

**Question: CS17.1**

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

**Re: Agenda item 17 – Colston Hall Redevelopment**

**Statement submitted by: Councillor Cleo Lake**

I have looked through various annual reports of Bristol Music Trust and whilst I acknowledge some of the incredible work that has been done including setting up various school orchestras and music provision for children in care for example, I was taken aback by reading that BMT receives over 1 million pounds a year of unrestricted funds from Bristol City Council. I can only presume that this pays for salaries as well as services. How many people of African heritage are on salaried roles at the Trust? I am very disappointed that yet again our tax money goes directly to the traditional seats of privilege in the city to deliver services for us as a black community rather than to us to deliver our own services. Many of us feel like a tick box in someone else's funding vision. I reflect on and contrast the 1 million pounds to the reality of the mere 60 thousand given to Carnival each year. This news hasn't been received well at all from others working in the arts and culture sector. Please do better for us. Building Back Better must come with a new approach.