

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Full Council

17 July 2018 at 6.00 pm



Present:

Cleo Lake, Lord Mayor

Marvin Rees, Bristol Mayor

Councillors: Peter Abraham, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Harriet Bradley, Mark Bradshaw, Mark Brain, Charlie Bolton, Tom Brook, Fabian Breckels, Tony Carey, Craig Cheney, Barry Clark, 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, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Fi Hance, Margaret Hickman, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Carole Johnson, Steve Jones, Anna Keen, Gill Kirk, Mike Langley, Jeff Lovell, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Matt Melias, Anthony Negus, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Celia Phipps, Ruth Pickersgill, Kevin Quartley, Liz Radford, Jo Sergeant, Afzal Shah, Paul Smith, Clive Stevens, Mhairi Threlfall, Estella Tincknell, Jon Wellington, Mark Weston, Lucy Whittle, Chris Windows and Mark Wright

Aldermen/women: 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 Beech, Hiscott, Kent, Khan, Morris and Thomas.

3. Minutes of previous meeting - 22 May 2018 - to be confirmed as a correct record

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

RESOLVED:



That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting held on 22 May 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

4. Declarations of interest

None.

5. Lord Mayor's business

Newly elected Councillor Steve Smith

On behalf of the Full Council, the Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Smith to his first Full Council meeting following his recent election as a councillor following the by-election in Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze ward.

Newly appointed Council officers

On behalf of the Full Council, the Lord Mayor welcomed to their first Full Council meeting:

- * Mike Jackson, Executive Director - Resources & Head of Paid Service
- * Quentin Baker, Interim Director - Legal & Democratic Services

Shahzia Daya – Director - Legal & Democratic Services

On behalf of the Full Council, the Lord Mayor thanked Shahzia Daya who, after many years of dedicated service, was leaving her role to take up the post of Director of Legal at the West of England Combined Authority. She also expressed best wishes to Shahzia in relation to her new role.

Recent city events

The Lord Mayor drew attention to and thanked all those involved in organising the following recent events:

- * St Paul's Carnival
- * Bristol Pride
- * Bristol Black Pride inaugural event

The Lord Mayor also advised that during the refreshment break, she had arranged for short films exploring the expression of grief through the power of dance and movement to be shown in the conference hall.

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

Public petitions:

The Full Council received and noted the following petition:

Petition PP 01 - "Petition – Safety in Redland Road near Colston's primary school Elmgrove annex"



Petition organiser – Catherine Burridge

Public statements:

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

- PS 01 - Catherine Burridge - Safety in Redland Road near Colston's primary school Elmgrove annex
- PS 02 - Thangam Debbonaire MP - Safety in Redland Road near Colston's primary school Elmgrove annex / Bishopston & St Andrews - parking and highway safety issues
- PS 03 - Viran Patel - Mental health services
- PS 04 - Julie Boston - Local taxation / local democracy
- PS 05 - Oliver Fortune - Libraries - footfall / opening hours
- PS 06 - Graham Donald - Canford Lane crossing
- PS 07 - Eileen Means - Bristol for Europe
- PS 08 - Max Langer - Bristol and Brexit

Statements were presented by individuals present at the meeting.

Public questions:

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

- PQ 01 - Council debt collection - Question from Paul Wheeler
- PQ 02 - Interim staff pay - Question from Paul Wheeler
- PQ 03 - Residents parking - Question from Dr Matthew Aldridge
- PQ 04 - question withdrawn
- PQ 05 - Central library - Question from Oliver Fortune
- PQ 06 - Community led toilet service - Question from Oliver Fortune
- PQ 07 - Road safety near schools - Question from Catherine Burridge
- PQ 08 - Residents parking scheme in Bishopston and St Andrews - Question from Sara Tullberg
- PQ 09 - Residents parking scheme in Bishopston and St Andrews - Question from Cecilia Farren
- PQ 10 - Corporate Parenting Strategy - Question from Alderman Brian Price.

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ 05, PQ 06, PQ 07, PQ 08, PQ 09 and PQ 10, also responding to supplementary questions.

7. Petitions notified by councillors

None notified for this meeting.



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

8. Mayor of Bristol's annual statement to Full Council and responses from political group leaders

The Full Council received and noted the annual statement from the Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees.

Councillors Hickman, Weston, Combley and Negus then responded to the Mayor's statement on behalf of their respective political groups.

