

Question: CQ22.01&02

Cabinet – 22 June 2021

Re: Agenda item 22 – Bristol's first Citizens' Assembly recommendations

Question submitted by: Cllr Emma Edwards

I was delighted to read the report of the first Citizen's Assembly, a motion put forward by the Green Party and taken forward and overseen by Mayor Rees and Cllrs Paula O'Rourke and Asher Craig. I think this is a really positive step by the council, as a democratic process and in the topics that were raised, so I first wanted to congratulate the Mayor and Councillors for their work on it, and hope it will be something that will be repeated in the future. The questions posed and discussed in the Citizen's Assembly reflect the urgency of the climate emergency, and I believe the responses to the questions reflect how people in Bristol feel about the need to address this, and for cross party action on these issues.

The recommendations that came out of the assembly were very strong. Where recommendations were asked to be prioritised, certain ones (3, 8 and 17) were particularly strongly supported. Recommendation 8 which was 'Urgently reduce air pollution levels caused by vehicle use to safe and legal levels' got a particularly high recommendation, which is unsurprising as it affects the health and wellbeing of Bristol citizens, as well as being a contributing factor to climate change.

The report says that these outcomes will be shared and form part of the evidence base for the update of the Council's Corporate Strategy and to help shape Bristol's future.

I would like to ask:

1. How much influence will these results have?

Answer:

- **The recommendations developed by the Assembly are an important part of the city's deliberations. They've been shared with the thematic boards, Cabinet, Corporate Leadership Board and the relevant professional services. They'll contribute to the corporate strategy and refresh of the one city plan goals.**

2. What will they be balanced against?

Answer:

- **They are not balanced against anything, they are included with a whole basket of considerations – existing one city plan, the hopes of partner organisations, changing demands placed on us by a dynamic world, interests of communities who are just finding their voices, the manifesto I was elected by the city to deliver on and financial constraints.**

- In deciding whether and how we can implement each recommendation, we will need to consider legal, resourcing and other considerations – checking there are no unintended consequences for example – and how we would deliver the assembly's recommendations alongside our statutory and other ongoing commitments.