

Petition Response

Thank you for your petition and contribution to Full Council.

I will not comment on the specific planning application on the Baltic Wharf caravan site at this time. The planning committee will consider all the relevant issues when it makes its decision.

The most sustainable development sites in central Bristol will be previously developed land as described in the National Planning Policy Framework's definition. When officers and the planning committee consider planning applications, they will of course be aware of the characteristics of each site and will base their recommendations and decisions on the relevant facts having due regard to the 2014 Local Plan and material planning considerations. We continue to work with councillors in developing the revised Local Plan, which will do much more to balance the considerations of the Climate and Ecological emergencies with the need for development.

If we are to tackle Bristol's housing crisis and population growth, while minimising the carbon price the planet pays for this growth we must prioritise brownfield sites and develop densely to reduce pressure on green field sites. This is why locations such as Temple Island, Castle Park view and the Galleries, Western Harbour are vital development sites. I look forward to you joining us in supporting them in the face of oppositional politics as they come forward.

Response to PS09

Thank you for your statement to Full Council.

I am grateful to you for sharing your experiences of trying to find a home to rent – and the impact discriminatory policies have on those simply looking to find a home in our city.

I am pleased that Full Council voted to support Cllr Renhard's motion to stamp out discrimination against people on benefits in the Private Rented Sector.

As a result of the motion passing, we will update our landlord licensing schemes to include explicit anti-discrimination clauses in all future property licenses and create a local action plan to stamp out "No DSS" practices. We will also continue our work through our Private Housing team to support renters in challenging and reporting letting agents and landlords engaging in discriminatory practices. We will also call on the government to call for benefit levels to be raised and updated in line with local rents so they provide realistic financial support to cover the costs of renting in Bristol.

This commitment stands alongside our continued work to deliver the new affordable homes that Bristol needs. We have committed to deliver 1,000 affordable homes a year by 2024. I hope we will continue to have the Bristol Fair Renting Campaign will continue to support the delivery of these new homes, and our ongoing efforts to help more people find a secure and affordable home in Bristol.