

MOTIONS RECEIVED FOR 11 MARCH FULL COUNCIL

GOLDEN MOTION (LABOUR PARTY): FOUR WEEKLY BIN COLLECTIONS AND CRACKING DOWN ON FLY-TIPPING

This council notes:

1. 84% of people think street litter is a problem locally – this increases to 94% of people living in areas of deprivation.¹
2. Fly-tipping is one of the most commonplace issues residents raise with their local councillors.
3. Fly-tipping causes environmental damage including contaminating ecosystems, polluting waterways, and harming wildlife.
4. Fly-tipping is a public health issue with hazardous substances and objects posing injury and health risks and decomposing waste attracting pests.
5. The fines for fly-tipping were increased to the legal maximum and enforcement cameras were installed at fly-tipping hotspots by the Labour administration. However, more needs to be done.
6. The introduction of measures such as increased fines will act as a significant deterrent.
7. The Green-led administration's consultation on waste collection closes on 10 March, which includes options for three or four weekly black bin collections.
8. Bristol City Council received an additional £7.467m this year through Extended Producer Responsibility Allowance.
9. Despite this additional funding, the Green led Council's budget for 2025/26, includes a £500k annual recurring revenue saving in 2025/26 and a further £500k recurring annual revenue saving in 2026/27 by making changes to 'non-recyclable waste collection'.
10. At the time of submission, over 11,000 people have signed a petition against moving to four-weekly black bin collections, reflecting the strength of feeling across the city.

This council believes:

1. The council needs to put residents' priorities first. Cracking down on fly-tipping is a priority for residents across Bristol, particularly those in deprived communities.
2. The council should take a zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping.
3. Fly-tipping is one of the most common complaints from residents, the council clearly needs to do more to tackle fly-tipping, both through deterrence and through prompt removal.
4. Considering the additional £7.467m, Bristol City Council is set to receive through the Extended Producer Responsibility Allowance, waste services should continue to be invested in.
5. Improving recycling rates needs to happen without 'putting the cart before the horse'. Soft plastic recycling, exploring mixed recycling, nappy recycling, larger recycling bins, are all ways this can be achieved.
6. Petitions are a valid way for residents to raise concerns about issues, and should not be dismissed out of hand.
7. That proceeding with budget cuts to "non-recyclable waste collection" whilst a consultation is live on waste and recycling, could be viewed as pre-determining the outcome.

Full Council resolves to endorse and refer the following points to the Environment and Sustainability Committee:

1. Continue to invest General Fund Capital Funding, into more enforcement cameras to deter fly-tipping in known hotspots.
2. Investigate ways to improve reporting processes for fly-tipping.

¹ Quality of Life Survey, 2024.

1. Review the operations centre for the monitoring of such cameras.
2. Extend the guarantee of fly-tipping removal on public land to council-owned land, such as that owned by the Housing Revenue Account, and unadopted land.
3. Aim to change the 72 hours guarantee for fly-tipping removal to 48 hours within a year of passing this motion, and report back on progress as necessary.
4. Look to provide a discount for bulky waste collection fee for those in receipt of Pension Credit, Universal Credit, Local Housing Allowance, Council Tax Reduction, or the mobility higher rate for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independent Payment (PIP).
5. Look to provide local community groups with a skip once a year, where people can take non-recyclable waste of which they are unable to dispose.
6. Rule out the move to four-weekly black bin collections and explore other measures to improve recycling rates across the city.

SILVER MOTION (LIBERAL DEMOCRATS) YOUNG CARERS DAY

Full Council notes that:

1. Carers Trust estimate that there are at least one million young carers aged 17 and under in the UK and over 600,000 young adult carers between the ages of 18 and 25.
2. In Bristol, 493 young carers are formally identified by the Department for Education, but the true number of young carers in our city is likely to be far higher.
3. Young carers miss an average of 23 school days per year and young adult carers are four times more likely to drop out of college or university.
4. Caring responsibilities can affect young carers' readiness to engage fully in school life, adding barriers to punctuality, their capacity to complete homework, and their ability to focus and participate effectively in lessons.

