

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Full Council

7 December 2021 at 3.00 pm



Members Present:- Mayor Marvin Rees

Councillors: Mayor Marvin Rees, Amal Ali, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Kerry Bailes, Jenny Bartle, Nicola Beech, Marley Bennett, Mark Bradshaw, Fabian Breckels, Andrew Brown, Craig Cheney, Jos Clark, Sarah Classick, Amirah Cole, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Carla Denyer, Tony Dyer, Richard Eddy, Emma Edwards, Jude English, Lily Fitzgibbon, Tessa Fitzjohn, Martin Fodor, Lorraine Francis, John Geater, Helen Godwin, 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, Yassin Mohamud, Graham Morris, Barry Parsons, Steve Pearce, Ed Plowden, Guy Poultney, Kevin Quartley, Tom Renhard, Tim Rippington, 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 outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were heard from Councillor O'Rourke.

3 Declarations of Interest

None received.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes presented for approval were deferred to the next meeting.

5 Lord Mayor's Business



There was none.

6 Petitions Notified by Councillors

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Ref No	Name	Title	Number of signatures
CP01	Cllr Weston	Open up the Station Road Bus Lane	1000+
CP02	Cllr Poultney	Kingsdown Sports Centre – Save Our Sports Centre	671
CP03	Cllr Gollop	Parking on Coldharbour Road	62

7 Public Forum (Public Petitions, Statements and Questions)

Public Petitions:

There were two public petitions received which were referred to the Mayor for his consideration and response.

Ref No	Name	Title
PP01	Adblock Bristol	Screened Out: Time's up for the M32 billboards
PP02	Jackie Walkden	Put Pressure on Avon Pension Fund to divest

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	Andy Akerman	Scrap the Mayor
PS02	Robert Clarke	Mayor Referendum
PS03	Barry Cash	Bristol Energy
PS04	Melvin Gibbon	Scrap the Mayor
PS05	Josephine Robinson	Climate Emergency - Bristol First City in Europe To Endorse The Plant Based Treaty
PS06	Lin Dyer	Mayoral Referendum
PS07	Paul Readings	Scrap the Mayor
PS08	Paul Clements	Removal of the post of Mayor
PS09	Terry Wilson	Mayor removal
PS10	Gillian Shire	Bristol Mayor
PS11	Anne Nock	Referendum to abolish the position of Mayor
PS12	Colin Spring	Scrap The Mayor



PS13	Ken Davies	Abolition of the Bristol Mayor
PS14	Mick O'Neill-Duff	Supporting a motion to scrap the Mayor
PS15	Katherine Martin	Hold a Referendum on Having a Mayor
PS16	Diane Moore	Get Rid of the Post of Bristol Mayor
PS17	Anita Collins	Abolishing the position of Bristol Mayor
PS18	Trev Smith	Never wanted a Mayor
PS19	Colin Ricks	The Position of Bristol Mayor
PS20	Ron Gillard	Bristol Mayor
PS21	Margaret Ricks	Bristol Mayor
PS22	Michael Spencer	Post of elected mayor of Bristol
PS23	Geoff Farmer	Mayor Referendum
PS24	Nick Woon	Scrapping the mayor role
PS25	Helen Tavener	Supporting the Referendum to Abolish the Position of Mayor
PS26	Andy Hunt	Mayoral Referendum
PS27	Bob Nicholls	M32 digital hoardings
PS28	Teresa Mills	Referendum on Bristol Lord Major
PS29	Jenny James	Mayor
PS30	David Redgewell	Transport Services
PS31	Charlotte Gage	M32 digital advertising screens
PS32	Ian Pratt	Scrap the Mayor
PS33	Janet Grimes	Climate Emergency
PS34	David Elliott	Scrap Bristol Mayor
PS35	Michael Ward	Referendum to abolish Bristol Mayor
PS36	Mat and Deya Mukherjee	M32 screened out campaign
PS37	David Harper	planning consent review for Easton electronic billboards
PS38	Alexandra Geddis	Fossil Fuels Investment
PS39	Nicola Round	M32 digital billboards
PS40	James Durie	Governance of Bristol City Council
PS41	Polly Whight	Digital Advertising Screens in Easton
PS42	Matthew Alborough	Digital Advertising Boards in Easton
PS43	Lex Rigby	M32 Digital Billboards
PS44	Karen Watts	Scrap the Mayor in Bristol
PS45	Deya Mukherjee	M32 Screened Out
PS46	Paul Burke	The Redfield Cinema Proposal

