

# Member Forum

## 7 July 2020

### 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:**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>
CS01	Councillor Cleo Lake	Removal of Statue
CS02	Councillor Simon Cowley	Bristol Air Quality

**CS01****Members' Forum statement from Councillor Cleo Lake****Subject: Removal of statue**

I make this statement in solidarity and support for the protestors who did the job that the Council should have done years ago, when they removed the statue of human trafficker Edward Colston from public view on the city landscape. The Merchant Venturers have agreed that it was right for the statue to go. Having committed crimes against humanity, any celebration of that person in the form of a statue without context and that still had a plaque claiming he was Bristol's 'most wise and virtuous son' had no place in a diverse, forward facing City as Bristol. It is not and will not be in the public interest for anyone to be prosecuted over this and I urge the Mayor to speak out against potential prosecutions and further more support long standing calls for a dedicated museum and adequate memorial.



CS02

**Members' Forum statement from Councillor Jerome Thomas  
Subject – Bristol Air Quality**



*Plaque erected by Extinction Rebellion on City Hall to remember the hundreds of people whose lives end prematurely each year as a result of the city's unsafe illegal air quality. It reads, "In remembrance of the 296 Bristol residents who die each year from toxic air. July 2020."*



I welcome the Mayor's comment in response to Extinction Rebellion that he is now considering legally clean air in Bristol by 2022 (as reported by Pete Simson of the BBC) instead of by 2025.

I applaud Extinction Rebellion for their recent action to highlight the continuing air quality public health crisis and share their concerns about this administration's lack of action to improve air quality over the Mayor's term of office.

I am concerned that in recent days the Government has rejected a scrappage scheme for toxic vehicles. Government support for a scrappage scheme appeared central to the Mayor's plans to improve the city's air quality.

While welcoming in principle the planned closure to private cars of Bristol Bridge and Baldwin Street, I also note that this could potentially push polluting vehicles onto adjacent streets which already have illegal levels of pollution.

Furthermore this will be taking place at a time when people in the city are being told to avoid public transport and could be using their cars wherever possible.

I call on the Mayor, in light of these potential impediments to his existing plans to clean up the air, to clearly document how he plans to up Bristol's air so that it is of legal quality by 2022.

