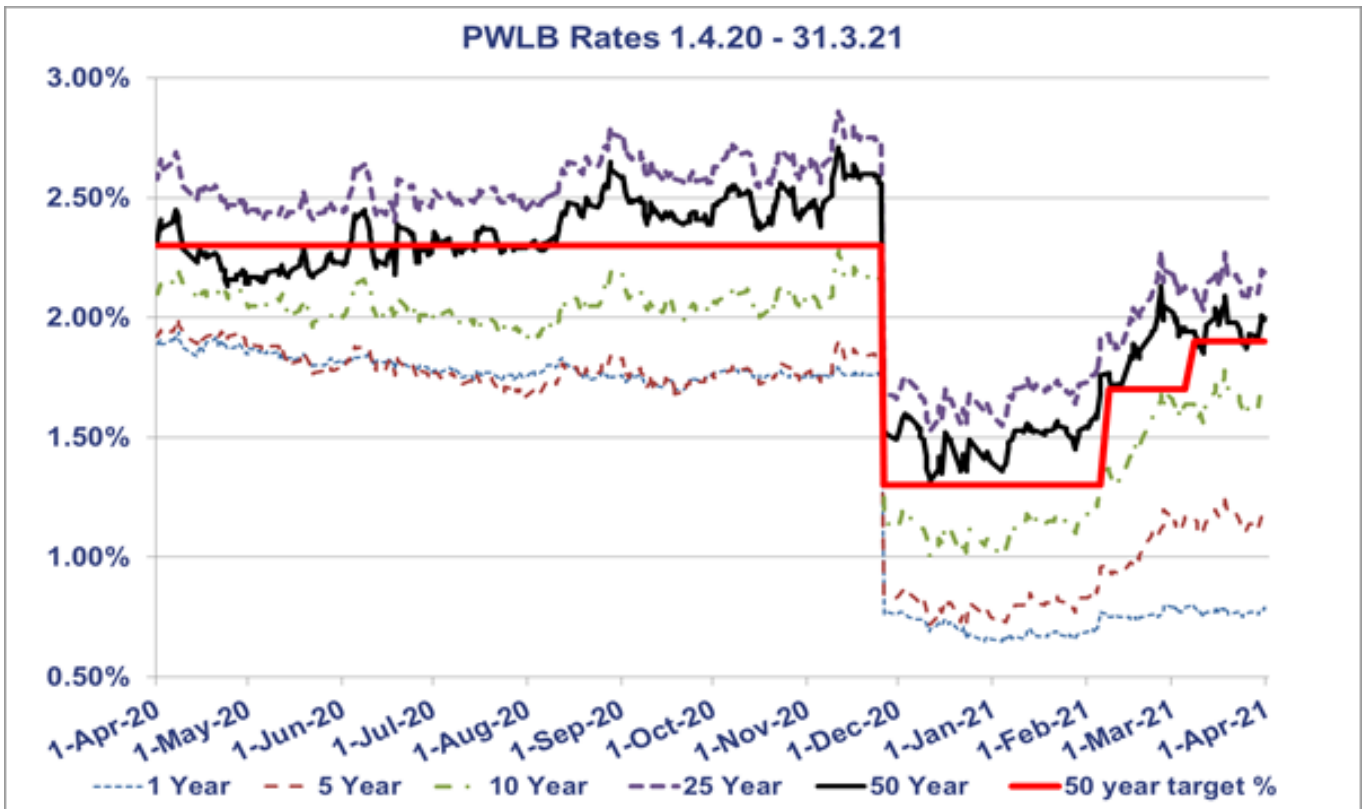
A consultation was then held with local authorities and on 25th November 2020, the Chancellor announced the conclusion to the review of margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates; with the previous additional 1% margin being reversed but a prohibition was introduced to deny access to borrowing from the PWLB for any local authority that plan to purchase assets primarily for yield within a local authority's three-year capital programme.

The new margin over gilt yields for local authority borrowing is the is a gilt plus 80 basis points.

