

# Member Forum

## 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Questions and replies



#### Procedural note:

##### **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS:**

- Councillors are entitled to submit up to 2 written questions each.
- The questions submitted and written replies are enclosed.
- Councillors are also entitled to ask a maximum of 2 supplementary questions at the forum.
- If a councillor has submitted 2 questions on 2 separate topics, they may ask both of their supplementary questions on just one of the topics if they so wish, or may ask one question on each of the 2 separate topics. All supplementary questions must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- Via the group leaders / whips, questions have been submitted in priority order.
- At the forum, the asking of supplementary questions will be rotated between the political groups that have submitted questions, taken in priority order.



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## LABOUR QUESTION 1

### Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Jackson

#### Subject: Planning

1. Please can the Mayor outline the council's use of covenants prohibiting development on land which it sells, including with reference to 149 Marksbury Road in Filwood ward?
2. Further to the approval of historic new homes in Hengrove, please could the Mayor provide an update on his continued plans to tackle the housing crisis – highlighting schemes which will be of particular benefit to communities and businesses in south Bristol?

#### REPLY:

1. Were we dispose of garden/amenity land without development potential, it is standard practice to place restrictions in order to ensure the land is used for its intended purpose and to protect future interests in the event planning permission is obtained for alternative uses.

The area of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land at the rear of 149 Marksbury Road, which can only be accessed through the rear gardens of adjoining properties, was overgrown and had not been maintained for over 15 years. As part of the review of all Housing held sites, the land was considered but was deemed unsuitable for development due to the lack of access so it was sold in 2017 with a restrictive covenant placed on it so it could only be used for garden/amenity purposes.

It was made clear to the purchaser that when the land was offered for sale it was on the proviso that it be used for garden/amenity purposes only. The purchaser accepted this but has since asked for the covenant to be lifted on several occasions. This has been refused because in our view it would go against the spirit in which this land was offered for sale, as well as what residents were told in the letter sent to them.

2. The delivery of up to 1,435 new homes at Hengrove Park (at least 30% of which will be affordable homes), plus new employment space, community facilities and a new high quality public park is one important part of our delivery plans for new homes and wider regeneration in South Bristol. We are also delivering and enabling the following projects in neighbouring wards

Relocating St Bernadette's Rugby Club off Hengrove Park to a former school site on Fulford Road, Hartcliffe; the new facility will provide the club with much improved pitches and clubhouse facilities; planning application to be submitted January 2020

Rebuilding and expanding Perry Court Primary School; planning consent granted December 2019

Hartcliffe Campus – delivery of 350 new homes, with a minimum 30% affordable housing; start on site December 2019



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3 Sites being developed as part of the Council Housing New Build Programme, with planning applications to be submitted early 2020 following further consultation with local community:

- Former Filwood Cinema - 33 houses & apartments, mainly social rent, possibly some shared ownership, plus potentially some commercial/ retail space
- Leinster Avenue – 76 houses & apartments, mainly social rent, possibly some shared ownership, on site of former Florence Brown school, next to planned new SEN Sixth Form Centre
- Kingswear Road - 33 houses & apartments, mainly social rent, possibly some shared ownership

Airport Road – proposed delivery of up c.173 innovative ‘BoKlok’ Modern Methods of Construction/ modular apartments, with a minimum 30% affordable homes, subject to further consultation with the local community

The Park, Knowle West - Bristol City Council in partnership with the Department for Education will deliver a new 6 form entry secondary school, to open in 2023, plus a new community building.

Bedminster Green is a key development site that, subject to planning, can deliver hundreds of homes in a sustainable area.

In addition to these, we are developing homes across the city, Lockleaze and Southmead, Temple Quarter, Western Harbour, Frome Gateway and St George ZedPods.



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## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 1**

**Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Mark Weston (Henbury & Brentry)**

**Subject: Vandalism at Blaise Castle Estate**

The Blaise Castle Estate is one of the City's primary Destination Parks. It offers an excellent combination of play, history, heritage and the natural environment. Sadly, though, the estate is under constant attack from vandalism perpetrated by a brainless minority hell-bent on destroying something beautiful.