The Mayor then made a final response and summed up.

9. Corporate Parenting Strategy

The Full Council considered a report on the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Councillor Godwin, Cabinet member for Children and Young People moved the report and the recommendations contained therein.

At this point in the meeting, some young people in foster care / care leavers addressed the meeting, sharing their experiences with councillors.

Councillor Combley then seconded the report.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the priorities and actions set out in the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 (Appendix A) be approved.**
- 2. That the progress as summarised in the report on the delivery of Bristol's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015 be noted.**
- 3. The refreshed Bristol Pledge to children in care and care leavers (Appendix B) be noted.**

10. Audit Committee annual report 2017-18

The Full Council considered the annual report of the Audit Committee 2017-18.



Councillor Stevens, Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee moved the report and the recommendation contained therein.

Councillor J Clark, Chair of the Audit Committee in 2017-18 seconded the report.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the 2017-18 annual report of the Audit Committee be accepted and noted, including the committee's concerns that internal control arrangements at the Council are not yet as consistently robust as they should be; it was also noted that the committee will continue to monitor and support the improvement required during 2018-19.

11. Proposals for revisions to the terms of reference for the Audit Committee

The Full Council considered a report proposing revisions to the terms of reference of the Audit Committee.

Councillor Mead, Chair of the Audit Committee moved the report and the recommendations contained therein.

Councillor Stevens, Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That approval be given to the updated terms of reference of the Audit Committee.**
- 2. That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee, be authorised to amend the Council's constitution accordingly.**

12. Designation of Monitoring Officer

The Full Council considered a report on the designation of the authority's Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Cheney moved the report and the recommendation contained therein.

Councillor Hance seconded the report.

In response to a point of order raised by Cllr Gollop, it was noted that the report contained a typographical error and that paragraph 10 of the report (risk assessment) should be amended as follows:



In paragraph 10, delete the words “Head of Paid Service” and replace with “Monitoring Officer”.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED:

That Quentin Baker be appointed as the Council’s Monitoring Officer until such time as a permanent appointment has been made.

13. Motions

At the start of this item of business, on the motion of the Lord Mayor, it was

RESOLVED (30 members voting in favour, 29 against, with no abstentions)

- That the duration of this meeting be extended to 9.15 p.m.

Altered Motion 1 – Mental health

Councillor Phipps moved the following altered motion:

“Full Council notes:

1. Health and Safety Executive estimates of a £5.2 billion annual loss to the UK’s economy from more than 11 million days off due to stress, depression, and anxiety.
2. Survey statistics published in the local media showing a 70% increase in the number of working days lost to stress at the UH Bristol NHS Trust since 2011, an 80% rise in instances of time off due to stress-related illness at the North Bristol NHS Trust since 2010, and a 210% rise in stress-related absence at the South West Ambulance Service since 2013: comprising a 41% rise over the seven years to 2017, with stress accounting for the greatest number of working days lost due to any type of illness (*The Bristol Cable*).
3. That, with local authority budgets now cut by central Government almost half since 2010, last year stress represented the biggest reason for staff absence at Bristol City Council; we welcome this local authority’s progress in promoting agile and flexible working alongside the free Employee Assistance Programme and counselling service for council staff and their families.
4. The continued underfunding of the NHS, including much-needed mental health services, by the current Government, despite recent un-costed public pronouncements and despite a long overdue pay rise for some staff following years of advocacy from NHS trades unions.
5. The Marmot Review (2010), which recommended policy-makers to focus on the ‘causes of the causes’, and the programme of Thrive Bristol, published in March of this year.
6. Its own current position, ratified in December 2017 – which states that ‘austerity has failed’ and that ‘Bristol needs more money and more powers’ – alongside the Mayor, the Labour



administration, and the majority of the members of this chamber's commitment to fight austerity and protect public services.

7. Labour members' statements and questions at the Health and Wellbeing Board last month highlighting the lack of nurses for children in care; the need for a coordinated position calling for the full funding of the NHS, measures to tackle the recruitment and retention crises, and reinstatement of the NHS bursary for student nurses; and clarity on steps being taken by local NHS bodies and the AWP to monitor and improve staff wellbeing.
8. That almost one hundred students are sadly believed to have taken their own lives in the last year, thought to include at least a dozen students at the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England since October 2016; the efforts, including a recent march, of Bristol students to highlight these tragic deaths and the need for greater service provision; and the recent conference held by the Universities Minister at UWE Bristol.