There is likely to be only a marginal rise in gilt yields and PWLB rates over the next three years

as Bank Rate is not forecast to rise from 0.10% until circa March 2024 as the Bank of England has clearly stated that it will not raise rates until inflation is sustainably above its target of 2%.

The impact on PWLB rates is highlighted in the graph below.



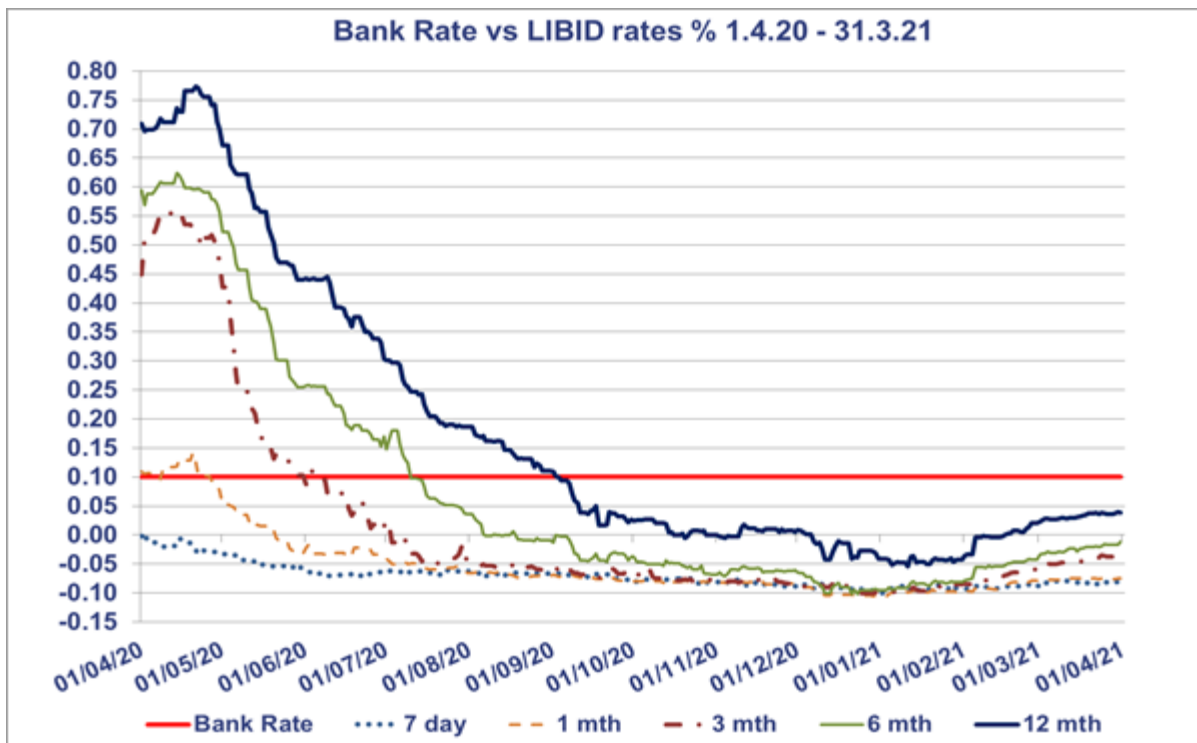
25. **Summary of Debt Transactions** – The authority repaid a £10m loan that matured on 20th April 2021 that had an interest rate of 4.875%.

26. The average rate of interest for the debt portfolio is 4.48%.

Investment Rates in 2020/21

27. Investment returns which had been low during 2019/20, plunged at the start of the financial year to near zero and even into negative territory caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Bank Rate was reduced to 0.10% in March 2020 with the expectation that Bank Rate will remain at this level for the foreseeable future until circa March 2024 when an increase in bank is forecast.

The impact on investment rates is highlighted in the graph below.



28. The Council’s investment policy is governed by CLG guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 25th February 2020. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Local Issues

29. **Ethical Investment Policy-** The “Ethical Investment Policy” was approved by Cabinet on 15th December 2011 (updated February 2015). There are no breaches to report.

