

Extraordinary Council Meeting – 26th May 2020

STATEMENT CS02

Subject: Bristol Energy

Submitted by Councillor Clive Stevens

The public motion (agenda 5) is about disclosure of information in the public interest*. It is clear that the nation can learn from the mistakes made by this Local Authority surrounding decisions on Bristol Energy.

The Bundred Report, that you commissioned in 2016, says at recommendation 8, "The incoming chief executive should be invited to consider and report on the steps needed to improve the management culture within the Council, recognising that any necessary changes will take three to five years to embed. There should be an emphasis on greater openness, professionalism, delegation, mutual respect and better internal communication,"

We now have a new incoming Chief Executive accountable to the Mayor. I would ask he (they) should ponder on Steve Bundred's work, because, as of 11.59 on Friday 22nd May (The deadline for Public Forum statements), we have not had sight of the Ernst Young report which should be informing our discussions on Tuesday. I appreciate this will be exempt, so not visible to the public, but it should be visible to their representatives, their elected councillors. But I hear it's circulation might be limited to just Party Group Leaders and OSM Members. Not other Councillors. So three quarters of us at Full Council on Tuesday will be in the dark.

As far as I'm concerned this makes a mockery of attempts to portray this Administration as open and transparent. You clearly still wish to keep things as secret as possible. I would imagine for PR reasons.

I voted for Mike Jackson to become Chief Executive on Thursday 21st. One of the reasons I did so was because I believe he is capable of delivering a better democracy for Bristol. I hope Mike agrees and will try to do something about it.

This has to stop. No more cover ups.