Therefore, to mark Young Carers Action Day on 12 March 2025, Full Council recommends that the Children and Young People Committee considers:

1. Signing up to the Young Carers Covenant, published by Carers Trust in March 2024.
2. Working alongside all schools and colleges to deliver Young Carer Awareness Training for staff so that they can recognise and address the challenges faced by young carers.
3. Encouraging schools and colleges to provide guidance, assembly plans, and awareness-raising materials about young carers.
4. Forming a young carers' support system to provide a relief for young carers.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Andrew Brown

First submitted: 27th February 2025

FUTURE MODEL OF BRISTOL'S WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES

“This Council acknowledges the many challenges facing the city in managing its waste management systems. These include a combination of growing demand, rising costs, and changes in Government regulations which will require increases in recycling rates and types, as well as complying with a new carbon tax on fossil-based materials.

Council also notes that the Waste & Recycling Collection public consultation does not – at this stage - commit the Authority to either of two potential options for reform currently under consideration. However, it is concerning that only limited choices are presented which will presumably form the basis of a final decision.

The controversial idea set out in this engagement exercise whereby household non-recyclable waste collections could be reduced to once every three or four weeks has caused widespread opposition. Bristol Waste Company is already the subject of much criticism over its patchy performance standards. This enterprise also faces serious challenges in meeting a huge £800k increase in its wages bill as a direct result of the Labour Chancellor's changes to Employer National Insurance contributions.

The Leader of the Green-led Administration and the Chairman of the Environment & Sustainability Committee need to accept that any reasonable changes to this universal and essential function must be endorsed by a majority of Bristol residents. Council wishes to place on record its own opposition to any cut in refuse collections and seeks an assurance that following the formal review process, finalised recommendations on the future of our waste services will NOT include cuts to the frequency of black bin rounds and rotas.”

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Mark Weston

Date of Submission: 25.02.25

REGULATOR FOR SOCIAL HOUSING REPORT

“This Council notes with concern the recent serious report of the Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) which gave the Authority an “improvement recommended” Consumer C3 classification for housing services.

The Government watchdog rating reflects serious failings around electrical and fire safety certification, the completion of timely repairs, outstanding cases of damp and mould cases, and inadequate quality standards for a major property landlord.

Council is conscious of the fact that these damaging reputational findings precede the publication of the final stage of the Grenfell Inquiry, with its critical recommendations to improve fire safety for high-risk buildings.

Council welcomes the fact that the Leader of Council and the Administration has responded appropriately and in an urgent manner to the grave deficiencies revealed in Bristol City Council’s housing stock and apologised to our tenants on behalf of those proceeding Council Administrations under which standards were not upheld, pledging to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

Furthermore, Council recognises the importance attached to the remedial work necessary by the establishment of the Housing & Consumer Standards Project Board, the risk-led approach adopted by the Project Programme, and the fact that both the ‘PCCB’ Weekly Meetings of key relevant councillors, and officers, and the Homes & Housing Delivery Policy Committee, scrutinise and comment on the Housing Consumer Standards Programme on a regular basis.

Whilst Council appreciates the importance of this Local Authority taking a lead in addressing the city’s Housing Crisis, it deplores the fact that the previous Administration’s obsession with pursuing headlines on the figures for Housing Delivery contributed to the appalling situation revealed by the Social Housing Regulator’s recent damning judgement on the condition of Bristol’s Social Housing stock.”

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Richard Eddy

Date of resubmission: 25.02.25

CLOSURE OF PARK STREET TO TRAFFIC TRADE

“This Council is perplexed by the recently revealed plan to exclude most vehicles from accessing one of the city’s most important and historic shopping destinations - Park Street.

The idea of installing a 24-hour bus gate at the top end (by Park Row) and a designated bus lane at the bottom (running up from the Centre), has been included as part of a major project to upgrade the No.2 Bus Route (A37/A4018 corridor) and create more space for pedestrians, cyclists and other wheeled users.