Regulatory Framework, Risk and Performance

30. The Council’s treasury management activities are regulated by a variety of professional codes and statutes and guidance:

- The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act), which provides the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits on this activity;
- The Act permits the Secretary of State to set limits either on the Council or nationally on all local authorities restricting the amount of borrowing which may be undertaken

(although no restrictions have been made);

- Statutory Instrument (SI) 3146 2003, as amended, develops the controls and powers within the Act;
- The SI requires the Council to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- The SI also requires the Council to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services;
- Under the Act the CLG has issued Investment Guidance to structure and regulate the Council's investment activities.
- Under section 238(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the Secretary of State has taken powers to issue guidance on accounting practices. Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision was issued under this section on 8th November 2007.

31. The Council has complied with all of the above relevant statutory and regulatory requirements which require the Council to identify and, where possible, quantify the levels of risk associated with its treasury management activities. In particular its adoption and implementation of both the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management means both that its capital expenditure is prudent, affordable and sustainable, and its treasury practices demonstrate a low risk approach.

32. The Council has ensured that the principles of security, liquidity and yield have been adhered to within the treasury operation. This implies that the safeguarding of the principal investment with a suitable counterparty remains the Council's highest priority followed by liquidity (i.e. ease of access to the principal amount deposited) and yield (i.e. return) on investment.

Full Council

9th November 2021



Report of:	Monitoring Officer
Title:	Constitutional Update – Appointment of Members to Committees and Chairing arrangements
Ward:	Citywide

Recommendation

1. That Full Council approves the appointment of Councillor Steve Pearce to the Licensing Committee.
2. That Councillor Tony Dyer be appointed as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Summary

The Licensing Committee is established under Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003 and is a standing Committee. Any vacancies on the Committee must be filled by the Full Council. This task is non-delegable, i.e. only Full Council can decide who will serve on the Committee.

Full Council has the option to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs to committee/Commissions. These were agreed at Annual Council on 25 May 2021. There is a change to the allocation of Chair to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. Councillor Tony Dyer will replace Councillor Carla Denyer as Chair following agreement of Full Council.



Background and proposal – Recommendation 1

- 1.** The Council must have a Licensing Committee of between 10-15 Members. As one of the largest licensing authorities in the country, Bristol has established a 15 Member Committee. Members serve on the Committee until they either resign or are removed by the Full Council.
- 2.** Councillor Ellie King has resigned from the Committee upon starting her role as a Cabinet Member. Councillor Steve Pearce has indicated that he would like to be appointed to the Committee.
- 3.** The Full Council is accordingly asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Steve Pearce to the Licensing Committee.

Background and proposal – Recommendation 2

- 4.** Full Council has the option to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs to committee/Commissions. These were agreed at Annual Council on 25 May 2021.
- 5.** Councillor Carla Denyer has resigned as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. Councillor Tony Dyer has been proposed as the new Chair.
- 6.** The Full Council is accordingly asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Tony Dyer as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS – 9th November 2021

RSPCA Firework Motion

This Council notes:

1. Studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs¹, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks². A New Zealand survey recorded 79 percent of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period.³
2. Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.
3. The RSPCA believes that a licensing system would help with better enforcement of the law by allowing enforcement bodies to know where licensed events are being held so they can focus on locations and incidents elsewhere.
4. This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least) in the long term but owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horses and livestock as well as local wildlife

This Council resolves:

5. To encourage the organisers of all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
6. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
7. To call on Party Group Leaders to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
8. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.

Motion to be moved by Cllr Breckels (Labour Group)

Submission: 27th October 2021

¹ Blackwell, E., Bradshaw, J., & Casey, R. (2013). Fear responses to noises in domestic dogs: Prevalence, risk factors and co-occurrence with other fear related behaviour. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 145, 15-25.