Full Council believes:

1. That the founding of our NHS, in the face of opposition from the Tories, represents a landmark achievement of the post-war Labour Government.
2. In parity of esteem between physical and mental health services in this country, and an end to the stigma around conditions requiring support through the latter.
3. That austerity and underfunding of public services, including our NHS, remains a political choice of national government, initiated by the 2010 Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition (whose then-Bristol MPs voted to abolish Bristol's Revenue Support Grant, worth £110 million in 2014/15) and continued by the current Conservative Government.
4. That a national mental health charter for universities which is compulsory, not optional, should be introduced by the Government to build on and quicken steps being taken by universities – who should be working in close partnership with students, the NHS, the National Union of Students, and councils like our own.

Full Council resolves:

1. To back the Mayor of Bristol's commitment to Thrive Bristol, a ten-year mental health and wellbeing programme for all ages comprised of public, third sector, and private partners across the city.
2. To ask the council's senior leadership team, in consultation with the relevant cabinet member and the chair of the Human Resources committee, to review the completeness of the organisation's risk assessments into excessive pressure (stress) in the workplace and take the appropriate action.
3. To encourage all elected members to undergo the training provided around noticing and managing workplace stress and mental health more generally.
4. To recommend that the Member Development Panel consider what additional training and support should be provided or required for councillors in this regard.
5. To reaffirm the need for public services – including the NHS and councils such as our own – to be fully funded by the Government."

Councillor Goggin seconded the altered motion.



Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the altered motion was CARRIED (49 members voting in favour, 13 against, with 2 abstentions) and it was

RESOLVED:

Full Council notes:

1. Health and Safety Executive estimates of a £5.2 billion annual loss to the UK's economy from more than 11 million days off due to stress, depression, and anxiety.
2. Survey statistics published in the local media showing a 70% increase in the number of working days lost to stress at the UH Bristol NHS Trust since 2011, an 80% rise in instances of time off due to stress-related illness at the North Bristol NHS Trust since 2010, and a 210% rise in stress-related absence at the South West Ambulance Service since 2013: comprising a 41% rise over the seven years to 2017, with stress accounting for the greatest number of working days lost due to any type of illness (*The Bristol Cable*).
3. That, with local authority budgets now cut by central Government almost half since 2010, last year stress represented the biggest reason for staff absence at Bristol City Council; we welcome this local authority's progress in promoting agile and flexible working alongside the free Employee Assistance Programme and counselling service for council staff and their families.
4. The continued underfunding of the NHS, including much-needed mental health services, by the current Government, despite recent un-costed public pronouncements and despite a long overdue pay rise for some staff following years of advocacy from NHS trades unions.
5. The Marmot Review (2010), which recommended policy-makers to focus on the 'causes of the causes', and the programme of Thrive Bristol, published in March of this year.
6. Its own current position, ratified in December 2017 – which states that 'austerity has failed' and that 'Bristol needs more money and more powers' – alongside the Mayor, the Labour administration, and the majority of the members of this chamber's commitment to fight austerity and protect public services.
7. Labour members' statements and questions at the Health and Wellbeing Board last month highlighting the lack of nurses for children in care; the need for a coordinated position calling for the full funding of the NHS, measures to tackle the recruitment and retention crises, and reinstatement of the NHS bursary for student nurses; and clarity on steps being taken by local NHS bodies and the AWP to monitor and improve staff wellbeing.
8. That almost one hundred students are sadly believed to have taken their own lives in the last year, thought to include at least a dozen students at the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England since October 2016; the efforts, including a recent march, of Bristol students to highlight these tragic deaths and the need for greater service provision; and the recent conference held by the Universities Minister at UWE Bristol.

Full Council believes:

1. That the founding of our NHS, in the face of opposition from the Tories, represents a landmark achievement of the post-war Labour Government.
2. In parity of esteem between physical and mental health services in this country, and an end to the stigma around conditions requiring support through the latter.



3. That austerity and underfunding of public services, including our NHS, remains a political choice of national government, initiated by the 2010 Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition (whose then-Bristol MPs voted to abolish Bristol's Revenue Support Grant, worth £110 million in 2014/15) and continued by the current Conservative Government.
4. That a national mental health charter for universities which is compulsory, not optional, should be introduced by the Government to build on and quicken steps being taken by universities – who should be working in close partnership with students, the NHS, the National Union of Students, and councils like our own.

