

**Question: CQ08.01&02**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 8 – We Work for Everyone Project**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Tim Rippington**

Q1) Please could Cllr Holland outline in more detail what support will be made available once someone has found work?

**Answer:**

**Upon entering paid employment, participants receive in work support for 6 months from their WE WORK for Everyone Navigator, who has been alongside them during their journey through the programme. The Navigators role will be to provide one-to-one advice and interventions as well as working with the employer and other support organisations on the participants behalf.**

**Furthermore, if the successful participant is in employment and earning below the real living wage or is in receipt of Universal Credit, they will be eligible for our Future Bright in work support service to help them gain additional skills and further their career.**

Q2) Is Cllr Holland able to specify how many employers have been approached about participating in these schemes, if she's able to provide the names of these employers, and how many placements are they looking to provide?

**Answer:**

**WE WORK for Everyone is currently working with 50 employers from public, private and voluntary sectors including.**

**The employers we currently work with are offering paid work opportunities, work experience opportunities, volunteering and in work training.**

**Recent work with sectors such as distribution and Farm Foods will see the creation of an internship programme which will create a long term routeway to employment specifically for those with Learning Difficulties.**

**Our work with employers has also helped us to inform and educate employers. The work we are currently doing with WECIL will provide employers with this resource that will inform their recruitment strategies going forward.**

**The programme is also providing support to projects such as Project Search specifically delivering internships with the NHS in Bristol and BANES and the City of Bristol College supporting current interns with learning difficulties to transition into paid employment with the range of employers listed below.**

**Please see below a list of employers who are currently engaged in the WWfE programme.**

- **NHS**
- **YTL/Wessex water**
- **Snapdragon Nursery**
- **Yell**
- **Sainsbury's,**
- **Turtle Bay restaurant**
- **Wetherspoons**
- **Homecare**
- **Bristol Rovers**
- **IKEA**
- **Step and Stone**
- **WECIL**

**Furthermore, through connecting with our other Employment Support programmes such as One Front Door, Future Bright and Move In, Move On, Move Up, Jobs Fairs and our extensive network we are able to speak with many employers across the City. For example, we currently have 140 people employed within 80 businesses across the City in Kick Start paid experience of work programme and a further 150 vacancies approved by the DWP.**

**Question: CQ10.01**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 10 – Medium Term Financial Plan/Capital Strategy**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Heather Mack**

The strategy refers to redressing the balance between invest to grow, invest to maintain and invest to save. Given the ongoing budget pressures in social care, it is my view we must focus on invest to save and invest to maintain projects or we will not be able to afford to deliver this necessary service.

Question: Can we make a commitment about what redressing this balance looks like?

**Answer:**

**The Capital Strategy provides the ambition to redress the allocation between each Investment Principle over the timeline of the strategy (the next 10 years).**

**At this stage it would be imprudent to set out what that balance may look like as a full assessment of the options, and their impact, needs to be undertaken and fully understood before making any commitments.**

**Progress on this assessment will be reported to Cabinet during the financial year and incorporated into a future annual refresh of the Strategy.**

**Question: PQ11.01&02**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 11 - Corporate Strategy 2022-2027**

**Question submitted by: David Redgewell, South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside.**

Q1. Theme 6: Transport and Connectivity  
Can the Mayor please make clear in the plan?

The responsibilities for the delivery of Metro West Network Rail western route First Great Western Railway, Department for Transport, the West Gateway Sub Regional Transport Board, Mayor for West of England Mayoral Combined authority Dan Norris and North Somerset council in partnership with Bristol City Council.

To reopen Bristol Temple meads station to Pill and Portishead Railway including looking at provision of a new station.

The Bristol Temple meads to Henbury line with new station at Ashley Down Filton Abbey wood and new stations at Filton North for the Arena and Henbury for Cribbs Causeway.

We are looking at a study to open a station at Horfield Constables Road.

Bristol Temple meads station to Keynsham, Oldfield Park, Bath Spa, Westbury line. We are looking at opening station at St Park and Saltford subject to further studies.