Local residents have been calling for additional security on the estate for years. The need for additional CCTV around the Museum has been underlined by the recent destruction of windows and stonework.

I therefore wish to ask the Mayor the following questions:

Q1. When exactly will the much needed - and long promised - CCTV be installed at the Museum?

Q2. When will the damage done to the play area's 'Play Towers' be repaired, and the towers opened once more to the public?

### **REPLY:**

1. The rear external CCTV was replaced in December. Flood lighting to improve CCTV provision has been commissioned for February.

Two additional cameras, located facing the museum and pathways, will be installed by the end of February. In the meantime security are patrolling out of hours.

We take this issue seriously and know how important this amenity is for the local community who all should be able to enjoy it. We continue to work with the police to make that happen.

2. Repairs and maintenance work have been awarded to a contractor and the work should take about six weeks, and will be fully completed 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020.



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## **GREEN QUESTION 1**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Stephen Clarke**

#### **Subject: Bristol Airport**

At the last Member's Forum I was told that there was no point in asking the Mayor to object to the expansion plans of Bristol Airport as the decision has to be made by North Somerset Council.

He did not acknowledge the fact he's signed a letter in his official capacity as city mayor. This supports the expansion and also encourages ambition towards 20 million flights per year, not just the current planning application.

Question:

The role of North Somerset in development control is of course correct but can the Mayor confirm whether Bristol City Council is a statutory consultee?

#### **REPLY:**

As one of the statutory consultees, BCC responded to the application (ref.18/06657/K) with a detailed response to North Somerset on a transport assessment of the implications of the expansion of Bristol Airport.

The application is still pending consideration by North Somerset Council as their planning committee is the decision making body.

Bristol City Council is a statutory consultee on this matter as adjoining planning authority.

A covering letter appended but the transport assessment is the response of the statutory consultee.

I have no powers over the decision and nor would I even if it was in Bristol.



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## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 1**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Negus (Cotham)**

#### **Subject: A Bus service in Cotham ward**

Q: The only bus service that reaches all parts of my ward – the no.9 –has over time had a disadvantageous route change, been separated from its twin no.8 service, been separated from one of its major destinations, had its frequency halved on the promise of greater reliability (now worse) and finally stopped totally on Sundays and after 18.30 for the other six nights.

Many people, particularly the elderly, rely on this service. For some the necessary alternative is taking their cars across town. For others without a car or not in a position to take a cab the alternative is not to leave their home in the evenings.

I'm only too aware that any bus 'service' is provided through a private company over which this City Council has no control and which does not permit information about numbers of passengers, reliability and other issues to be available for their own commercial reasons. I am also aware that this information is available to Bristol City Council and has been used in the past to determine the need for subsidies.

I ask the Mayor to use his influence to make available sufficient data so that I might be able to explain to my constituents why they have been so inconvenienced by withdrawal of this service or possibly why it has been withdrawn for inadequate reasons that might be resolved and why, for example, an hourly circular evening service could not be reinstated.

#### **REPLY:**

I have asked officers to work with the operator to try and obtain the data you have asked for. This will of course have to be within the context of the commercial nature of information and the Council's Data Sharing Agreement with the bus operator.

I suggest you work directly with Transport Officers to ensure you obtain the correct data.



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## LABOUR QUESTION 2

### Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Hickman

#### Subject: Bristol's Democracy

1. There were worrying reports of voter intimidation here in Bristol during the recent general election, with the police called to polling stations in Bristol constituencies. The homes of Bristol councillors were also targeted for abuse.

Please can the Mayor offer an update on council/ joint investigations with the police into these matters; efforts to identify those responsible for such behaviour; and any additional measures being considered by the Returning Officer to safeguard our democracy when Bristolians return to the polls in May?

2. In this context, and wider volatility in politics, the way that politicians speak to the public and with the communities they are privileged to represent has never been more important.

Cheap headline-chasing soundbites too often abound in this chamber, importing fake news to our local democracy in the hope of scoring column inches.

The Lib Dems' default to likening our administration to dictatorships including the USSR and North Korea – quite laughable given you were elected as Mayor with almost 70% of the vote.