However, critics of this move to remove through traffic from one of our most iconic shopping destinations point out that this will have a disastrous effect on the businesses located there.

The previous “Have Your Say” public consultation on these improvements, which was conducted in from 29th November 2021 until 28th January 2022, revealed a huge amount of opposition to these transport changes. Many traders have now threatened to simply close down if the scheme in its current form is allowed to go ahead.

In light of the Green-led Administration’s promise to listen and conduct consultations differently from the past, treat the public’s views with respect, and adapt policies accordingly, Council requests the Transport and Connectivity Committee considers scrapping this bus gate proposal. Furthermore, the Authority needs to re-engage with the business community to work on alternative design options which do not actually pose a risk to their economic viability.”

Motion to be moved by: Cllr John Goulandris

Date of resubmission: 26.02.25

INCREASE TO EMPLOYER'S NI CONTRIBUTIONS

Full Council notes that:

1. The Government, as part of the Autumn Budget 2024, announced changes to employer's National Insurance (NI) contributions to be introduced in April 2025. These changes include increasing employer's NI contributions by 1.2% and reducing the secondary threshold to £5,000.
2. The Government's increase has resulted in an estimated additional pressure of £6.6m to the Council's 25/26 budget.
3. Whilst the Council will receive some protection funding from the Government to offset the additional pressure, it will not cover the full cost of the increase to the Council. Following the latest government advice, the budget assumes that the Council will receive £4.15m in protection funding.
4. Taking into account the protection funding, the Council will still have an additional £2.45m pressure as a direct result of the Government's increase and decision not to fully compensate local authorities for the subsequent costs.
5. Additionally, the £6.6m pressure only represents the impact of the increase on staff directly employed by the Council. It does not account for the impact of the change incurred by contractors or precepting bodies. This means that the true cost to the Council of the Government's changes to employer's NI contributions is even greater.

Full Council further notes that:

1. In the recent setting of the Council's budget for the forthcoming year, a £52m black hole in the Council's finances had to be found.

Full Council believes that:

2. Local authorities across the country are already under significant financial strain due to years of Conservative Government underfunding, increased demand for key services, and rising costs.
3. The Labour Government is jeopardising front-line public services across the country by failing to fully compensate local authorities for their increases to employer's NI contributions. This only exacerbates the existing funding crisis and further strains key local services.
4. Public services, including those delivered by local authorities, should be insulated from Labour's increases to employer's NI contributions.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, outlining the deep concerns that this Council has about these changes to employer's NI contributions and to implore the Government to provide full compensation to local authorities for the directly incurred costs, and for the increase in indirect costs to be reflected in future settlements.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Jos Clark

First submitted: 27th February 2025

AN EU YOUTH MOBILITY SCHEME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Full Council notes that:

1. The Brexit deal, as negotiated by the previous Government, erected significant barriers to young people by removing their right to move, live and work across EU countries.
2. The UK's current Youth Mobility Scheme, which allows young people to live and work in partner countries for a specified duration on a reciprocal basis, is in place with several non-EU countries including Australia and Japan.
3. In April 2024, the European Commission proposed a youth mobility scheme between the UK and the EU, which was rejected by the previous Government and has not been taken up by the new Government.
4. Red tape at the UK-EU border has prevented children from taking part in overseas educational trips which, according to the School Travel Forum, has resulted in a 30% reduction in overseas educational visits between 2019 and 2023.
5. The UK has not returned to the Erasmus Plus programme, even though between 2007 and 2013 the UK received over £500m more in funding from the EU for education and training than it put in.

Full Council believes that:

1. Young people should face fewer barriers to travel, live and work in Europe.
2. The UK must work to fix its broken relationship with Europe.
3. The new Government's changed approach to relations with the EU is a step in the right direction, but that more must be done to regain the rights and benefits British people lost from Brexit.