Within the time available, statements PS03, PS05, PS30, PS31, PS33 and PS40 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	Carolyn Rogers/ Jill Tarlton	Climate Change, Floods and Sea Level rising
PQ02 & PQ03	Nigel Shipley	Bristol Citizen's Assembly Recommendations
PQ04	Susan Hackett	Historic Harbourside Waterways
PQ05	David Wiley	Closed stores in our High Streets
PQ06	Margaret Edwards	A Clean City
PQ07	David Wiley	Increasing number of flats in the City
PQ08	Matt Gibbs	Consistent RPZ approach in the Southville Ward
PQ09	Ami Pilkington	CAZ
PQ10	Jane Mowl	Caravan and Motorhome Club in Central Bristol
PQ11	Joe Wood	Obstructive and Dangerous Pavement Parking
PQ12	Valerie Harland	Western Harbour Development
PQ13	Dr Claire Gronow	Zero Carbon Transport
PQ14 & PQ15	Suzanne Audrey	Public Forum Questions Process
PQ16	Peter Hughes	Bristol One City Climate Strategy
PQ17 & PQ18	Rob Bryher	Citizen's Assembly
PQ19 & PQ20	Josephine Robinson	Plant-based Options
PQ21	Alison Allan	Fossil Fuel Exploitation
PQ22 & PQ23	Tom Bosqanet	St Luke's Pedestrian Crossing
PQ24 & PQ25	Jackie Walkden	Fossil Fuels
PQ26	John Tarlton (Bristol Tree Forum)	Protect greenfield sites from misleading brownfield classification
PQ27 & PQ28	David Redgewell, South West Transport Network	Train Service between Avonmouth and WSM, Consultation on the Supported Bus Network
PQ29	Anna Dent	Results of Windmill Hill traffic consultation and taking forward Liveable Neighbourhoods strategy
PQ30 & PQ31	Anita Bennett	St Christopher's School
PQ32	Anna Boulter/ Simon Hobeck	School Crossing Patrol for Hillcrest Primary School
PQ33	Geoff Collard	Disinvest from Fossil Fuels – Avon Pension Fund
PQ34	Friends of Jubilee Pool	Save Jubilee Pool
PQ35	Patrick McAllister	Pension Funds and Fossil Fuels

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ01, PQ02, PQ03 and PQ04 also responding to supplementary questions.

8 Petition Debate : Save Redfield Cinema



The Full Council considered a report of the Director – Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition ‘Save Redfield Cinema’. The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Petition organiser, Rachael Groom was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council debated the petition.

Following the debate it was:

RESOLVED:

That the petition and the comments from the debate be noted and referred to the mayor for response.

9 Statutory Review of Gambling Policy

The Full Council considered the report which presented the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2022.

Councillor Bennett, Chair of the Licensing Committee moved the report and the recommendations contained therein. Councillor Francis seconded the report.

There was no debate. Following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

That Full Council adopt the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2022.

10 Corporate Strategy 2022-2027

The Full Council considered the updated Corporate Strategy 2022-27.

Councillor Cheney moved the report which was seconded by Mayor Rees. Following debate it was:

RESOLVED that Full council approve the Corporate Strategy 2022-27 for implementation financial year 2022-23 onwards.

11 Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy

The Full Council considered the report which proposed the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy.



Councillor Cheney moved the report and the recommendations contained therein. Councillor Rippington seconded the report. .

Following debate it was:

NOTED:

- 1. The economic outlook and projections within the 5-year MTFP**
- 2. The Strategic planning approach**
- 3. The Reserve Policy**

APPROVED:

- 4. Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27**
- 5. Capital Strategy for the period 2022/23 to 2031/32**

12 Revised criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/women

The Full Council considered the report of the Audit Committee to revise the criteria governing the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/women.

The Lord Mayor moved the report and the recommendation contained therein. The report was seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor.

It was RESOLVED:

That Full Council considered and approved the revised criteria set out governing the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/women.

13 Audit Committee's half year report

The Full Council received a report of the Audit Committee which included the key areas the Committee would monitor to support further improvements.

Councillor Hopkins, Chair of the Audit Committee, introduced the report, then following debate it was:

RESOLVED:

That Council received the report of the Audit Committee and noted the key areas the Committee is monitoring to support improvements required in internal control, risk management and governance.