What responsibility does the Mayor think those in this chamber have in how they contribute to our civic debate?

#### REPLY:

1. The Returning Officer was made aware of a few isolated incidents on polling day for the General Election. Those matters were dealt with on polling day by the Police in consultation with the Returning Officer and elections staff. Electoral Services office staff liaised immediately with the police who dealt with and resolved the matters swiftly. Polling station staff ensured all voters freely cast their votes.

We always work to ensure that voters have a positive voting experience. We train Presiding Officers who are in charge of polling stations to understand the role of tellers and what they are and are not allowed to do. We also inform political parties of their responsibilities and post a guidance for tellers notice outside polling stations. If issues are raised with us on polling day, the Electoral Services Team has a constructive working relationship with the Police to enable issues to be escalated and dealt with appropriately.



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We are satisfied that we dealt appropriately with those matters raised with us on polling day and will continue to work with political parties, candidates, agents and the Police to ensure a positive voter experience in the May 2020 elections.

2. Of course, politicians have a significant responsibility in shaping civic discourse. If politicians, including councillors in this chamber, set a tone of negativity including talking down the city and creating a false mistrust merely for political gain, can result in unnecessary disengagement by the public.

Unnecessary aggressive and profane language has been evident in some councillor's social media and campaigns recently, adding to this atmosphere.



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## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 2**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Eddy (Bishopsworth)**

#### **Subject: Provision of Advisory No-Parking Lines**

The Mayor may recall that his predecessor, George Ferguson, stopped ward councillors in most cases requesting the painting of advisory white no-parking lines.

Q1. Does the Mayor agree with me that these non-time-delayed and relatively inexpensive measures were a useful way of limiting dangerous and irresponsible on-street parking?

Q2. Will the Mayor commit to reversing Mayor Ferguson's unhelpful policy?

#### **REPLY:**

I agree that these lines can benefit local residents as they discourage others from parking across their driveway however, they are just a request to keep the access clear and are not enforceable.

Officers stopped using this as a regular treatment over 10 years ago as the volume of requests were resulting in streets filled with these markings, reducing their overall effectiveness.

Their ongoing maintenance was considered unsustainable with maintenance budgets needing to be targeted on safety critical lining.

They are still used where a commercial premises needs HGV access, where a private drive leads to multiple properties or where residents with a blue badge have requested them.

I would agree that where we really want no parking, formal double yellow line restrictions would be the solution.



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## **GREEN QUESTION 2**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor O'Rourke**

#### **Subject: Scrutiny**

I have been and remain concerned that scrutiny is being side-lined. Evidence to support this point is as follows:

At a recent G&R Scrutiny planning meeting, it was agreed that the Regeneration of Temple Island would be scrutinised at our January meeting - indeed the date of the meeting was scheduled with this item in mind, as I knew a second report was coming to Cabinet in January.

At the planning meeting in December the acting Exec director agreed that there would be a presentation/ report on the regeneration of the area plus a report on the disposal of the land.

This did not happen. As I write, with 3 days to the scrutiny meeting, there is no report.

We are promised a document on the regeneration will be published soon (what chance does that give the public to engage with the document?) but have been told that no details of the disposal can be shared. When I pressed for a report, even if it was just a précis or a draft of the cabinet report, the exec director was not able to get it released.

We had been told in the July cabinet that the paper which was brought then was very much an outline and that scrutiny would be able to drill down into the details before the second phase came to cabinet. So I was expecting it to come to scrutiny.

This is an important decision for the City but, like so many other important decisions, scrutiny is being sidelined once again.

#### **QUESTION:**

Years after the Bundred report exposed a culture of secrecy at the top of the Council, why has nothing been done to ensure that Scrutiny is provided with the resources needed and that crucial reports are available to examine before decisions are made?

#### **REPLY:**

With the seven city boards leading and delivering work on the One City Plan, we have collected and identified city decision makers in a way that people can engage that they never could before.

We do all we can to ensure the cabinet Forward Plan is published and populated with as much information as possible and with us giving scrutiny chairs to opposition parties (unlike most other Local Authorities) we are as open and transparent as it's possible to be.

