

**Question: CQ11.02&03**

**Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Re: Agenda item 11 – City Leap Procurement**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Jerome Thomas**

**Background**

I am concerned with City Leap that the council has spent a lot of time and money making very little progress and I am concerned that investing further in the procurement process may not be good use of money.

In December 2017 you went to China to seek investment for £800million to £1 billion of low carbon energy infrastructure. Seeking investment in low carbon energy infrastructure is a worthwhile goal. In May 2018, the council sent out a prospectus for City Leap and in December 2018 it was reported that 180 organisations had expressed an interest. Given the length of time that you and your team have been working on this, Bristol residents would have hoped to have seen some progress on this by now, with expressions of interest being turned into actual investment.

Instead in July 2020 we find out that the procurement process has been so flawed that it has had to be abandoned at a cost to the city of over £4million. It appears yet again that more money has been spent on lawyers and consultants rather than the essential services and investments that the city needs.

Hopefully in your answers to my questions you will be able to reassure me that the money spent on City Leap procurement has not been wasted and there remains a credible possibility of third party investment in the city's low carbon energy infrastructure.

**Questions**

- 1) What value has been achieved for the city in the £4.2million (as at 31 March 2020) that has been spent on the failed City Leap procurement exercise?;
- 2) Now that the council under the Mayor's leadership has lost over £30 million on Bristol Energy, and Bristol Energy can no longer be bundled into any City Leap assets, precisely what is it that the Mayor is planning to sell to external investors within the City Leap 'wrapper' that can justify spending a further £2million plus on procurement?