

Question: CQ09.03&04

Cabinet – 26th January 2021

Re: Agenda item 9 Budget Recommendations to Full Council, including the Treasury Management Strategy

Questions submitted by: Gordon Richardson, Bristol Disability Equality Forum

Question 1.

In view of the temporary public toilets in the summer in Bristol Harbour and Queens Square including Disabled facilities and the importance of public toilets with Covid 19 hand washing etc, our members would like to know what budget is being put together to provide public toilets in Bristol city centre and Harbour area and in many shopping centres and parks (especially with changing places) and will capital receipts from any public toilet blocks be reinvested in new public and community toilets?

- **Since the closure of 14 on- street public toilets in 2018 a thriving Community Toilets Scheme (CTS) has been developed in the city with almost 200 participants. Over 85% include accessible facilities. The scheme has been acknowledged as a very successful one by the Great British Toilet Association. The council has also encouraged businesses to participate in the ‘Just can’t wait scheme’**
- **As lock down eases and venues reopen the CTS will restart and efforts to expand the scheme will resume.**
- **Temporary toilet facilities were provided in two locations (The Amphitheatre and Queens Square) in early summer before hospitality venues fully reopened. These were funded from Covid emergency budgets. The supplier closed them down after a short period due to regular and severe mistreatment. The government also advised at that time against using portable unsupervised toilets due to risk of infection.**
- **There are no plans at present to provide temporary toilets whilst the CTS remains suspended. Parks toilets remain open**
- **There are no plans to ring fence capital receipts to reinvest in council run public toilets.**

Question 2.

The Bristol Disability Equality Forum is pleased that public transport is being maintained to all hospitals in Bristol (South Bristol hospital 515 from Stockwood, Whitchurch and Hengrove 505 from Bristol Long Ashton park and ride to Clifton and Southmead hospital; 506 Bristol Easton Eastville Horfield and Southmead hospital. 11 and 10 from Shirehampton Avonmouth to Southmead hospital and Parkway Station Bradley Stoke and Thornbury).

Will these services still be operated by WECA mayoral transport authority using budget set by Bristol city council?

Our members are very concerned at HCT group buses operating to Southmead hospital and South Bristol Hospital and lack of progress to fit safety screen on these vehicles by the Director of Public Health and the Health and Safety Executive.

- **The responsibility for the Bus Service contracts listed passed to WECA on the 1st April 2020, alongside a levy from BCC to WECA to fully fund these services.**
- **This level of funding will continue, but the services funded will be subject to any potential changes to the network that WECA might deliver in alignment with the adopted Bus Strategy.**
- **Concerns regarding HCT Group buses will be raised direct with WECA and HCT Group.**