All decisions come to cabinet in public where you are free to again ask questions and scrutinise post-decision. All the usual procedures to challenge decisions remain open to you.

Now we have more information on the disposal of the Temple Island site we will be bringing a further scrutiny briefing, again to enhance transparency.



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## LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 2

### Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Kent

#### Subject: Education Health Care Plans

1. How many appeals against refusal to assess, to issue a plan, the detail of a plan, a refusal to change a plan following annual review, or a decision to cease the maintenance of a plan for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) were made to the First-Tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in 2018 and 2019? How many of these appeals have the council conceded before the hearing, lost at tribunal and won at tribunal (each result listed separately by year)? (Please reply as down to a similar question in July 2018)

2. How much has been spent by Bristol City Council on legal fees, officer time and other costs in opposing parents of SEND children at SEND Tribunal between 2016 and 2019? How many cases have there been in total during this period to tribunal and what proportion of the cases have Bristol City Council been successful in defending?

#### REPLY:

1. 18 appeals were lodged in 2018-19\* Of these:

11 = refusal to assess appeals

3 = refusal to issue an EHCP

3 = appeals in relation to content

1 = appeals in relation to Section 1 (named educational provision)

*\*data for this academic year is up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. From this date, which has been previously documented, the LA has implemented a new data base system for SEND and a thorough data review is currently taking place. This is due to be completed in February 2020, at which point we will be able to report on this data further.*

Summary	1/9/14- 31/8/15	1/9/15- 31/8/16	1/9/16- 31/8/17	1/9/17- 31/8/18	1/9/18 – 31/3/19
Total cases	21	36	54	27	18
% agreed Pre hearing	86%	86%	81.5%	89%	50%
% which went in favour of parent/carer	67%	60%	45%	33%	33%

2. The role of Local Authority Officers, within the SEND case work team, includes all complex case working, which include mediations and First Tier Tribunals, as these are statutory requirements, the costs are accounted for within their annual salaries. This has not been broken down into cost for tribunal work alone.

On occasion, the officers have sought additional legal advice, when a case is particularly complex. This totalled just over £8,000 for 2018-19



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The only other additional costs which may, on a few occasions be incurred, would be to reimburse witnesses time on attending and other expenses such as their parking fees.



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## **LABOUR QUESTION 3**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Don Alexander**

#### **Subject: Homes**

1. Please can the Mayor provide an update on new council housing developments in Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston?
2. Please can the Mayor provide an update on progress towards the new Lawrence Weston hub?

#### **REPLY:**

1. Currently we are in the process of bringing forward 3 sites in the Lawrence Weston Area for development by the HRA development team for around 50 new homes.

These schemes are currently in pre-application stage with a few to applying for planning by the end of the financial year.

Once Planning has been consented we are proposing to commence work on these sites late autumn 2020. We do not have any proposed developments in the Avonmouth area.

2. The NHS advised us on the 4 November 2019 that they had decided to withdraw from the proposed joint Hub scheme and direct their funding towards the refurbishment and extension of the existing NHS Lawrence Weston Clinic site next to the Ridingleaze Medical Centre. It is intended that the Doctors Surgery will relocate from their existing premises next door into this building once completed.

Since then we've had discussion with Ambition Lawrence Weston (ALW), to understand the needs and requirements in the area.

The NHS have confirmed that they would like to continue to work with us, to seek to deliver improved facilities for Lawrence Weston that achieves the original ambitions we all set out to achieve in this community, and so have been actively engaged in the discussions with ALW.

We have a further meeting with ALW towards the end of January to look at a number of options. We want to deliver a revised scheme as quickly as possible, and we are exploring the potential for off-site manufacture as a way of expediting delivery.

I've asked officers to report back to local Councillors to seek their views in early February.



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### **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 3**

#### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Goulandris (Stoke Bishop)**

##### **Subject: Freeports**

Q1. Does the Mayor share in our Government's enthusiasm for the creation of ten Freeports around the country as a means of regenerating deprived or economically left-behind communities?

Q2. Will the Mayor support any application made through WECA to participate in the initiative?

