

Extraordinary Council Meeting – 26th May 2020

QUESTION PQ05 & PQ06

Subject: Bristol Energy

Submitted by Andrew Brown

The Cabinet Member responsible is quoted in local media as saying that the latest cash injection is within “the investment window agreed by cabinet two years ago” and that they have just “brought forward some funding”. Assuming that each investment tranche is designed to achieve specific aims, or linked to specific performance targets, can he clarify **a) what these have been for each tranche and b) whether they have been achieved?** N.B. If the answer to this question is exempt, please make it available for Councillors with the other exempt papers.

The number of gas and/or electricity suppliers has increased from 40 to 64 since Bristol Energy launched. Over that time, the market share of small energy companies has risen from 3% to 7%. However, this disguises the fact that both the overall number of operators, and the size of the small operator’s slice, peaked in 2017/18 (at 70 and 10% respectively) and these are now contracting. Part of this is due to the rise of well financed and rapidly growing medium-sized companies, particularly Bulb and Octopus. **What overarching strategy does Bristol Energy have to buck a trend that has seen some larger competitors fall into Ofgen’s ‘Supplier of Last Resort’ process?**