We are working with Network Rail Western and First Great Western Railway to make accessible stations at Lawrence Hill, Stapleton Road, Bedminster, Parson Street, Nailsea and Backwell and Weston super Mare.

On bus services we are working with the metro mayor Dan Norris of the West of England Combined authority and North Somerset Council on a bus services improvements plan under Bus Back Better the National bus strategy in partnership with First Group and Stagecoach West and other bus operators to develop an enhanced quality partnership to improve bus services including the Whitchurch to Bristol city centre A37.

The A4018 Bristol city centre to Cribbs Causeway Clifton Down station including looking at closing Park Street to the private car as a through route in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council

The Bristol bus station to Bath spa bus station A4 corridor, Bristol Temple Meads Station, Arnos Vale, Brislington, Keynsham, Saltford, Newbridge Weston and Bath in partnership with BANES council.

The Transport section is not up to date and needs more about delivery of public transport walking and cycling.

## **Answer**

**These are helpful suggestions and the point you make about differentiating the roles and responsibility of transport in the region are well made, but we're not using the document to explain all function of other institutions in the city.**

**The corporate strategy doesn't need to mention the specifics of the all the transport plans and strategies – we don't need to talk in detail about the projects themselves.**

**Similarly, the LCWIP is the overall plan of cycling and walking improvements which we are supporting the delivery of, the corporate strategy doesn't need to reference the individual plans and interventions included in that.**

## Q2. Theme 6: Transport and Connectivity

Whist welcoming the Bristol Parkway to Patchway station Filton North station for the Arena and Cribbs causeway bus station.

We welcome investment in metro bus new routes, I points, shelter and realtime information which is the responsibility of the west of England mayoral transport authority and mayor Dan Norris.

But the question is with investment is why progress has not been made on the South Bristol loop service Whitchurch including the Bamfield, Metro Hengrove Hospital, Hartcliffe, Withywood, South Bristol Link Road to Bristol city centre and Bristol Temple Meads Station and Broadmead.

This is the question that the MP Karen Smith and stakeholders in south Bristol want to know, **what progress is being made in on the south Bristol loop?**

There could also be a link from south Bristol via the Hengrove, Whitchurch Hartcliffe, Withywood and south Bristol loop to Ashton gate via the Portway to parkway station, Avonmouth and Severn Beach Cabot park.

## **Answer**

**There was a lack of interested operators for this route, and so as you note, this question would be better submitted to Dan Norris as Metro Mayor with responsibility for the supported bus routes.**

**Question: CQ12.01&02**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 12 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Steve Pearce**

1. How much has it saved someone on Universal Credit since its introduction?

**Answer**

**Statistics have not been compiled since the introduction of Universal Credit (UC).**

**However, there are currently 11,421 households who are receiving Council Tax Reduction (CTR) based on UC, with an average CTR award of £21.26 per week.**

**This equates to an average household receiving £1,105 per annum in support, which equates to £12.6 million in support for those on UC each year.**

2. How many core cities have maintained the 100% reduction rate?

**Answer**

**We are proud that Bristol City Council remains the only core city to offer a Council Tax Reduction scheme up to a 100% maximum reduction rate.**

**Question: CQ12.03**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 12 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Philippa Hulme**

Please could the Mayor provide details on the approach the Council is taking to chase Council Tax arrears, considering the financial hardship faced by some Bristolians due to Covid and Universal Credit cuts?

**Answer**

**We continue to take an ethical approach to our debt collection.**

**An initial letter will be issued soon, any citizens in difficulty should contact the council tax team to make an affordable payment plan.**

**During the call, anyone with debt problems can be referred to a specialist debt advisor for immediate call back.**

**The letter will also signpost them to support – CTR scheme, welfare benefits.**

**If they don't contact us, we will send a reminder, and then a further reminder, if needed.**

**We can agree a payment plan at any time in the process – it's never too late to talk to us.**

**Question: CQ13.01**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 13 – Budget Monitoring Outturn Report P6**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Heather Mack**

According to the MTFP, £5.5m in savings are at risk without a mitigation plan, £2m of this can be absorbed by savings contingency leaving a £3.5m residual gap, why does this report suggest all the savings will be achieved?