##### **REPLY:**

1. We want to help to build an economy that is inclusive and sustainable for all. This is a priority for my administration.

We are exploring the evidence currently available about freeports to consider the opportunities they could offer our region.

2. We want to support the Bristol Port Company to capitalise on opportunities for growth, and would welcome additional jobs and investment into the region.

However, we must also take time to carefully consider all potential consequences of a Freeport development. Several reports highlight freeports as 'hubs of criminality' (money laundering / tax evasion) – the EU have called for them to be scrapped as a result. The evidence for the economic benefits of freeports is not conclusive

We will be meeting with the leaders of the other UAs who make up WECA on Friday (17<sup>th</sup> Jan) as part of this meeting we will be considering the application made on behalf of the Bristol Port.



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## **GREEN QUESTION 3**

### **Question to the Mayor from Councillor Combley**

#### **Subject: Air Quality**

Assuming Brexit goes ahead as planned, after the UK leaves the EU at the end of 2020 the government will no longer be legally obliged to meet minimum air quality standards. However the health crisis of toxic air will continue, blighting the lives and health of people in towns and cities around the country, and contributing to tens of thousands of deaths per year. The impact is particularly harmful for children – increased rates of asthma and poor lung development will affect them for their entire lives.

#### **QUESTION:**

If the Mayor is re-elected in 2020 will he pledge to continue work on Bristol's air quality problem to the same or more stringent standards and timescales as before – regardless of any legal obligation from the Government?

#### **REPLY:**

We have a moral, environmental and legal duty to improve air quality in Bristol. We've been criticising the government for too narrow an approach for years, working with UK:100 and Core Cities, before it was in the headlines and before government set the deadline.

That underpins our drive for the following examples:

- Mass transit
- Bus Deal and active travel
- City Leap
- Heat networks
- Retro-fitting Council Homes
- Building homes at higher density in the centre of the city
- Transformation of our Waste System
- Doubling the tree canopy by 2045 (Increased by 25% by 2035)
- Tackling poverty so that people have the space to make practical transitions needed

It will be key part of the work of the Environment and Sustainability board, and hope that the government will provide the support that cities need to achieve their clean air targets regardless of Brexit.



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## **LIBERAL DEMOCRAT QUESTION 3**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Negus (Cotham)**

#### **Subject: Bristol City Council's mayoral response to the proposed airport expansion.**

It is regrettable that the silver motion to last month's Full Council which was timed out and so not taken to conclusion though promised to be restored by the Lord Mayor, has not been pursued by the Green party which begs the question:

Will the Mayor please consult with our officers and advise me and all other councillors the procedure for being requested to make a response to a major regional planning application lodged with a neighbouring local authority and how, and in what terms, he has already acted, or intends to act, on this?

#### **REPLY:**

As one of the statutory consultees, Bristol City Council responded to the application (ref.18/06657/K) with a detailed response to North Somerset on a transport assessment of the implications of the expansion of Bristol Airport.

The application is still pending consideration by North Somerset Council as their planning committee is the decision making body.

Bristol City Council is a statutory consultee on this matter as adjoining planning authority.

A covering letter was appended but the transport assessment is the response of the statutory consultee.

I have no powers over the decision and nor would I even if it was in Bristol.



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## **LABOUR QUESTION 4**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Massey**

#### **Subject: Bus Services**

Is the Mayor aware of the huge problems caused by the re-routing of the 76 bus in Southmead by First?

There has been no consultation from them about this, other than one small notice placed on a bus stop a few days before the change took place. The change means that the bus now ignores the former Southmead Road/Monks Park Avenue stops outside Lidl, and instead travels through Southmead Hospital grounds.

This has caused huge distress to residents, many of whom are disabled and elderly, including some living in adapted accommodation in Penrith Gardens who rely on the 76 bus. They now have to walk around a mile to catch a bus, including up a very steep hill.

The sheer volume of buses queued up in the hospital grounds is a cause for concern, and this change will only make the situation worse. It also means that one of the most deprived wards in the city has yet again been penalised, as there is now no public transport access for people living on the northern Southmead Road fringe of the city. The loss of the bus stops also impacts adversely on those who need to visit the BRI, Eye Hospital, or Dental Hospital, as that was the most direct service from the northern fringe. It also means that they have no means of getting to a local Health Centre now.