² Blackwell, E., Casey, R., & Bradshaw, J. (2005). Firework Fears and Phobias in the Domestic Dog. Scientific Report for the RSPCA, University of Bristol, UK

³ Gronqvist, G, Rogers, C. & Gee, E. (2016). The Management of Horses during Fireworks in New Zealand. *Animals* 6(20).

National Parks City Status

This Council notes:

1. The National Park City Status organisation recognises cities that have a city-wide community working together for a more sustainable future.
2. Specifically, the National Park City Organisation's Universal Charter commits applicants to 'work together for better:
 - lives, health, and wellbeing;
 - wildlife, trees, and flowers;
 - places, habitats, air, water, sea and land;
 - time outdoors, culture, art, playing, walking, cycling and eating;
 - locally grown food and responsible consumption;
 - decisions, sharing, learning and working together;
 - relationships with nature and with each other.'

The Council believes:

3. The principles of the Universal Charter are commendable goals and are already being worked towards by the Council and through the One City Plan.
4. After becoming European Green Capital and being only the second city in the UK to be awarded Gold Standard for Food Sustainability, Bristol is well-placed to become only the second city globally to be awarded National Park City status.

This Council resolves:

5. To ask the Mayor or appropriate Cabinet member to instruct officers to dedicate necessary resources towards an application for Bristol to become a National Park City.
6. Call on councillors to sign the National Park City Organisation's Universal Charter, and to support the administration's efforts to achieve these aims.

Motion to be moved by Cllr King (Labour Group)

Submission: 27th October 2021

Re-Inventing the Public Realm through Transport Initiatives

1. Council is disappointed by the way the Mayor is choosing to unveil controversial and potentially damaging transport proposals. The current Administration seems intent on provoking a hostile political reaction rather than seeking to engage constructively with opposition parties to achieve consensus and positive change.
2. Council is particularly concerned at the radical plan to close off Park Street (a major thoroughfare) to private vehicles, Queens Road (at the Victoria Rooms) and North View (at White Tree roundabout). Such a move would inevitably harm the various remaining businesses on each of those roads. Making access to the city centre and North View much more difficult for shoppers will continue to reduce the attractiveness of Broadmead as a retail destination and thereby accelerate its continuing economic decline and will also jeopardise the businesses in Westbury Park.
3. Council fully understands that changes need to be made to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions but following a unilaterally determined policy that puts many more jobs at risk without proper consideration of alternative strategies is not acceptable.
4. Accordingly, Council asks for the Mayor to give a commitment that there will be a genuine chance of changing any finalised scheme when the formal public consultation is launched. Of course, this flexibility in design must also apply to his promised opportunity 'to comment on proposals' in relation to the planned bus prioritisation measures along the entire length of the A4018 and the No.2 bus route. For consultation to be meaningful, the Mayor and his transport planners should be prepared to take notice of the public's views and act on them.

Motion to be moved by Councillor Weston (Conservative Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

Elections Bill

1. This Council welcomes the eleven new measures Her Majesty's Government has included in the Elections Bill 2021 which are designed to ensure that UK elections "remain secure, fair, modern, inclusive and transparent."
2. The most noteworthy changes concern voter identification or verification – to be confirmed through approved forms of photographic evidence - and improvements made to the existing regulations around postal and proxy voting. Once enacted, these reforms will increase election security and help to deter fraud in Bristol.
3. Council recognises the importance of public confidence and trust in our electoral processes. Democratic societies depend not only on the reality of fidelity to votes cast but also the perception of operating a just and impartial voting system.
4. Council therefore asks for the Mayor to publicly endorse these safeguarding steps and to repudiate the misguided criticisms being raised by some around the tightening of rules on campaign-funding which are also contained in this legislation."

Motion to be moved by Councillor Eddy (Conservative Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

Growing the Provision of Allotments across the City

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Accordingly, Council asks for 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 Morris (Conservative Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

Ban Conversion Therapy

Full Council notes that:

1. In the UK, all major counselling and psychotherapy bodies, as well as the NHS, have concluded that conversion therapy is dangerous and have condemned it.
2. This Council recognises the excellent work done by local people and organisations to support the LGBT+ community here in Bristol and extends its thanks and support to them.