14 Treasury Management mid-year report 2021-2022

The Full Council considered a report which presented the Mid-Year Treasury Management report for 2021-2022.



Councillor Cheney moved the report and the recommendations contained therein.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Mid-Year Treasury Management Report for 2021-2022 be noted.

15 Motions

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

Motion 1 – Governance of Bristol City Council

Councillor Hartley moved the following motion:

Full Council notes that;

1. Council recognises that the people of Bristol in 2012 decided to adopt a mayoral model for Bristol City Council following a referendum.
2. That many of the promises of devolution of power and money made by Central Government have not materialised.
3. That the position of West of England Mayor has now been created, making many of the purported benefits of a Mayoral system for Bristol City Council redundant.
4. That the Mayoral system in Bristol has centralised executive power to the detriment of citizens' engagement in the decisions that affect their lives and reduced the accountability of the city's Governance.
5. Council notes that there is a significant public opinion that the Council should review its current mayoral system of governance.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

1. That the holding of a referendum on the Council's governance arrangements be approved and that the Council's Returning Officer be instructed to prepare to hold such a referendum at the earliest opportunity, on the first Thursday in May 2022.
2. That the referendum question be to determine whether to retain the mayoral model or change to a Committee system.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Poultney.

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



Following final remarks, upon being put to the vote, the original motion was CARRIED (41 For, 24 against, 2 absentions) and it was

RESOLVED:

Full Council notes that:

1. Council recognises that the people of Bristol in 2012 decided to adopt a mayoral model for Bristol City Council following a referendum.
2. That many of the promises of devolution of power and money made by Central Government have not materialised.
3. That the position of West of England Mayor has now been created, making many of the purported benefits of a Mayoral system for Bristol City Council redundant.
4. That the Mayoral system in Bristol has centralised executive power to the detriment of citizens' engagement in the decisions that affect their lives and reduced the accountability of the city's Governance.
5. Council notes that there is a significant public opinion that the Council should review its current mayoral system of governance.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

1. That the holding of a referendum on the Council's governance arrangements be approved and that the Council's Returning Officer be instructed to prepare to hold such a referendum at the earliest opportunity, on the first Thursday in May 2022.
2. That the referendum question be to determine whether to retain the mayoral model or change to a Committee system.

Motion 2 – National Disability Strategy and Social Care

Councillor Holland moved the following following motion:

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 a group of disabled people 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.
- It has, however, introduced a Social Care Cap, which limits lifetime personal contributions to the social care system; this cap does not include means-tested council support payments.
- Anyone with assets below £186k that hits the cap due to high care needs will end up paying more, whilst anyone with assets above £186k will be unaffected
- As a result, poorer areas, which rely on Council support towards social care costs to a greater extent, will lose a three times larger share of their housing wealth to pay for social care, as compared to affluent areas.

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.
- The social care cap is, in effect, a tax on working people and needs to be replaced with a more equitable, progressive system than ensures nobody will be left needing to sell their home to pay for social care.

This Council resolves:

- To call on Party Group Leaders to issue public statements stating that Bristol City Council does not believe that both the National Disability Strategy and the Social Care Cap 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 call on Party Group Leaders to write public letters to the Government, calling on it to scrap the Social Care Cap and replace it with a system that will not lead to working people having to sell their house to pay for social care – as the 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto promised.

Councillor Ali seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the altered motion was CARRIED (54 Members voting for, 11 against) it was

RESOLVED:

This 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 a group of disabled people 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.
- It has, however, introduced a Social Care Cap, which limits lifetime personal contributions to the social care system; this cap does not include means-tested council support payments.
- Anyone with assets below £186k that hits the cap due to high care needs will end up paying more, whilst anyone with assets above £186k will be unaffected
- As a result, poorer areas, which rely on Council support towards social care costs to a greater extent, will lose a three times larger share of their housing wealth to pay for social care, as compared to affluent areas.

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.
- The social care cap is, in effect, a tax on working people and needs to be replaced with a more equitable, progressive system than ensures nobody will be left needing to sell their home to pay for social care.

This Council resolves:

- To call on Party Group Leaders to issue public statements stating that Bristol City Council does not believe that both the National Disability Strategy and the Social Care Cap 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 call on Party Group Leaders to write public letters to the Government, calling on it to scrap the Social Care Cap and replace it with a system that will not lead to working people having to sell their house to pay for social care – as the 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto promised.



Meeting ended at 6.15 pm

CHAIR _____