This change is effectively making many people living on that part of the route housebound, with a real impact on their mental and physical health.

Can the Mayor please join mine and Cllr Godwin's efforts to support the needs of the local community by intervening with First Bus to restore the Southmead Road stops on behalf of all those who have now been deprived of a means of travel they rely on?

#### **REPLY:**

We are currently investigating the possibility of an additional/alternative bus stop on Southmead Road for service 76 to use towards the Centre. We'll continue to look at enhancing commuter services as part of the bus deal and the 76 would be part of that conversation.

Directly serving key transport destinations is strategically desirable and the change to the 76 provides new frequent and direct links to the centre of the Hospital for numerous parts of Bristol, including Henbury and Brentry. It also provides good interchange with other services calling at the Southmead Hospital bus station, and the links available include Bristol Parkway station.

The operator of the 76, First, has advised that the re-routing away from the double mini roundabouts on Southmead Road/Monks Park Avenue junction will also avoid congestion on this part of the route and should improve overall punctuality.



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## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 4**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Melias (Avonmouth)**

#### **Subject: Giant Goram Site Sale**

Q1. Now that the future of this historic public house is now known, a planning application has gone in for its demolition; would the Mayor consider compulsory purchase of this community asset in order to save it?

Q2. If no local authority intervention is to be considered, can the Mayor explain the distinction between this case and the recent Cabinet decision to acquire the long boarded up Gainsborough pub in Lockleaze?

#### **REPLY:**

1. There are no plans for the Council to seek a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the former Giant Goram pub site.

A planning application for the redevelopment of the site for 7 new dwellings was received in November 2019 and local residents were consulted shortly afterwards.

The application will be decided in due course, in accordance with planning policies, such as Local Plan Policy DM5 concerning the protection of community facilities including public houses.

2. The distinction between the two is that there was no private purchase of the Gainsborough site, so we sought a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable comprehensive redevelopment of this and adjacent sites. It is not to maintain it as a public house. It is on this basis that Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 agreed to seek a Compulsory Purchase Order.



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## **GREEN QUESTION 4**

### **Question to the Mayor from Councillor Hance**

#### **Subject: SEND**

Q1: How many EHCP statements were appealed in the last year (both as percentage and number)?

Q2: How many were successful? (Both as a percentage and a number)

#### **REPLY:**

In 2018 the Local Authority received 28 First tier Tribunal appeals with regards to Education, Health and Care plans.

This was out of 172 new EHCP issued (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2019>), therefore at a percentage of 16%. The number of which were 'Upheld' were 4 with 4 'Not upheld' demonstrating 50% were awarded in the Local Authorities favour.

Data for 2019 is currently being prepared for our SEN2 census return and will be published later in the year.

For more detail with regards to EHCP and appeals over the last few years please refer also to response to Lib-Dem question 2.



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## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 5**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Morris (Stockwood)**

#### **Subject: Fallout of the 'SEND' Inspection Report**

I am sure the Mayor will agree with me that no one person or Party has a monopoly of caring or determination to resolve the failings in our SEND provision identified by this joint inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.

Q1. Can the Mayor state what practical steps are being taken to address the inspectors' main concerns 'about the effectiveness of the local area'? These range from lack of accountability through to the dysfunctional EHC plan process and the fracture relationships with parents and carers.

Q2. When will the required 'Written Statement of Action' be prepared, finalised and sent to Ofsted?

#### **REPLY:**

1. The first formal priority is to produce the SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA), however, we have already taken a number of steps to address the key findings of the report, particularly in relation to increasing capacity including allocating funding to recruit 24 new posts (23 of which specifically address EHC plan timeframes) and in addition, cleansing and building our dashboard of the key SEND data. Following development this dashboard will be openly available. We are also working closely with External Communications to engage and co-produce our SEND improvements, including the Local Offer website, with input from parents and carers.

