

## City of Hope: Rebuilding a more inclusive Bristol

### Full Council notes:

1. Coronavirus (covid-19) has seen 306,862 confirmed cases in the UK; 43,081 people nationally have died from covid-19, including some 262 people in the Bristol area, while the Financial Times estimates more than 65,700 excess deaths in total\*; our thoughts are with their loved ones.
2. The accompanying economic impact is the worst since the Great Depression, and has seen 52,400 Bristolians furloughed, alongside significant job losses and financial hardship, increased foodbank usage, over £80 million support needed for Bristol businesses through the council, and a record national economic contraction of 20.4%.
3. Recessions and protracted economic crises always disproportionately affect those who are already vulnerable, living in poverty, and/or in insecure employment; something recognised in the campaigns to extend free school meals, support victims of domestic abuse and violence, house homeless people, including those with No Recourse to Public Funds, and provide additional help for asylum seekers.
4. This pandemic has disproportionately impacted on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, both in terms of numbers affected and proportion of deaths, but also the socio-economic impact; the pandemic has also disproportionately impacted on older people and disabled people, compounded by the Government's decision to discharge people with the virus back into care homes and initial national shortages of personal protective equipment.
5. In weeks, the Government's public position shifted from "providing] whatever funding is needed for councils to get through this and come out of the other side" to not "want[ing] anybody to labour under a false impression that what they are doing will be guaranteed funded by central government"; as a result Bristol faces an £82 million gap, while all councils and communities, according to the LGA, "face an existential crisis."
6. The horrendous death of George Floyd, and protests following it, further highlighted systemic racism around the world as well as the appalling brutality of American policing; the overdue removal of the statue of Edward Colston has presented an opportunity for institutions and communities in the City to re-examine their history and their current anti-racist equality practices.
7. It is of concern that illegal air quality is once again a blight on the people of Bristol. Poor air quality shortens lives and affects the health of many of the most deprived communities of the city, as documented in the Marmot review.\*\*

### Full Council believes:

1. We want the Government to succeed in tackling the pandemic, but it has sadly fallen short in its management to date from preparedness to responsiveness, to an inability to work cohesively enough with local government or our NHS – thus presiding over the second highest deaths per million of any country.
2. The Mayor, administration and other councillors have been right to call on Government to compensate Councils for both rising costs and falling revenues resulting from their efforts to lead the city through the pandemic. No final settlement has been agreed and the council should continue to work with the LGA to push for a better deal from government.
3. Black Lives Matter. We have a duty to understand the real, whole story of Bristol, and what it means to different communities, and to tackle systemic racism in order to lead positive change and rebuild Bristol, but not in the image of the unequal city which existed before.
4. Rebuilding a City of Hope, where nobody is left behind, requires investment to ensure a relentless focus on dismantling all structural inequalities to ensure that everyone believes that our recovery will benefit them and that it does.

5. There needs to be a concrete plan to tackle illegal air quality supported by government which can be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Full Council resolves:

1. To record our heartfelt thanks to all council staff and other key workers, especially those on the frontline, who have worked even harder than ever throughout the pandemic to keep us all safe and keep Bristol moving.
2. To make delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicit outcomes for our work – with a commitment to equalities, anti-racism, and tackling poverty – to underpin rebuilding a better Bristol through inclusive and sustainable growth.  
Looking at the following two SDG's - Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (supporting the marginalised and disadvantaged) - tangible actions that we can commit to now in relation to these goals and following on from Black Lives Matter would be to :
  - Ensure that the one Bristol curriculum is known and implemented across all schools in Bristol including academies and fee paying independent schools
  - Ensure investment goes into Black led institutions of the city either directly through the council or by brokering relationships with institutions in the city through the one city office or if agreed by the centres the Merchant Venturers. Such black led institutions must include the Malcolm X Centre, the Kuumba Centre, the Docklands Settlement and the Rastafari Cultural Centre.
3. To lobby the Government to introduce the Real Living Wage and, until that time, work with employers in our respective wards to engage with the Mayor and Trade Unions' Living Wage City initiative.
4. To ask the Mayor to push the Combined Authority and Government to commit to the SDGs, with a real emphasis on tackling unemployment among young people, and preventing any rise in people who are not in education, employment, or training.
5. To ask the Mayor to review the Equality Impact Assessment process to ensure it further informs decision-making, and to add deprivation/class to the 2010 Equality Act protected characteristics; in addition, auditing race equality across council departments and requiring specific anti-racist actions in their Equality Plans with targets for continued positive change in employment and service delivery.
6. To work to ensure that the recommendations of the Marmot Review into health inequalities are woven into the approach of the Council, the One City Plan, and all recovery planning.
7. Noting that in particular the recovery and response to the threat of climate change, air pollution and unemployment require urgent action, to take concerted action in partnership with other authorities and industry on energy efficiency and renewable production and investment, in development of and increasing use of new non-polluting technologies.
8. To make sure that a clean air zone that achieves legal air quality as a minimum by 2022 is prioritised to ensure the most deprived communities in the city are protected from illegal air pollution.

**\*Figures correct when submitted – 25 June**

**To be moved by Councillor Ruth Pickersgill (Labour – Easton)**

**\*\* In the executive summary of the Marmot Review it states :**

#### **AIR QUALITY**

**Air quality and related health risks have emerged as a major equity issue since 2010. Pollution levels are, on average, worse in areas of highest deprivation compared with areas of lowest deprivation. In 2016 the Chief Medical Officer's annual report was based on the risks of air**

**pollution and described worse impacts for deprived communities and places, showing these places had 'a higher exposure to air pollution and a greater burden of poor health increasing susceptibility to the impact of pollution'.**