Full Council believes that:

1. This Council opposes the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past through the denial of rights and equal treatment and further recognises that discrimination still occurs today.
2. This Council recognises and opposes the ongoing harm the practice of so-called conversion therapy does to LGBT+ people.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Ask Mayor Rees to call on the Government to follow through on promises made to outlaw the practise of so-called conversion therapy.
2. Ask Mayor Rees to call on the Relevant Government Department and Minister to introduce an effective ban on conversion therapy within England, supported by a programme of work to help tackle these practices in all their forms.
3. Ask the Chief Executive and relevant officers to highlight and promote the continued support, counselling, and advocacy that local groups provide for members of the LGBT+ Community.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Brown (Lib Dem Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

Full Council notes that;

1. ONS figures show that almost one in three women aged 16-59 will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, that two women a week in England and Wales are killed by a current or former partner, that over half a million women are raped or sexually assaulted each year and that a YouGov poll shows that a third of girls have experienced sexual harassment in schools;
2. The global pandemic has led to more women and girls being vulnerable to domestic abuse and, according to a BBC news report last July, the initial three months of the first national lockdown saw an 80% increase in calls to the National Domestic Abuse Hotline;
3. According to crime-survey and other government data, victims disproportionately come from those groups which already experience inequality and additional challenges in our society, including those who are mixed-race, have disabilities, or are transgender; and
4. As we reflect on the end of the delayed UEFA Euro 2020 tournament, previous research by Lancaster University showed that reported domestic abuse incidents increase whenever any of the home nations play in a major tournament, and the effect is particularly large on the days when those teams lose.
5. Street harassment and violence against women and girls is endemic in the UK: 80% of women of all ages have been sexually harassed in public, with 90% of these women not reporting it as they don't believe it will make a difference
6. 97% of young women have been sexually harassed, with 96% not reporting it due to the same reasons above;
 1. One in two women are sexually harassed in the workplace
 2. One in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime
 3. One in five women will be raped in their lifetime
 4. Two women a week are killed by a current or former partner (this rose to three a week during lockdown), and three women a week take their own lives following domestic abuse.

Full Council further notes that;

1. White Ribbon UK is the leading charity with a mission to end male violence against women and part of the global White Ribbon movement which arose from a campaign started by men in Canada in 2004;
2. They mark White Ribbon Day annually on 25th November, the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women, by encouraging men and boys to pledge never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women and to make this by wearing a white ribbon on the day and a week or two afterwards; and
3. White Ribbon UK operate a system of male Ambassadors, female Champions and Youth Advocates, as well as having specific materials to support primary and secondary schools, all with the aim of encouraging men to take the pledge and help to eradicate male violence against women.

Full Council believes that;

1. Male violence against women can never be condoned and Bristol City Council should do everything in its power to ensure women are safe. As part of this, the council should facilitate and encourage participation by councillors, staff and schools in the White Ribbon Campaign.

Full Council resolves to;

1. Encourage all male Councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge, never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women;
2. Undertake as soon as practicable the steps necessary to achieve White Ribbon accreditation, joining the large number of public sector bodies which have already done so; and
3. As part of this, appoint a male Councillor as an Ambassador; mark White Ribbon Day on 25th November each year with a fundraising event; and encourage participation among council staff and local primary and secondary schools.
4. Ask the Mayor to lobby the Govt;
 - a. to ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG),
 - b. to ratify the International Labour Organisation's No 190 recognising the right of everyone to work free from gender based violence and harassment and to make street harassment a criminal offence,
 - c. to make misogyny a hate crime
5. Reach out to city partners through the One City Office to encourage local businesses and suppliers to become White Ribbon Supporters
6. Do all we can as a council and within our communities to champion the rights and entitlements of women and girls and to tackle violence against them. This includes continuing to invest in vital services, listening and responding to women and girls about the action we need, and calling out misogyny wherever we see or hear it.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Hartley (Lib Dem group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

