

Extraordinary Full Council

11th February 2021



Report of: Monitoring Officer

Title: Executive Decision Making and Scrutiny of Council-owned Companies –
Supplementary information

Summary

A request has been received from Councillor Gary Hopkins to include with the public papers for this Extraordinary Full Council meeting all exempt information considered by Cabinet in March 2020 and June 2020 in relation to Bristol Energy that can now be made public. Both reports and appendices have been reviewed by Council officers, representatives from Bristol Holding Company and Ernst & Young, the Council's external advisers.

1. The March 2020 Cabinet report is relevant supplementary information to the Value for Money (VFM) report prepared by the external auditors as it covers the period immediately after the timeframe considered by the external auditors in their VFM work.
2. The Cabinet report and appendices considered by Cabinet on 3 March 2020 are no longer considered to be exempt and are being published subject to one redaction of personal information.
3. The Cabinet Report and Appendices considered by Cabinet on 2 June 2020 are not relevant supplementary information to the VFM report as they relate to future strategic options in respect of Bristol Energy rather than the governance of the Council companies and therefore are not within the ambit of the request to be included in the papers for this meeting.
4. Additionally, the documents remain exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, para 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). The commercial interests of the Council remain paramount until the final details of the commercial transaction have been completed. The public interest in ensuring the Council achieves the best possible outcome for taxpayers from this transaction outweighs the need for transparency at this time. The position will be kept under review.

Appendices

1. Exempt Cabinet Report Bristol Energy Operational Update
2. Exempt Appendix A1 – Further Background – Bristol Energy Operational Update
3. Exempt Appendix J1 – EY Cash Flow Findings Report (Redacted)
4. Exempt Appendix J2 – Commentary on Bristol Energy Operational Update