

Question: PS17.1

Cabinet – 2nd June 2020

Re: Agenda item 17 – Bristol Energy

Statement submitted by: Samuel Williams

A year on year increasing crime rate with 33 per cent of the population in the most deprived areas fearing acts of crime and violence on a day to day basis. Hate crime up. Those “Not in Education, Employment or Training” is above the national average. Air quality continues to be dangerously out of control – and life expectancy significantly worse than the national average. Pupils in receipt of Special Educational Needs support or having an Education Health and Care Plan is above the national average and yet provision has been cut. In some quarters of 2019, the 20-week deadline to produce support plans failed to be met in 98 per cent of cases. Our cities housing crisis is met by a lack of leadership around affordable and social housing provision, whilst rough sleeping has increased exponentially in recent years.

Irrespective of the fact that our city is in need, millions of tax payers money, money that could be directed towards these pressing issues continues to be thrown away to the tune of millions each year.

Despite any noble aims, Bristol Energy has become a millstone around the necks of every Bristolian, the council and this administration. It has long been clear that there is no saving this project in order to repay that which has been lost; to continue constitutes little more than a gross disregard for fiscal responsibility, political integrity and citizen wellbeing. I therefore urge Mayor Marvin Rees to act now in arranging sale of Bristol Energy without delay and without further losses to the people of Bristol. Now is the time for leadership to be shown.