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 relevant Council officers 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 Hartley (Lib Dem Group)
Date of submission: 28th October 2021

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, it's 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. Ask the relevant Council officers to complete 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 from the relevant Council officers into the findings to be submitted to Full Council within six months.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Varney (Lib Dem Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

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 the Chief Executive of Bristol City Council and relevant officers to create a 'Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy', that highlights costs, sites, potential partners in the creation of a 'smart charging system' for Bristol.
3. Ask Mayor Rees to 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 Clark (Lib Dem Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

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 Fosseway site.
3. Ensure this group reports back to full council at 3 month intervals.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Hopkins (Lib Dem Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

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 proposed by Councillor Stafford-Townsend (Green Group)

Motion submitted: 28th October 2021

Sources

- 1) Birmingham City Council's official UBI briefing - see https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=nb28HJzZZy8R6UE9qsv3LHJckreeBwn50TbzgOriXhiHQcf3zr1WGQ%3D%3D&rUzwRPf%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnl%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%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_O6k4xSFL847QcMyKppBD6IUO5x2gLp5E3GdI3_M
- 2) <https://www.bristol247.com/opinion/your-say/otherpartieswillriudiculegreenpolicies/>

Green Finance

Full council notes:

1. That in order to reach our climate goals huge changes are needed across almost all areas of our city, especially in the domestic, commercial/industrial, and transport sectors where rapid decarbonisation is needed.
2. That retrofitting homes and buildings, creating low-carbon heat sources, increasing our green electricity generation, improving our recycling rates, and providing infrastructure for EVs, cycling and other green transport infrastructure requires a substantial increase in the level of resources applied, particularly financial investment, that is currently beyond the capacity of our city.
3. That the council estimates £6-£10 billion in funding is needed in order to reach our carbon zero target.
4. That the level of resource commitment currently provided by national government is inadequate and requires a major step change in the levels of public funding made directly available to local authorities to achieve the climate targets identified at COP26. Private sector funding is likely to form a substantial element of the investment needed to reach the ambitious climate change targets Bristol has committed to.
5. That private investment can often have unintended negative consequences, and historically has often led to the degradation of the environment rather than its enhancement.
6. That work by officers on climate finance is ongoing and will continue to develop as we move forward, including collaborative work with other cities and key partners.
7. That within 48 hours of this Full Council meeting, COP26 will focus on the contribution cities will be making to the fight against climate change; and that in this context, Bristol must demonstrate its leadership in removing barriers to mitigation and resilience-building

Full council believes:

1. That investment from both central government and the private sector should be urgently sought in order to finance our decarbonisation efforts.
2. That decarbonisation of the private sector is also necessary to reach net zero and we should work constructively towards a common goal.
3. That members, as elected representatives of the people, have an important role to play in the process of encouraging suitable investments to help us reach our climate goals.

Full Council resolves to:

- 1) establish a series of workshops to inform and gather feedback from elected councillors on climate financing options.
- 2) set up a cross-party member group to:
 - (a) establish the principles and objectives of climate financing, building on work already completed and ongoing within the city.
 - (b) determine, with the advice of specialists, the opportunities of seeking new finance streams, including from innovative green mechanisms and private sector sources.

Motion proposed by: Councillor Mack (Green Group)

Motion submitted: 28th October 2021

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 under 10 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 and the role it will play in decarbonisation of the city is not yet known.
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 concept had the support of 4 local authorities including Bristol City Council. [1]
5. This model of green bonds with a local authority guarantee 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. The Local Government Association presents it as a model for mobilising widespread private investment to decarbonise localities.