Full Council resolves to request that the Leader of the Council write to the Prime Minister expressing the Council's calls for:

1. The UK Government to open negotiations with the EU to extend the Youth Mobility Scheme, on a reciprocal basis, to EU countries.
2. The expansion of opportunities for young people to study, teach and volunteer abroad by returning to the Erasmus Plus programme as an associated country.
3. Passport- and visa-free school trips between UK and EU member states on a reciprocal basis to be negotiated.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Sarah Classick

Resubmitted: 27th February 2025

TAXI LICENCING

Full Council notes:

1. Taxis and private hire vehicles are licenced by local authorities. However, licensee applicants need not live nor operate in the area where they are registered.
2. The lack of geographical requirements and varying performance of local authority licencing departments often results in out-of-area working by taxis and private hire vehicles.
3. Taxi and private hire vehicle operators working out-of-area creates issues for local authorities, as their policies and regulations will not apply to operators licenced elsewhere working in their area.
4. In the English Devolution White Paper, the Government indicated that the proposal to move responsibility for taxi and private hire vehicle licencing from local authorities to local transport bodies (i.e. Combined Authorities) would go to consultation.

Full Council believes:

1. It is in the best interests and safety of residents that local authorities have more oversight of the taxis and private hire vehicles operating in their own area, in order to ensure that decisions made by local licencing bodies are in effect.
2. The flexibility for taxi and private hire vehicle operators to choose where to work should be balanced with the desire for local authorities to regulate their local markets.
3. Responsibility for taxi and private hire vehicle licencing is best kept with local authorities, as they are best placed to reflect local needs as the lowest level of decision-making, instead of moving it to local transport bodies, which are best for regional strategic planning and infrastructure.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Call on the Government to legislate for taxi and private hire vehicle licensees to be required to reside within the local authority area where they are applying.
2. Call on the Government to crackdown on licensees habitually operating outside of the local authority areas with which they are licenced.
3. Continue working with neighbouring local authorities and to deepen those relationships to ensure a more consistent approach to taxi and private hire vehicle licencing across the region.
4. Oppose the proposal to move responsibility for taxi and private hire vehicle licencing to local transport bodies in the upcoming Government consultation.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Sarah Classick

Resubmitted: 27th February 2025

RECOGNISING ISLAMOPHOBIA AS A DEFINED TERM AND URGING GOVERNMENT ACTION

This Council Notes That:

1. Islamophobia is a form of prejudice that targets expressions of Muslim identity or perceived Muslim identity.
2. The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims defines Islamophobia as: *“Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”*
3. Reports from organisations such as Tell MAMA show that incidents of Islamophobia are consistently among the most reported hate crimes in the UK, with a worrying increase in both online and physical attacks.
4. The absence of a formal, government-backed definition of Islamophobia hampers efforts to tackle it effectively, leaving victims without adequate protection and undermining attempts to hold perpetrators to account.
5. Many faith groups, equality organisations, and local councils have already adopted the APPG definition, but the Government has yet to do so.

This Council Believes That:

1. Recognising and addressing Islamophobia is vital to promoting equality, fostering social cohesion, and ensuring the safety and dignity of Muslim communities.
2. A formal, nationally recognised definition of Islamophobia, such as the one proposed by the APPG, is urgently needed to provide consistency and clarity in addressing this growing issue.
3. Without a clear definition, the ability to monitor, report, and combat Islamophobia will remain fragmented and inadequate.

This Council Resolves To:

1. Formally adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia and commit to using it to guide our policies and practices.
2. Engage with local Muslim communities to better understand the impact of Islamophobia and work collaboratively to address it.
3. Call on the UK Government to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia as a formal, legal term to enable consistent and effective action across all sectors.
4. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Home Secretary, and local MPs to highlight this Council’s position and urge the Government to act.
5. Support awareness campaigns, training, and community initiatives to tackle Islamophobia, including equipping schools, local authorities, and police forces to recognise and respond effectively to Islamophobic incidents.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Abdul Malik

Date Submitted: 27th February 2025

TACKLING THE GROWING KNIFE CRIME AND VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC IN BRISTOL AND CALLING FOR NATIONAL SUPPORT

Bristol City Council Notes:

1. **Rising Crime Rates:** Since this council passed a motion on tackling knife crime and the causes of knife crime in March 2023, crime statistics in Bristol have become increasingly alarming. In 2023, Bristol was identified as the most dangerous major city in the region, with an overall crime rate of 119 crimes per 1,000 people. This represents a 3.9% increase compared to the previous rate of 114 crimes per 1,000 people.
2. **Spike in Violent and Sexual Offences:** Violence and sexual offences continue to be the most prevalent crimes in Bristol, with 19,646 reported offences in 2023, marking a 2.4% increase from the 19,181 offences recorded in 2022. The crime rate for such offences rose from 42 to 43 per 1,000 people during this period.
3. **Anti-Social Behaviour and Burglary:** In January 2024, Bristol recorded the highest crime rates for anti-social behaviour in the region, with 687 reported cases and a crime rate of 1.5 per 1,000 people. The city also faced a surge in burglaries, with 240 cases reported, resulting in a rate of 0.53 per 1,000 people.
4. **Possession of Weapons:** The possession of weapons remains a significant concern, with 405 offences recorded in 2023, reflecting a sharp 25% increase from the 324 offences reported in 2022. These trends underscore the urgent need for enhanced policing, intervention strategies, and community engagement.
5. **Root Causes of Knife Crime:** The root causes of knife crime continue to be multifaceted, driven by factors such as poverty, economic hardship, social exclusion, and lack of adequate support services. The rise in school exclusions, social media influence, and diminished youth services have compounded the risks faced by vulnerable young people, leading to increased crime rates.

Bristol City Council Believes:

1. **Need for National Support:** While the Council and its partners have implemented numerous initiatives to tackle knife crime, including the Safer Options Hub and education-based interventions, local resources alone are insufficient to address the scale of the problem. National support is urgently needed to tackle the crisis from its roots and protect our communities.
2. **Impact on BAME & Deprive Communities:** Knife crime disproportionately affects Bristol's BAME & the Deprive communities, exacerbating existing inequalities and further marginalizing those already at risk.
3. **Urgency for Increased Policing and Youth Services:** To counter the rising crime rates, there is a clear and immediate need for increased funding to recruit more police officers, especially those who can engage directly with communities and work in partnership with local initiatives. Additionally, investing in youth clubs and outreach programs is essential to providing safe spaces and positive alternatives for young people.

Bristol City Council Resolves To:

Ask the Leader of the Council, Party Group Leaders, and the relevant Policy Committee Chairs to write to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and relevant ministers in Westminster, calling on them to:

1. Provide increased funding for policing in Bristol, specifically calling for more resources to recruit additional police officers to be deployed on the ground and in community settings, where they can engage with vulnerable individuals and deter criminal activity.
2. Invest in youth services across Bristol, ensuring that young people have access to safe, supportive environments where they can develop positive relationships and build resilience against crime. Funding should prioritize areas most affected by youth violence and social deprivation.
3. Publicly advocate for a comprehensive national strategy to tackle the root causes of knife crime, focusing on social inequality, educational disparities, and economic exclusion. This strategy should be backed by sustained investment in preventative measures, including mental health services, family support, and educational inclusion programs.
4. Strengthen Local Policing Partnerships: Collaborate with Avon and Somerset Police to enhance community policing initiatives, ensuring that officers are visible, accessible, and responsive in areas identified as crime hotspots.
5. Monitor and Report Progress: Request that the Council Leader and relevant Leads Committee members report back to Full Council in six months on the progress of these actions and any responses received from the government.
6. Encourage Cross-Party Support: Seek cross-party collaboration on this motion, recognizing that tackling knife crime and violence is a shared responsibility that transcends political lines.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Mohamed Makawi

Date Submitted: 27th February 2025

STANDING UNITED AGAINST RACISM AND ALL FORMS OF HATE CRIMES

Bristol City Council notes:

1. **The Rising Threat of Racism and Hate Crimes:** Hate crimes and racism are on the rise across the UK, undermining social cohesion and inflicting harm on individuals and communities. This resurgence poses a significant threat to the values of inclusivity, respect, and unity that Bristol upholds as a diverse and welcoming city.
2. **The Personal and Community Impact:** As a city of sanctuary, Bristol has a proud history of welcoming people from all backgrounds, offering safety and a chance for a better life. However, the rise in racism and hate crimes not only targets specific individuals but also erodes the sense of safety, belonging, and trust within the wider community. These incidents are a betrayal of the compassion and solidarity that define Bristol.
3. **The Need for Immediate and Collective Action:** Combating racism and hate crimes is a shared responsibility that requires the active participation of the entire community. It is essential that we take a united stance to reject all forms of hate and to protect the rights, dignity, and safety of everyone who calls Bristol home.

Bristol City Council believes:

1. **Bristol's Role as a City of Sanctuary:** Bristol's identity as a city of sanctuary is central to its character. It is a place where people from diverse backgrounds live, work, and contribute to the richness of our community. However, recent events have shown that this inclusivity is increasingly being challenged by those who promote hate, division, and intolerance.
2. **The Disproportionate Impact on BAME Communities:** Hate crimes, including those motivated by racism and xenophobia, disproportionately affect Bristol's BAME communities, deepening existing inequalities and exacerbating feelings of fear and exclusion. This impact is felt acutely by those who have sought refuge in Bristol, escaping persecution and violence in their home countries.
3. **The Power of Solidarity and Education:** Unity and education are vital tools in the fight against hate crimes. By fostering understanding, empathy, and respect, we can challenge prejudices and build stronger, more resilient communities. Local leaders, schools, and community organizations have a crucial role in promoting these values and supporting victims of hate.

Bristol City Council Resolves To:

1. **Condemn All Forms of Racism and Hate Crimes:** Publicly reaffirm Bristol's commitment to opposing all forms of racism, xenophobia, and hate crimes. The Council will continue to advocate for an inclusive, respectful, and safe environment for all residents, regardless of their background.
2. **Write to National Leaders:** Send a letter to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and relevant ministers in Westminster, urging them to strengthen national measures to tackle racism and hate crimes. The Council will specifically request increased funding and resources for community-led initiatives, educational programs, and victim support services.
3. **Support Local Community Initiatives:** Work closely with local community groups, faith organizations, and schools to deliver programs that promote diversity, challenge prejudices, and provide safe spaces for dialogue. The Council will prioritize funding for initiatives that

bring people together across cultural, religious, and ethnic divides.

4. **Enhance Reporting and Support Mechanisms:** Collaborate with Avon and Somerset Police to improve the reporting and response to hate crimes. This includes ensuring that victims feel safe and supported when reporting incidents and that robust measures are in place to hold perpetrators accountable.
5. **Promote Anti-Racism Education:** Partner with local schools and educational institutions to embed anti-racism education within the curriculum. By educating young people about the dangers of racism and the value of diversity, we can build a future generation that stands firm against hate.
6. **Request a Progress Report:** Request that the Leader of the council and relevant Lead committees' members report back to Full Council in six months on the progress of these actions and any responses received from the government.

Motion to be moved by: Councillor Mohamed Makawi

Date Submitted: 27th February 2025

FULL COUNCIL MOTION: PAVEMENT PARKING

Full Council notes:

- The UK Government consultation “Pavement parking: options for change” concluded in 2020 with no resulting policy change at the national level.
- The current UK Government has not brought forth policy to give local authorities a clear indication on how they can take effective action to reduce pavement parking.
- Bristol City Council’s kerbside and parking task and finish group must take account of national policies in its work.

Full Council believes that:

- There is a risk that Bristol constructs a pavement parking policy that contradicts or is negated by any forthcoming UK government policy in this area.
- Pavement parking causes inclusion, accessibility and road safety problems for wheelchair and buggy/pram users.
- There should be a more effective strategy for tackling pavement parking than the current arrangements.