Full Council resolves:

1. To back the Mayor of Bristol's commitment to Thrive Bristol, a ten-year mental health and wellbeing programme for all ages comprised of public, third sector, and private partners across the city.
2. To ask the council's senior leadership team, in consultation with the relevant cabinet member and the chair of the Human Resources committee, to review the completeness of the organisation's risk assessments into excessive pressure (stress) in the workplace and take the appropriate action.
3. To encourage all elected members to undergo the training provided around noticing and managing workplace stress and mental health more generally.
4. To recommend that the Member Development Panel consider what additional training and support should be provided or required for councillors in this regard.
5. To reaffirm the need for public services – including the NHS and councils such as our own – to be fully funded by the Government.

Motion 2 – Exit from the European Union

Councillor Clough moved the following motion:

“Full Council believes:

1. That there is mounting and undisputable evidence of damage that 'Brexit' would cause both to the national economy and to our regional economy.
2. The damage to our international relationships, the reducing influence with other states and the complete loss of say and control over the rules of the European Single Market and Customs Union, the largest market in the world.
3. That the Government has totally mismanaged the Brexit negotiations and has failed to work closely with large cities such as Bristol and listen to our concerns on the direction followed.
4. That businesses within the region, like those elsewhere in the UK, are reconsidering investment plans in new production and new jobs while they await the Brexit deal.
5. That the current rights of EU citizens living in the UK should always be fully protected and not used as a bargaining chip by the UK Government.

Full Council notes:



1. The increasing problems that the NHS is having in recruiting nurses and doctors since the decision to leave the European Union was made and that this is having a real impact on the health of local residents.
2. With concern the potential impact of Brexit both on our local economy and on established mutually beneficial partnerships and links with European cities.
3. That the UK economy is now the slowest growing economy in Europe, reducing the prosperity of the UK and Bristol residents.
4. That new investment in the region is being jeopardised and new job opportunities are being lost.
5. That inflation caused by Brexit-related depreciation of the pound is driving up living costs for the poorest residents a further squeezing of living standards.
6. That Brighton Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Council have already passed motions that back a referendum on the final deal and an option to stay within the European Union.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Mayor and Party Group leaders to write to Bristol's four MPs and Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, expressing this Council's and this city's strong desire for a referendum on the final terms of a Brexit deal, including the option to maintain full EU membership.
2. Ask the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister asking that she meet with him and other core city leaders to discuss city leaders' concerns about Brexit.
3. Ask the Mayor and party group leaders to meet with West of England Mayor and the region's MPs to discuss how best to mitigate the effects already being felt by Brexit and how Bristol and the region can be kept within the Single Market and Customs Union.
4. Ask the Mayor to write to all Leaders of Local Authorities in the UK urging them to also adopt a policy calling for a referendum on the final terms of Brexit including an option to maintain full EU membership."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Fodor.

Councillor Tincknell then moved the following amendment:

'That the motion be amended to read as follows:

"Full Council believes that:

1. There is mounting and undisputable evidence of the damage that Brexit would cause both to the national economy and to our regional economy.
2. The Government has totally mismanaged the Brexit negotiations, and has failed to work closely with large cities such as Bristol and listen to our concerns on the direction followed.
3. Businesses within the region with employees and supply chains across Bristol, including Airbus and major construction companies, like those elsewhere in the UK, are reconsidering their current and future commitments to jobs and investment while they await the Brexit deal, and that this is of particular



concern when major city priorities, including house-building, are being progressed under this administration.

4. The current rights of EU citizens living in the UK and those of UK citizens living in other EU member states should always be fully protected and not used as a bargaining chip and that, more widely, current EU protections should be treated as a floor and not a ceiling.

