

Committee Model Review Group

Thursday 24th April 2025

Agenda item - Public Forum



Statements

Ref No	Name
PS01	Dan Ackroyd
PS02	Councillor Patrick McAllister



PS01 Statement

Submitted by: Dan Ackroyd

For the record, I understand that Cllrs receive a huge amount of abuse, and that there probably are many questions, statements or other submissions which need to be filtered, and are unpleasant to handle. That is not the type of questions or statements that myself and others are concerned at being blocked. The items that I'm concerned at being blocked are things that belong in a public conversation and their being blocked is an abuse of power.

I seem to have failed in explaining that to the councillors on this committee. I understand that all councillors are overwhelmed by their workload, and don't have any spare bandwidth to deal with systemic problems. That problem affects most committees, as I get a very real sense that most councillors just do not understand what the committees they belong to are doing, and it is only the chairs and maybe vice-chairs that have a reasonably clear view of what is going on in the council in the domain of the committee.

Greens, merely 'working hard' isn't enough to get people to think you're doing a good job. You're the largest party in the council, so you're going to be seen as responsible for problems, even if it's not your fault that they're happening. People expected change after the election. And I really expected a chair of a committee to make sure people get answers to their questions. But I'm still waiting for that answer from December, that I resubmitted as a question last month.

PS02 Statement

Submitted by: Councillor Patrick McAllister

As Vice-Chair of the Harbour Committee and councillor for a harbour ward, I would like to express my support for giving the Harbour Committee decision-making powers.

The Harbour is ringfenced within Bristol City Council and has a distinct set of priorities and obligations compared with the wider Council. It is conceivable that these might conflict - for instance the Harbour's need to get a return from its land versus the Council's desire to use that land for housebuilding. It is therefore necessary that the Harbour Committee can make its own decisions to enable it to fully stand up for its own priorities.

Additionally, keeping Harbour decision-making with the Committee most familiar with its operation can only improve the quality and speed of governance.

These changes would result in stronger long-term decision-making and planning, to the benefit of the Harbour and the better fulfilment of its statutory duties.