Full Council resolves to:

- Call on the Council Leader and Chair of the Transport and Connectivity Policy Committee to jointly write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask for an urgent update to national guidance on pavement parking to give local authorities clarity to move forward.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Rob Bryher

Date submitted: 27th February 2025

RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY SKILLS AND READING

1. Council notes:

- that half of all adults in the UK don't read regularly and 1 in 6 struggle to read at all ^{1,2}
- that 1 in 4 readers say reading helps them to feel connected to other people ^{1,2}
- 1 in 4 children in England cannot read well by the age of 11 ³
- That there is huge inequality in the city in terms of education:-
 - there are just 1 in 40 of people without any qualification in Clifton Down compared to 1 in 3 in Hartcliffe and Withywood ⁴
 - typically 90% will pass English and Maths GCSE's in a local private school, whereas in a state secondary in South Bristol, the equivalent is around 20%
 - young people's progression on to higher education ranges from 8.7% in Hartcliffe to to 72.4% in Redland.
- That illiteracy leads to poor outcomes for young people and there is a net cost to society that results:-
 - 70% of pupils permanently excluded from school have difficulties with basic literacy ³
 - 25% of young offenders have reading skills below that of the average seven-year old ³
 - poor literacy skills cost the UK economy £81 billion every year ⁹
- that community libraries are an important part of infrastructure and that-
 - a third of the nation are library members ²
 - the branch library network is a free, affordable, warm, and safe space where people can access knowledge
 - the previous Labour administration kept all our libraries open
- that school libraries can have a positive and long-term impact for children, noting that:-
 - there was a significant reduction in on-site secondary school library provision during the time of the last government, reducing from 96% in 2019 to 86% in 2023 ¹⁰
 - 1 in 7 state primary school in the UK do not have a dedicated library or reading space, this rises to 1 in 4 in deprived communities ⁶
 - for the 1 in 11 children growing up without books at home, school is often the first opportunity for children to discover the magic of reading ⁶
 - Children who are the most engaged with literacy are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental wellbeing than children who are the least engaged ⁵

- the inability to read is linked to bad outcomes for young people

2. Council believes that:

- that more needs to be done to improve literacy rates in the city
- that our community and school libraries provide an important service
- the ability to read and write is a factor in improving outcomes for disadvantaged people in the city
- lacking vital literacy skills holds a person back at every stage of their life. As a child they won't be able to succeed at school, as a young adult they will be locked out of the job market, and as a parent they won't be able to support their own child's learning. This intergenerational cycle makes social mobility and a fairer society more difficult
- that improved literacy rates should be an integral part of any multi-disciplinary approach to tackling violent crime.

3. Full Council resolves to endorse and refer the following points to the Children and Young People Committee:

- report literacy rates in its state schools at key stages 1, 2 and 3
- set a target for improved literacy in the city and create an action plan to achieve it
- support third sector organisations based in the city who have improved reading for young people as part of their aim
- to do all it can to keep our libraries open and to encourage more young people to use our libraries, e.g. by holding story time sessions
- ensure our school libraries are adequately resourced and stocked
- to have a strategy for improving the ability to speak English amongst those for whom English is a second language
- show support for World Book Day (6th March) and International Literacy Day (September 8th)

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Kaz Self

Date submitted: 27th February 2025

1. [Adult Reading Research Report | The Reading Agency](#)
2. [State-of-the-Nations-Adult-Reading_2024-Overview-Report_FINAL.pdf](#)
3. [Literacy Matters - Ablaze Bristol](#)
4. [Bristol ward statistical profiles](#)
5. [School libraries association](#)
6. [Librariesforprimaries.org.uk](#)
7. [Policy and campaigning | National Literacy Trust](#)
8. [Census 2021](#)
9. ['The Economic and Social Cost of Illiteracy...' \(Sept 2023\) - World Literacy Foundation](#)

10. Great School Libraries 'Equal Futures' report (March 2023)

RENT CONTROLS TO PROTECT BRISTOL RENTERS

Full Council notes that:

1. Bristol is experiencing a housing crisis, with nearly 22,000 households on the HomeChoice waiting list. In 2024, just under 2,000 households were assigned temporary accommodation (costing the council over £11 million annually), while over 800 people were sleeping rough.
2. Private rents in Bristol have risen dramatically. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the average rent in Bristol was £1,082 in 2015. As of August 2024, this has risen by 69.2% to £1,763—far beyond what many residents can afford.
3. The Section 21 eviction ban, set to be enacted under Labour’s Renters’ Rights Bill this summer, is a historic victory for tenants. However, without additional protections, landlords may respond by raising rents to price tenants out, effectively bypassing the ban.
4. Current legal limits on rent increases are linked to ‘market value’, which is set by landlords in an undersupplied market, making it impossible for tenants to negotiate fair rents or use their free- market right to go elsewhere.
5. The budget passed at Full Council on 25/02/2025 means that the Combe House, Sea Mills, Latimer Close, Freshways, and Lanercost schemes will no longer remain in the council’s housing pipeline and will instead be sold off to Housing Associations. This reduces opportunities for genuinely affordable housing, further worsening the crisis.
6. Vulnerable residents—including people fleeing domestic abuse, families from disadvantaged backgrounds, older residents, and disabled residents—face the highest risks of being unable to compete in the employment sector. These groups are among the least likely to afford private rents and are therefore disproportionately at risk of homelessness, placement in temporary accommodation, or being forced into unsuitable HMOs.
7. The rapid expansion of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Bristol has led to family homes being converted into higher-yield properties, reducing options for families and contributing to the affordability crisis.
8. Other cities, including Berlin, San Francisco, and Stockholm, have attempted rent controls but faced challenges due to loopholes, lack of enforcement, and failure to address housing supply. However, by learning from these cases, Bristol can implement stronger, more effective rent controls that avoid these pitfalls.
9. Under DM2 and BCS18 policies, the current acceptable threshold for HMOs on any street is 10% to prevent negative impacts on local amenity and community cohesion. However, there are loopholes that allow higher concentrations, leading to a high number of councillor casework complaints regarding bin provision, litter, and parking. This suggests that the current threshold may already be harming local communities.

Full Council believes that:

1. If council housing schemes are not going to be pursued, the only way to stabilise rents and protect tenants is to cap rent increases in line with inflation.

2. Rent controls must be paired with strong oversight and enforcement. This can be achieved by using the existing framework for challenging Section 13 rent increases, ensuring that tenants have a legal pathway to dispute unlawful hikes.
3. Local rent controls will protect residents without discouraging new housing development, as landlords will still be able to raise rents in line with inflation to cover rising costs.
4. Implementing rent caps at the city level will help prevent a surge in evictions as a result of the Section 21 ban, ensuring tenants are not forced into homelessness due to uncontrolled rent hikes.
5. Unregulated HMOs are worsening the housing crisis by reducing the availability of family homes while driving up rents. Greater restrictions on HMOs are needed to preserve housing for families and vulnerable residents.

Full Council resolves to endorse and refer the following points to the Homes and Housing Committee:

1. Introduce a citywide policy capping private sector rent increases in line with inflation, ensuring tenants are protected from excessive rent hikes while allowing landlords to adjust for rising costs.
2. Integrate a formal mechanism for tenants to challenge rent increases above the inflation rate, using the pre-existing Section 13 framework to provide an accessible legal route for renters.
3. Develop a digital rent registry, requiring landlords to register rental prices annually, ensuring transparency and preventing unlawful rent increases.
4. Conduct a public awareness campaign to inform tenants of their rights under the new rent cap system.
5. Implement stricter regulations on HMOs, including:
 - a. Continuing the commitment to grant dedicated student accommodation through the Development Committees, ensuring student housing demand does not further distort the private rental market.
 - b. Conducting a consultation on DM2 & BCS18 policies to assess whether the current 10% HMO threshold is negatively impacting local amenity and cohesion.
 - c. If the consultation finds that high HMO concentrations are causing harm, officers should produce a report recommending a lower threshold that still meets Bristol's need for short-term single-occupancy homes.
 - d. Strengthening enforcement measures to prevent unlicensed HMOs from operating, ensuring landlords comply with planning and licensing regulations.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Zoe Peat
Date submitted: 27th February 2025