**Answer:**

**The Adult Social Care forecast overspend of £12m includes the assessment of in year savings targets at risk of non-delivery. Mitigations continue to be explored for reducing some of the overarching pressures and risks within the service budget and eligibility for one off in year Covid funding, which can also be attributed to savings that cannot be delivered because of the pandemic.**

**The MTFP considers the in-year savings at risk, the associated delivery plans and assess the likelihood that the savings will be delivered in this or the subsequent financial year. The savings at risk are predominantly attributed to social care and no Covid funding is expected for 2022/23. The current assessment given the ongoing pressures is that there is a high likelihood that the savings will not be achieved in 2022/23, and if offset against the available contingency would still leave a residual pressure of £3.5m that would need to be addressed.**



**Question: CQ13.02**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 13 – Budget Monitoring Outturn Report P6**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Katy Grant**

On the likelihood of overspend within the adult social care budget: in light of the additional stresses that covid and lockdown-related costs have brought to the budget, as well as other outgoings due to wages increases, is this not the right point to accept that there will be an overspend – rather than continuing to look for ways to cut in a sector that is of vital importance right now, and where insufficient spending could have very significant consequences for the most vulnerable?

**Answer:**

**The council must balance its budget, and all overspends need to be funded in year.**

**Question: CQ16.01**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 16 - Gambling Act Policy Review (Statutory)**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend**

It's great to see a wide range of stakeholders consulted, however I note some important omissions such as BARBIE, Nightwatch, Save Bristol Nightlife, CAMRA, Christmas Steps Arts Quarter, Redcliffe Residents Action Group, Bristol women's commission...

Question: What was the mechanism for contacting stakeholders and was any attempt made at contacting & engaging with these key stakeholders I've listed?

**Answer:**

**Our intention in this document is simply to comply with the Gambling Act.**

**The Gambling Act requires consultation with certain statutory groups, all of whom have been consulted and are listed in the document.**

**Additionally, the consultation was sent to a range of other groups including business improvement area groups, BARBIE, Nightwatch and others, as well as being available to any other person or group on the council's consultation hub and was sent to a list of stakeholders.**

**The consultation was available for comment for 12 weeks in line with government best practice.**

**Question: CQ16.02&03**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 16 - Gambling Act Policy Review (Statutory)**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Barry Parsons**

1. Is the intention to phase all gambling out of Bristol?

**Answer:**

**That is not the intention and the Council has no powers to do so.**

2. And if so, what precautions will be in place to prevent unregulated gambling?

**Answer:**

**There is no mechanism for the Council to phase out gambling.**

**Question: CQ20.01**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 20 - Bedminster Green Framework Area**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Lisa Stone**

1) In order to secure vacant possession for Plot 5, the sustainable wooden building the Green House will not be able to remain in situ. This is a unique building, which is both sustainable and can be moved. There are currently no clear proposals for its future within the Cabinet Report.

QUESTION: Can this valuable building be preserved by moving it to Victoria Park, potentially in order to provide some or all of the services currently outlined as being part of a new building?

**Answer:**

**Bristol City Council's Parks Officers have explained that the green house building is too big for Victoria Park both in terms of the function they are trying to deliver, and also the impact on the landscape there.**

**A structural survey has been carried out to understand whether the building is structurally sound enough to be moved to an alternative location. We are currently awaiting the results.**

**Question: CQ20.02&03**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 20 - Bedminster Green Framework Area**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Ed Plowden**

1) At the moment the report makes a passing reference to local parking restrictions, but no firm proposal to progress them, despite the accumulation of a large S106 budget for their introduction. There is widespread consensus that parking restrictions will be needed, given that the Council has negotiated these funds, developers have contributed them, and the Development Planning Committee A have requested that these restrictions be expedited.

