

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Full Council

18 July 2017 at 6.00 pm



Present:

Lesley Alexander, Lord Mayor; Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol

Councillors: Peter Abraham, Donald Alexander, Nicola Beech, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Harriet Bradley, Mark Brain, Charlie Bolton, Fabian Breckels, Tom Brook, Clare Champion-Smith, Tony Carey, Craig Cheney, Jos Clark, Stephen Clarke, Harriet Clough, Eleanor Combley, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Mike Davies, Carla Denyer, Kye Dudd, Richard Eddy, Jude English, Martin Fodor, Helen Godwin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Fi Hance, Claire Hiscott, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Chris Jackson, Carole Johnson, Anna Keen, Tim Kent, Sultan Khan, Gill Kirk, Cleo Lake, Mike Langley, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Matt Melias, Graham Morris, Anthony Negus, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Celia Phipps, Ruth Pickersgill, Kevin Quartley, Liz Radford, Jo Sergeant, Afzal Shah, Paul Smith, Jerome Thomas, Mhairi Threlfall, Estella Tincknell, Jon Wellington, Mark Weston, Lucy Whittle, Chris Windows and Mark Wright

Aldermen: A Massey, J McLaren, B Price

1. Welcome and safety information

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

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bradshaw, Goggin, Hickman, Jones, Lovell and Stevens.

3. Minutes of previous meetings - to be confirmed as a correct record

a. Minutes – Annual Council meeting – 23 May 2017



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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

b. Minutes – Extraordinary Full Council meeting – 27 June 2017

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 27 June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

4. Declarations of interest

Councillors Bradley, Threlfall and Tincknell declared an interest in relation to Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion, in each case relating to their employment by the University of the West of England.

5. Lord Mayor's business

Former Councillor Rodney King

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Rodney King.

Councillor Abraham then addressed the Full Council, in remembrance of former Councillor Rodney King.

The Full Council then stood and observed a minute's silence in remembrance of former Councillor Rodney King.

6. Public forum (public petitions, statements and questions)

Public petitions:

The Full Council received and noted the following petition:

Petition PP 01 – "Removal of parking restrictions – west end of City Road"

Petition organiser – Heuna Bitsios



Public statements:

The Full Council received and noted the following statements (which were also referred to the Mayor for his consideration/information):

PS 01 - Jo Benefield / Forward Maisokwadso and others – City of Sanctuary

PS 02 - Mike Baker – Historic buildings

PS 03 - David Redgewell – Transport issues

PS 04 - Jacqueline Walkden – Clean air

PS 05 - Adam Rich – Clean air

PS 06 - Sean McGough – Clean air

PS 07 - Dr Julie Milton – Clean air

PS 08 - Nikki Jones – Clean air

PS 09 - David Jepson – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 10 - Merche Clark – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 11 - Martin Grant – Clean air

PS 12 - Wendy Morgan – Clean air

PS 13 - Bristol City Youth Council – Motion 1 – Votes at 16

PS 14 - Coralline Dundon – Clean air

PS 15 - Rory Peliza – Clean air

PS 16 - Jim Tickner – Clean air

PS 17 - Chris Powell – Clean air

PS 18 - Brian Worthington – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 19 - Rob Telford – Clean air

PS 20 - Corra Boushel – Clean air



PS 21 - Patricia Smith – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 22 - Stuart Phelps – Stapleton Road cumulative impact area

PS 23 - Jane Phillips – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 24 - Glenn Vowles – Clean air

PS 25 - Geoffrey Allan – Clean air

PS 26 - Neill Talbot – Clean air

PS 27 - Richard Barnes – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 28 - Eleanor Breed – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 29 - Colin Davis – Clean air

PS 30 - Stuart Phelps – Clean air

PS 31 - James Hanlon – Clean air

PS 32 - Christina Biggs – rail issues

PS 33 - Harriet Blackmore – Clean air

PS 34 - Alison Bromilow – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 35 - Chris Millman – Clean air

PS 36 - Viran Patel – Council consultations

PS 37 - Guy Orpen – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

PS 38 - Alderman Mike Wollacott – Council finances

PS 39 - Jack Hazeldine – Council funding

PS 40 - Karen Sillence – Motion 2 – Mitigation of university expansion

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



Public questions:

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

PQ 01 - Living wage - Question from Paul Wheeler

PQ 02 - Redland library consultation - Question from David Jepson

PQ 03 - Local highways issues and Canford Lane crossing - Question from Graham Donald

PQ 04 - Library consultation - Question from Merche Clark

PQ 05 - Redland library consultation - Question from Rosalind Miller

PQ 06 - Residents parking / congestion - Question from Edward Bowditch

PQ 07 - Clean air zone - Question from Edward Bowditch

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ 01, PQ 02, PQ 03, PQ 04 and PQ 05, and also responded to supplementary questions.

7. Petitions notified by councillors

The Full Council received and noted the following petition:

Petition CP 01 – “Re-opening of Greystoke Avenue, Pen Park road end”

Petition presented by Councillor Massey.

Petition organiser – M Atwill

8. Petition debate: "Let Bristol breathe clean air"

The Full Council considered a report of the Service Director - Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition entitled “Let Bristol breathe clean air.” The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Jon Eccles (on behalf of Jane Stevenson, the petition organiser) was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council then debated the petition.

Following the debate, it was



RESOLVED:

That the petition be noted and referred to the Mayor for consideration and response.

9. "Clean air now for Bristol" - report back (for information) from Mayor on action taken in response to motion approved at Full Council on 8 November 2016

The Full Council considered a report from the Mayor on action taken in response to a motion approved by Full Council on 8 November.

The Mayor introduced the report.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

ADJOURNMENT – At this point the Lord Mayor advised that the Full Council meeting would adjourn for a 20 minute refreshment break.

