

Member Forum
11 September 2018
Statements from councillors



Procedural note:

STATEMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

- A maximum of 1 minute shall be allowed for the presentation of each statement (subject to overall time constraints).
- There shall be no debate on the statements and the Lord Mayor shall refer them to the Mayor for information/consideration.
- Statements will be dealt with in the order of receipt (subject to time).



The following statements have been submitted – full details are attached:

CS 01 - Cllr Jerome Thomas – Bristol Energy

CS 02 - Cllr Carla Denyer – Safe houses in Bristol



STATEMENT CS 01

Statement from Cllr Jerome Thomas

Subject: Bristol Energy

I support the comments made to Cabinet by OSM ahead of the decision to provide increased funding to Bristol Energy. In particular:

- I am concerned that this decision to provide significant extra funding has received no comments from the Independent Shareholders Advisers.
- There was insufficient information in the presentation to cabinet to determine whether it is prudent to continue with the proposed level of financial support.
- It is very disappointing that the Council has been unable to award contracts to Bristol Energy.

I am supportive of Bristol Energy and its aims but am concerned about its current performance.

I would ask the Mayor to address the concerns outlined above and to keep councillors and Scrutiny up to date with relevant information.

Jerome Thomas

Councillor for Clifton Ward

STATEMENT CS 02

Statement to Cllr Paul Smith (Cabinet Member for Housing) from Cllr Carla Denyer

Subject: Safe houses in Bristol

As an ACORN member and Green Party councillor I took part in the demonstration outside the Council's Citizen Service Point a few weeks ago to demand that domestic violence survivors – who are being turfed out of a safe house with nowhere to go – are immediately rehoused, and an investigation is begun into how this could be allowed to happen.

I submit this statement on behalf of the Green Group of Councillors, to support the public statement from ACORN and Bristol Zero Tolerance that will be heard later this evening.

Bristol City Council has obligations to house victims of domestic abuse and to ensure that support services that women are referred in to are providing appropriate support. The Council has made a variety of positive noises about housing for domestic violence survivors in the last few years, including a cross-party motion in 2016 and a Cabinet decision last year. However, the reports of recent events and the subsequent closure of two of the *Within Safe Hands* safe houses are very concerning.

ACORN negotiators met with Council officers three weeks ago, and the initial response from the officers was positive. However, there are a number of reasonable demands that have not yet been met.

So we ask Cllr Paul Smith, Cabinet member for Housing, to take responsibility and be accountable to meet the demands laid out in the statement from ACORN and Bristol Zero Tolerance, to ensure the Council meets its duty of care to vulnerable women and families.

Secondly, we ask councillors of all parties to join us in this call.

- Councillor Carla Denyer on behalf of the Green Group of councillors