Bristol City Council (BCC) and the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG) are jointly responsible for submitting and delivering the written statement, which will set out the vision for improvement and the high priority actions that are required to address the weaknesses identified by the inspectors

2. Work on The WSoA has already started and over the coming three months, officers will be proactively engaging with parents, carers, young people and our key partners and stakeholders to ensure the WSoA and the detailed action plan, which sits behind this, have been co-produced.

Final amendments and sign off from the CCG Governing Body and BCC's Children's Improvement Board will have been completed by the beginning of March.

Final submission to Ofsted/CQC is 28th March 2020 if Ofsted, on appraisal, consider it addresses the concerns identified in the letter, it will be published on the 10th April 2020.



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## **GREEN QUESTION 5**

### **Question to the Mayor from Councillor Stevens**

#### **Subject: Street flooding/MEES**

Q1: In February 2018 Full Council voted yes to a budget amendment that included a scheme to record where roads and pavements get regularly flooded to enable proactive drain unblocking and street gutter clearing. This recent wet weather has led to large localised flooding in those same old areas. The amount of money required to set up a system so that residents can report areas that flood repeatedly was small but I understand this idea wasn't implemented (despite Full Council voting for it).

**It seems there is a growing trend of such localised flooding, so how and when will this preventive approach now be implemented?**

Q2: The opportunity to enforce Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) on commercial premises was raised by the Greens in February 2019. The idea being to incentivise the reduction of energy consumption. Reduced energy usage benefits the organisation itself with lower fuel bills and the rest of us with less carbon dioxide emissions. I am told by officers that enforcement in the residential sector is progressing well.

But I hear different stories regarding the non-residential (commercial sector): firstly difficulties in enforcement and separately rumours that little has been done because the main culprits are Council buildings (like schools), social enterprise and charities.

**So my question is: how has the Council looked into the opportunities of enforcing minimum energy efficiency standards for non-residential buildings and why is there so little progress in this area?**

#### **REPLY:**

1. Our Highways Asset Management team undertake a risk based approach to regular gully clearance and repairs; this allows them to focus their limited resource on the areas of the city identified as being at higher risk of flooding. During heavy rainfall localised flooding problems are inevitable but we request that the public continues to report these issues as it helps us to identify possible interventions

The long running issue of flooding in Scotland Lane, Stockwood, was finally solved with the installation of a £750k pumping station and innovative flood alleviation scheme at the start of 2019.

Lawrence Hill underpass is a perfect example of flooding caused by pump failure, not by lack of a maintenance - our task to retro fit a modern pump on aging 1960s infrastructure shows how challenging it can be.

The Council has a system called Fix My Street (<https://fixmystreet.bristol.gov.uk/>) that allows members of the public to report street issues including blocked gullies. This system links automatically to our asset management system (called Confirm) so that issues can be rectified on a priority basis.



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2. Improving energy efficiency of commercial properties can play an important role in contributing towards reducing our carbon footprint.

The current enforcement regime under MEES for commercial properties is recognised as having a number of practical difficulties. While the duty rests with the local authority to enforce, it is overseen by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

To assist BEIS, Bristol City Council along with a number of other Local Authorities was selected as a 'pilot authority' to examine in greater detail the practicalities of enforcement in this difficult area. A report is currently being drafted in preparation for submission to BEIS.

Once completed, we will await further direction from BEIS as to how local authorities can meaningfully take action.

The council has made significant progress in reducing energy consumption from its own buildings, with consumption of electricity and gas having fallen by 55% over the last ten years.



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## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 6**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Lesley Alexander (Frome Vale)**

#### **Subject: SEND Services**

Q1. Will Members of the People Scrutiny Commission have an opportunity to contribute to the preparation of this plan given that it is due to hold an inquiry day on the specific issue of SEND services?

Q2. Is the Mayor prepared to commit to adequately resourcing schemes like 'Project Rainbow' which assists young people move into independent living?

#### **REPLY:**

1. The People's Scrutiny SEND deep dive session will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, which will generate discussion, challenge and suggestions

Officers will be in attendance in order to capture the feedback and ensure this is considered within the Written Statement of Action (WSOA)

2. We recognise the need for further improvement in our statutory assessment processes and have earmarked £1.4m to begin to address this, including recruiting 24 additional staff to deliver improvements to SEND.