10. Update report on Bristol education funding

The Full Council considered a report providing an update following the motion on “Bristol education funding” approved by Full Council on 13 December 2016

Councillor Hiscott, Cabinet member for Education and Skills, introduced the report.

Following debate, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11. Audit Committee - annual report 2016-17

The Full Council considered the 2016-17 annual report from the Audit Committee.

Councillor Mead, Chair of the Audit Committee in 2016-17 moved the report and the recommendations set out therein.

Councillor J Clark, current Chair of the Audit Committee seconded the report.

Following debate, it was



RESOLVED:

That Full Council accepts the report of the Audit Committee at Appendix A, and notes the assurances provided in the report.

12. Approval of appointment of Interim Director of Adult Social Services

The Full Council considered a report from the Chief Executive recommending approval of the appointment of an Interim Director of Adult Social Services.

The Lord Mayor moved the report and the recommendation set out therein.

Councillor Holland seconded the report.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That Full Council approves the appointment of Terry Dafter as the authority's Interim Director of Adult Social Services.

13. Dates and times of Full Council meetings

The Lord Mayor advised Full Council that following discussions involving the Mayor and other party group leaders, the following dates and times of Full Council meetings for the remainder of 2017-18 had been agreed:

6.00 pm, Tuesday 14 November 2017

2.00 pm, Tuesday 12 December 2017

2.00 pm, Monday 15 January 2018

2.00 pm, Tuesday 20 February 2018 (budget Council meeting)

6.00 pm, Tuesday 20 March 2018

The date of the September Full Council meeting was the subject of further discussion and would be notified as soon as possible.

14. Motions

Motion 1 – Votes at 16

Councillor English moved the following motion:



“Full Council notes:

1. That currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the UK.
2. That 16 and 17 year olds are able to vote in local elections in Scotland, and in elections to the Scottish and Manx Parliament.
3. That the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people across the UK, as well as a wide range of youth and democracy organisations and hundreds of MPs and elected representatives across the UK, and that following a nationwide consultation, the UK Youth Parliament voted it as their national campaign for 2017, and that it is also an integral part of the Bristol Youth Manifesto.

Full Council believes that:

1. 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen;
2. Lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future;
3. People who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote.

Full Council resolves to call on the Mayor to:

1. Publically support votes at 16 and join the Votes at 16 Coalition;
2. Inform local MPs and the media of this decision and work with them in support of this campaign;
3. Promote this policy through council communications;
4. Run activities to raise awareness of and support for Votes at 16 in Bristol;
5. If Bristol pilots e-voting, to commit to including 16 and 17 year olds for demonstration purposes, and further extend e-voting to Bristol City Youth Council elections, demonstrating innovation in digital democracy;
6. Formally request to government that Bristol be used as a pilot to trial Votes at 16 in council elections.”

Councillor Fodor seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED (45 members voting in favour, 12 against, with 1 abstention), and it was then

RESOLVED:

Full Council notes:

- 1. That currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the UK.**
- 2. That 16 and 17 year olds are able to vote in local elections in Scotland, and in elections to the Scottish and Manx Parliament.**
- 3. That the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people across the UK, as well as a wide range of youth and democracy organisations and hundreds of MPs and elected representatives across the UK, and that following a nationwide consultation, the UK Youth Parliament**



voted it as their national campaign for 2017, and that it is also an integral part of the Bristol Youth Manifesto.

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Motion2 – Mitigation of university expansion

Councillor Negus moved the following motion:

“Full Council notes the benefits that the Universities bring our City: vibrancy, earnings, new value added businesses, employment opportunities and a source of civic pride. But there are downsides too and as recent growth has been high and is expected to reach 60,000, these new generally short term residents are increasing the severe strain on council services, the housing market and longer term residents in high-density student areas.

Particular groups are disproportionately affected:

- Anyone renting, due to increased demand for accommodation and so paying higher rents, and this includes university staff and their post and undergraduates too.
- Residents living in communities which are affected by high concentrations of this one demographic.
- Council finances; the provision of services to tens of thousands of students. These services used to be funded by the Government from a block grant but this is being cut to zero.

Full Council therefore asks the Mayor to:

1. In conjunction with other Council Leaders, engage with the Government, to highlight that the current approach to university growth is creating unsustainable pressure on Council resources; having to service



100% of its population with only 85-90% of them paying council tax. Adequate funding arrangements will probably require changes to planning obligation and taxation advantages given to university and student accommodation of all sizes. A grant or a means of local collection and redistribution of taxes needs to be put in place so Councils can provide services like street cleaning and implement the housing and transport solutions required to ensure balanced communities and mitigate the effects of university expansion on the housing market.

In addition Full Council agrees that necessary work should be done locally in Bristol and in the Combined Authority to update the Universities' masterplans so as to deliver sustainable future expansion, housing and transport solutions. Co-operative recording and planning policies need to be updated and true recognition given to the impact that unbalanced communities bring to all residents.

Further Full Council requests the Mayor to instruct officers to:

2. Develop a bespoke SPD which looks at best practice around the country, uses up to date data from Universities on their impact, both positive and negative and seeks to improve the amenity of everyone's lives in areas hard hit by current and future growth in numbers.
3. Require the Universities to support transport and housing solutions for more than just first years.
4. Set up an all-party commission to oversee the above processes and liaise with Universities to progress other possible approaches and keeping members informed."

Councillor Smith seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED:

Full Council notes the benefits that the Universities bring our City: vibrancy, earnings, new value added businesses, employment opportunities and a source of civic pride. But there are downsides too and as recent growth has been high and is expected to reach 60,000, these new generally short term residents are increasing the severe strain on council services, the housing market and longer term residents in high-density student areas.

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Meeting ended at 9.24 pm

CHAIR _____