Full Council notes:

1. The increasing problems that the NHS is having in recruiting nurses and doctors since the decision to leave the European Union was made and the impact on the health of local residents.
2. With concern, the potential impact of Brexit both on our local economy and on established mutually beneficial partnerships and links with European cities.
3. The UK economy is now the slowest growing economy in Europe, further reducing the prosperity of UK and Bristol residents.
4. New investment in the region is being jeopardised and new job opportunities are being lost.
5. Inflation caused by Brexit-related depreciation of the pound is driving up living costs for the poorest residents, leading to a further squeezing of living standards.
6. Brexit is doing damage to our international relationships, and risks the potential complete loss of control over the rules of the European Single Market and Customs Union.
7. While the United Kingdom's membership of international organisations and treaties is the remit of national Government, the focus of local authorities – including Labour-run Bristol – is on providing and protecting local services, as set out in Mayor Marvin Rees' annual statement today.
8. While a majority of the country, including large numbers of Bristolians, voted to leave, overall our city voted by a margin of almost two to one to remain in the European Union.
9. The Core Cities generated an estimated £72 billion of exports in 2016 – of which 48% went to other EU member states; in 2014, two-thirds of Bristol's exports went to the EU.
10. The Mayor of Bristol, alongside representatives of the core cities and EURO CITIES, met with the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, in February 2018, in sharp contrast to the lack of engagement with cities from the former Brexit Secretary, David Davis.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Mayor and Party Group Leaders to write to Bristol's four MPs and Dominic Raab, the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, expressing this Council's concern over the Government's handling of Brexit.
2. Ask the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and the new Brexit Secretary asking that they meet with him and other core city leaders to discuss city leaders' concerns about Brexit.
3. Ask the Mayor and party group leaders to consider convening a summit with the West of England Metro Mayor and the city-region's MPs to discuss how best to mitigate the effects already being felt in Bristol because of Brexit."'

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was CARRIED (34 members voting in favour, 29 against, with no abstentions).



Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion as amended (i.e. incorporating the above amendment was CARRIED (47 members voting in favour, 13 against, with 4 abstentions) and it was

RESOLVED:

Full Council believes that:

- 1. There is mounting and undisputable evidence of the damage that Brexit would cause both to the national economy and to our regional economy.**
- 2. The Government has totally mismanaged the Brexit negotiations, and has failed to work closely with large cities such as Bristol and listen to our concerns on the direction followed.**
- 3. Businesses within the region with employees and supply chains across Bristol, including Airbus and major construction companies, like those elsewhere in the UK, are reconsidering their current and future commitments to jobs and investment while they await the Brexit deal, and that this is of particular concern when major city priorities, including house-building, are being progressed under this administration.**
- 4. The current rights of EU citizens living in the UK and those of UK citizens living in other EU member states should always be fully protected and not used as a bargaining chip and that, more widely, current EU protections should be treated as a floor and not a ceiling.**

Full Council notes:

- 1. The increasing problems that the NHS is having in recruiting nurses and doctors since the decision to leave the European Union was made and the impact on the health of local residents.**
- 2. With concern, the potential impact of Brexit both on our local economy and on established mutually beneficial partnerships and links with European cities.**
- 3. The UK economy is now the slowest growing economy in Europe, further reducing the prosperity of UK and Bristol residents.**
- 4. New investment in the region is being jeopardised and new job opportunities are being lost.**
- 5. Inflation caused by Brexit-related depreciation of the pound is driving up living costs for the poorest residents, leading to a further squeezing of living standards.**
- 6. Brexit is doing damage to our international relationships, and risks the potential complete loss of control over the rules of the European Single Market and Customs Union.**
- 7. While the United Kingdom's membership of international organisations and treaties is the remit of national Government, the focus of local authorities – including Labour-run Bristol – is on providing and protecting local services, as set out in Mayor Marvin Rees' annual statement today.**
- 8. While a majority of the country, including large numbers of Bristolians, voted to leave, overall our city voted by a margin of almost two to one to remain in the European Union.**
- 9. The Core Cities generated an estimated £72 billion of exports in 2016 – of which 48% went to other EU member states; in 2014, two-thirds of Bristol's exports went to the EU.**
- 10. The Mayor of Bristol, alongside representatives of the core cities and EUROCITIES, met with the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, in February 2018, in sharp contrast to the lack of engagement with cities from the former Brexit Secretary, David Davis.**

Full Council resolves to:



- 1. Ask the Mayor and Party Group Leaders to write to Bristol's four MPs and Dominic Raab, the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, expressing this Council's concern over the Government's handling of Brexit.**
- 2. Ask the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and the new Brexit Secretary asking that they meet with him and other core city leaders to discuss city leaders' concerns about Brexit.**
- 3. Ask the Mayor and party group leaders to consider convening a summit with the West of England Metro Mayor and the city-region's MPs to discuss how best to mitigate the effects already being felt in Bristol because of Brexit.**

Meeting ended at 9.15 pm

CHAIR _____