QUESTION: When will a firm plan for use of the existing funds be brought forward and the longstanding question from the Dev Ctte Chair be answered?

**Answer:**

**We will not expand the extent of the current Residents Parking Scheme unless overwhelming public support can be demonstrated.**

**Through section 106 funding that has been agreed for Bedminster Green, the UoB campus at Temple Quarter as well as the Broadwalk shopping centre application we will look to deliver better transport and movement solutions, including consideration of a Liveable Neighbourhood.**

2) The current financing for the proposals relies on CRSTS funding.

QUESTION: Given that the local councils have been unable to secure the full amount of funding made available by the Government, what allocation has been made with CRSTS and if not sufficient, what are the proposed methods of funding the shortfall?

**Answer:**

**The Bedminster Green highways project was included within the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) bid as it aligns with the aims of the fund, including supporting sustainable growth in Bedminster Green and improving strategic corridor links between the city centre and south Bristol.**

**Although our allocation of the £540m CRSTS funding awarded to WECA is not yet known, there will still be a significant amount of funding available.**

**Cabinet are being asked to prioritise Bedminster Green for CRSTS funding, for the reasons previously mentioned, as well as it being at an advanced stage of development (due to start summer 2022).**

**It is noted at paragraph 24 in the report that should CRSTS funding not be allocated to this project for any reason, a further report will be brought to Cabinet identifying alternative delivery and funding options for the project.**

**Question: C22.01&02**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 22 - Director of Public Health Annual Report 20-21**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Gary Hopkins**

COVID statistics -public health report

It is undoubtedly true that higher vaccination rates are a very large factor in helping to reduce harm from COVID.

1. Can we have by ward (or equivalent sized defined geographical area) the vaccination rates, case numbers and COVID deaths?

**Answer:**

**Ongoing reporting of case rates and vaccination take-up is available from the bi-weekly report from the Director of Public Health which is published on the council website.**

**Data on cases and vaccine coverage at national, local, and middle super output areas are available from the UK Health Security Agency website at [coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk). It is, however, unhelpful to pit local areas against one another.**

2. Can we have the Bristol totals for the above statistics and a comparison with the south west of England and whole country figures?

**Answer:**

**Information on the case rates in Bristol compared with other local authorities and the England average are published on the council's website. And local authority, regional and national-level data is available at [coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk).**

**However, as of 31 October, the statistics for Bristol are as follows:**

- **569 cases per 100,000 people (compared to 608.9 per 100,000 in the South West, and 435.8 per 100,000 for England).**
- **74.4% of people aged 12 and over have received one dose of the vaccine, and 67.9% have received two doses. (In the South West these figures are 82.8% and 77.1% respectively; in England the figures are 86.6% of people have received their first dose, and 79.2%).**
- **557 people have died within 28 days of a positive test in Bristol since the start of the pandemic; 7,648 people have died across the South West, and 122,614 have died in England.**

**Question: CQ22.03**

**Cabinet – 2 November 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 22 - Director of Public Health Annual Report 20-21**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend**

1. Our communities have shown great resilience to the effects of covid, but are on their knees. Now UC uplift has been cut, furlough ended and costs of living are spiralling, and many will be affected by the increased return of social distancing.

Question: What lobbying of Central government will the Mayor & Cabinet be carrying out to ensure the financial and societal support is in place for the coming hard months facing us as a city?

**Answer:**

**We have been clear throughout the pandemic that the government need to act to safeguard public health and protect people from the social and economic aftershocks.**

**In our submissions to Government ahead of the Budget and Spending Review we highlighted the key roles local authorities play in supporting people, and the need to make sure we are properly funded to deliver that support.**

**In particular, we have highlighted time and time again the importance of a proper funding settlement that helps local authorities meet the demand for Adult Social Care. This is crucial if we are to safeguard support for our most vulnerable citizens during what is likely to be an extremely challenging winter.**

**We will continue to lobby government to ensure that any support that comes through does not simply reflect our population in numbers, but also the way in which deprivation drives additional need for support.**