We are working with schools to identify further resources for 2021 to continue to drive the improvements we seek.

This additional funding will be used to respond to the outcome of the SEND inspection, to ensure developments such as 'Project Rainbow', which is in year 4 of a 5 year term, can continue to be supported.



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## GREEN QUESTION 6

### Question to the Mayor from Councillor Denyer

#### Subject: Mayors for Peace

Next month Bristol City Council will host an exhibition in the Vestibule by 'Mayors for Peace', an international organisation of cities dedicated to the promotion of peace, established in 1982 by Mayor of Hiroshima Takeshi Araki. In 1989 Bristol signed up through its Lord Mayor at the time (though it is now in the remit of the elected mayor), and there are currently 81 member cities and towns in the UK.

However, other than hosting this welcome exhibition, Bristol has not recently been an active member.

Mayors for Peace's current main focus is their '2020 Vision' - an emergency campaign to ban nuclear weapons. They are working with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its work in encouraging over two thirds of United Nations members to agree to the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), tragically not including our own UK government.

So, in honour of the visiting exhibition, please will the Mayor make a public statement calling on the Government to sign the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons and cancel the plan to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system?

(About the exhibition: <http://www.50cities-50traces.org/index-e.html>; About the 2020 Vision campaign: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/index.html>)

#### REPLY:

It is not clear to me how you cannot consider Bristol active in peace making when so much is being done. Recent stop the war demos have shown how Bristolians make their voice heard, and we have a role in promoting peace in the face of multiple forms of violence. I have recently written to Mayor Omar Mohamud Mohamed in Mogadishu to express our solidarity in the face of the violence people face there.

Bristol has a growing global reputation, not only joining the Mayor for Peace network 30 years ago but also showing leadership in the Mayor's Migration Council, the Global Parliament of Mayors and just last Friday Ambassador David Donoghue held us up as an example, leading on UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

We are looking forward to welcoming the exhibition to Bristol before it goes on to New York, I am honoured to be invited to speaking at the opening.

We support the UN's Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty signed up to by 191 states, including the 5 with nuclear weapons.

Dr Martin Luther King said poverty is the greatest violence. By challenging the inequality and ending deprivation we can create the conditions for justice and peace to be achieved.



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## **CONSERVATIVE QUESTION 7**

### **Question(s) to the Mayor from Councillor Steve Smith (Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze)**

#### **Subject: SEND Services**

Q1. Will the Mayor instruct his Cabinet Member for Education & Skills and senior officers to provide scrutiny with a quarterly report on progress made to improve our SEND provision – notably on the timely production of EHC plans?

Q2. The Mayor's Administration has rightly apologised for the problems which have existed in this service area for the last nine years. Can he tell me what steps are being taken to engage and build bridges with the families and carers of all those who have been let down by these failings?

#### **REPLY:**

1. Each of the priority areas for improvement, identified in the Written Statement of Action (WSOA), is being delivered through a detailed action plan, with operational oversight by the SEND Partnership Group. Overall progress will be monitored by the Children's Improvement Board.

A SEND Data Dashboard is currently being developed, to bring together a wide range of related data, into a single document.

Both the summary of progress against the WSoA, and the data dashboard, will form a significant part of the quarterly reporting to People's Scrutiny.

2. A significant element of the WSoA will focus on repairing and strengthening our relationship with parents and carers and significantly increase the opportunities for meaningful co-production, to ensure the systems and processes are fit for Bristol's families

Bristol's Parent and Carer Group have membership of the critical groups and boards, to ensure there is strong family representation as we start the improvement journey.

Already, there has been significant investment to improve capacity across a number of areas along with the restructuring of key teams to enable officers the time to support parents and carers through the system.

The first of a series of workshops with parents and carers has already taken place and these will continue as we move forward

Significant work is underway to re-design Bristol's Local Offer website to ensure it becomes a useful and informative tool for our families. We will also be using this to regularly update the community on our improvement journey and increase transparency.