Full Council believes:

1. That offering local savers and other ethical investors 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 complements other projects such as the successful Bristol Energy Cooperative.
3. That CMIs can help us amass funds on a regular basis develop a series of practical projects for a low carbon transition now in partnership with others which will be popular with local savers. This mobilises capital that could otherwise leave the city.
4. While CMIs are floated as possible way that might be used in the city to help fund the energy upgrade of community buildings in the SONNET project [see 5] no actual CMIs are yet planned.
5. 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.
6. Bristol should join the other 3 pioneers of CMI in developing local opportunities for local investors [e.g. 6]. In 3 months about £1m funds can be collected for investment and this can be repeated periodically.

Full Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to begin development of Community Municipal Investments for the city.

2. To ask the Mayor to 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 Fodor (Green Group)

Date of submission: 28th October 2021

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. Survey of community groups underway in the city – see [SONNET – The Bristol City Lab – Bristol Energy Network](#)
6. 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>

Ending investment in fossil fuels by Avon Pension Fund

This council notes:

1. In 2015, Full Council supported a Green motion and resolved that the Avon Pension Fund (APF) should consider divestment from fossil fuels and diversification into clean technologies like renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy storage; Council agreed that the Mayor should contact Avon Pension Fund and ask for a report on the issue;
2. There is widespread and heightened concern from scientists that declared worldwide fossil fuel reserves, if exploited, constitute a threat to the stability of the global climate; there is growing recognition that fossil fuel reserves are therefore a class of asset held by investors which have growing risks of being 'stranded' ie left with reducing value due to the fact not all claimed reserves now have the value being imputed to them, due to the need for them to remain in the ground;
3. An ever growing number of public and private sector funds, endowments and investment portfolios are choosing to divest from fossil fuels worldwide, including several local government pension funds. MPs called for their own funds to be divested.
4. Clarifications of the fiduciary duty of fund managers confirms that they should take into account a range of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and have a clear statement of investment policies;
5. The Avon Pension Fund uses investment provided by the Brunel Pensions Partnership, which is a leading local government pension partnership offering low carbon investment opportunities. This fund is only seeking to meet the 2015 Paris climate targets which are now known to be inadequate to secure climate stability.
6. Staff union Bristol Unison have given their clear support for divestment of the funds from fossil fuels, in a motion seconded by the Branch Secretary and presented to the Avon Pension Fund, as have other Unison branches also in the same fund.
7. Since 2016, the APF has enhanced its environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) to recognise and assesses climate change risks, undertake annual carbon footprinting studies, and review low carbon indices and the sustainability of assets; in 2017, the APF increased its allocation towards renewable energy infrastructure; in 2019, Councillor Pearce (who sits on the APF committee for the council) is already arranging a briefing on APF's ESG, divestment, and exposure for members.
8. In 2020 the Bristol Mayor declared the city would seek to promote divestment of the pension fund through signing the international C40 cities' declaration that we are "taking Divest/Invest action for a fairer, fossil-fuel-free green recovery. This commits to:

"Take all possible steps to divest city assets from fossil fuel companies and increase investments in climate solutions"

"Call on pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies and increase financial investments in climate solutions."

This council believes:

1. The long term future of the APF is as a fund that is divested from fossil fuels and one that ensures a wide range of investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency

technologies, energy storage and smart energy technologies, and other types of investments that will benefit the city and its future residents;

2. Council recognises that a carbon neutral city will create substantial, valuable new jobs in the future sustainable economy.
3. That the investment strategy and policies of the APF should rapidly be brought into line with this vision of the future inclusive prosperity and sustainability of the city and should not be bound by the 2015 Paris targets;
4. The council should actively call on APF to commit to move funds over the next five years from any holdings that are not seen to be ending fossil fuel exploration, production and processing
5. Bristol's participation in the C40 group of cities, where pension divestment is a headline commitment, mandates the City Council to take a regional lead on this issue;
6. The process of divestment and diversification is also important and should be managed in a way that ensures just transition to new employment, supporting skills development for new sectors and a range of opportunities - with backing from WECA.
7. Now is the time for action; the current strategy of 'engagement' with high emission companies, is not showing to be swift, or effective enough.
8. The council should work with staff to debate and explain the need for funds to support new investments meeting commitments to social and environmental justice, learning from the successful engagement of the Environment Agency Pension Fund, which is also part of the Brunel Pensions Partnership.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. To ask the Mayor and Councillor Pearce to ensure liaison with the head of the Avon Pension Fund to discuss the divestment of funds over the next 5 years and the review of the fund's ESG policies;
2. To support the promotion of investment in clean technologies that support renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart energy and energy storage among other investments that are in line with such policies, the City Leap agenda, and the city's goals for 2030;
3. Use its full influence and voice on the Avon Pension Fund committee, and its relationship with the representatives of the other authorities which are the core members of the fund (Bath and North East Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and North Somerset Council, plus WECA) to advocate urgently for divestment from all fossil fuel stocks in the existing pension fund over a three year period
4. To call on the Mayor and Cllr Peace to ensure liaison with fund members in the city and council unions about the case for changes to their pensions while ensuring a just transition for workers in sectors that will change, and how this helps achieve a carbon neutral city by 2030.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Fodor (Green Group)
Date of Submission: 28 October 2021

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 Proposer: Councillor Parsons (Green Group)

Motion Submitted: 28th October 2021

A Workplace Parking Levy for Bristol

Full Council notes

1. A Workplace Parking Levy (also referred to as Corporate Parking Levy) is a licensing scheme for active workplace car parking places. They vary in detail and can include various concessions (e.g. blue badge holders; smaller businesses; NHS facilities). These schemes reduce driving into the city centre and provide funds that can be reinvested in transport alternatives or improvements.
2. That the proposal for a Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) was initially discussed in Bristol ten years ago and we have fallen behind other cities in its implementation.
3. A scoping study produced for Bristol Council in 2011 estimated that a citywide workplace Parking Levy (with small businesses exempted) could generate a net revenue of around £11 million per year.
4. Following a budget amendment made by the Green Party in 2020, an appraisal report is now being developed. We further note that as it has yet to be published, it is unclear as to the detail of implementation. We understand that the report's findings are generally in favour of WPL.
5. The growing national base of evidence for WPL. Most notable is Nottingham which has been running its scheme since 2011 and now raises £9 million a year with a circa £400 WPL with minimal running costs
6. Support for exploring a WPL was noted in the Bristol Transport Strategy adopted in 2019.
7. There are several, evidenced benefits of WPLs, including:
 - Reduction in congestion and associated air quality improvements;
 - Investment in public and active transport;
 - Freeing up land - unlike a congestion charge, the WPL has an evidenced bonus effect of making more land available for other uses, such as green space or new residential buildings.
 - That any levy is easy to administer, keeping transactional costs to a minimum
 - They encourage private sector involvement and investment in the city
 - There is unlikely to be any additional pressure on on-street parking as the levy is on the space not the vehicle
8. Councillors will need to see the detail, but it is anticipated that the coming report will add to the positive national evidence base for the policy.

Full Council resolves to call on the administration to:

1. Share and make the appraisal report on WPL public when it is complete
2. Formally commit to a WPL scheme for Bristol (pending the report's findings)
3. To publish a timetabled delivery plan for a WPL scheme with the aim of going out to consultation by April 2022 with full implementation within two years of that date (compatible with the Local Transport Act 2000)
4. Approach Government to ensure as much match funding as possible
5. Work with WECA to see if a WPL can be developed in parallel in other neighbouring authorities

Motion proposed by: Councillor Wilcox (Green Group)

Date Submitted: 28th October 2021

Notes

- Bristol Transport Strategy -
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/3641895/Bristol+Transport+Strategy+-+adopted+2019.pdf/383a996e-2219-dbbb-dc75-3a270bfce26c>
- Information on Nottingham's Workplace Parking Levy:
 - o <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/wpl>
 - o <https://www.transportxtra.com/publications/parking-review/news/68005/the-workplace-parking-levy-nottingham-pioneers-the-way-ahead/>

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.

Proposed by Cllr Breckels (Labour Group)

Motion submitted 28th October 2021

