

MOTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL 15th March 2022

1. Borders and Nationalities Bill

This Council notes that:

1. Bristol is proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety;
2. As a City of Sanctuary, Bristol is committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all those fleeing persecution
3. There are significant problems with the UK asylum system that affect people in Bristol.
4. The Government's Nationality and Borders Bill ('the bill') does not address these issues, and will instead create a two-tier system, penalising people seeking safety based on the journeys they make;
5. People seeking sanctuary, including Afghan refugees, who reach the UK via unofficial routes will be criminalised and threatened with deportation under this Bill;
6. The Bill will create longer backlogs, warehouse people in large accommodation centres, and leave many refugees with a temporary and precarious status;
7. This bill has been condemned by the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Bristol's four Labour Members of Parliament, other local government leaders across the UK, as well as the United Nations Refugee Agency.
8. Clause nine of the bill gives the Home Secretary power to revoke citizenship at their discretion. This clause has been deemed 'exorbitant, ill-defined and unconstitutional (1)'

This Council believes that:

1. This Bill is effectively an 'anti-refugee' Bill, undermines the right to seek safety, and undermines civil liberties.
2. This Bill will lead to greater poverty and homelessness in Bristol and will undermine people's ability to rebuild their lives;
3. The UK should uphold our obligations in international law and our responsibilities as a global nation;
4. The UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them;
5. Clause nine of the bill raises particular concern, as it, in effect, allows the Home Secretary to deprive a person of their citizenship at their discretion, without notice and retrospectively. The communities most likely to be targeted would be our Muslim and minority communities, and severely undermines the civil liberties of all UK citizens. This Council notes that the Home Office has already acted unlawfully when

using revoking citizenship (2), and believes the Government's power to revoke citizenships needs to be curtailed.

This Council resolves to call on Party Group to Group leaders to:

1. Make the Council's views known to the UK government, and lobby it to throw out the Nationality and Borders Bill;
2. Call on the UK Government to work with Local Authorities and communities to build a fairer and more effective asylum system.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Hussain

Date of submission: 17th February 2022

- (1) [Legal opinion by leading immigration barristers finds clause 9 of Nationality and Borders Bill gives Home Secretary "exorbitant, ill-defined and unconstitutional" power to remove citizenship | Electronic Immigration Network \(ein.org.uk\)](#)
- (2) [Appeal judges rule that the Home Office acted unlawfully stripping woman of citizenship – The Justice Gap](#)

2. Democracy Motion

This Council notes plans by the Conservative Government to replace the Supplementary Vote system used to elect Mayors, Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners with First Past The Post.

This Council also notes the Government's plans to bring in compulsory photo ID for people wanting to vote, well aware that three and a half million people in this country do not have any photo ID.

This Council also congratulates the Welsh Senedd for passing the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill on 21 January this year which delivers the following:

- The right of Local Councils to scrap First Past the Post and instead elect Councillors using the Single Transferable Vote
- Votes at 16 - extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds and to all foreign citizens legally resident in Wales.
- Automatic Voter Registration - The bill also paves the way for an overhaul of Wales' outdated and ineffective system of voter registration. The bill could lead to a new system where registration officers can identify people missing from the register and let them know they'll be added.

English voters are already disadvantaged compared to voters in Northern Ireland, where STV has been used to elect Councils for decades, Scotland, where the same move was made in 2007, and now Wales is making the same changes.

This Council agrees to join the campaign by the Electoral Reform Society to demand the same rights for English voters that are already enjoyed by voters in Northern Ireland where STV has been used for years, Scotland, where STV came in for Council elections in 2007 and in Wales where Councils will, inevitably, make the move to fair voting.

This Council also commits to working with other Councils, Core Cities, Mayors and Metro Mayors and others to:

- Oppose the scrapping of the Supplementary Vote system that ensures more votes count;
- Oppose the introduction of compulsory photo ID for voters
- Demand new legislation to allow:
 - English Councils to switch to STV if they so chose
 - Votes at 16
 - Automatic Voter Registration

Finally this Council calls on all UK political parties to embrace electoral reform for all elections so everyone can vote for the candidates or parties they truly believe in safe in the knowledge that their vote will always count.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Breckels

Date of Submission: 25th February 2022

RENEWAL OF BRISTOL'S COMMITMENT TO TOWN TWINNING

This Council is proud of our city's long association with town twinning.

Town twinning started in Europe after the second world war. The idea was simple: to repair damaged relationships between France, Germany, and the UK.

Since the 1940s, the twinning associations have extended this reach of friendship beyond Bordeaux and Hannover. It now includes Porto, Tbilisi, Puerto Morazan, Beira and Guangzhou.

There is presently no formal twinning link with any city in Ukraine, but many Ukrainians have made Bristol their home. Informal family ties have therefore already been established. In the wake of the humanitarian disaster currently unfolding in Eastern Europe and the limited intervention by the international community to restore peace to that region, the role of fellowship and solidarity between countries has once again come to prominence and importance.

Council deplores unreservedly the unlawful and brutal Russian occupation of sovereign Ukraine territory. Our thoughts are with those who have suffered loss in this needless conflict. Events in Ukraine are an appalling human tragedy.

Council requests the Mayor: -

- 1) Consider, at an appropriate time, twinning with a city in Ukraine.
- 2) Contact the mayor of Kyiv expressing our support for his city and the Ukraine at this dark and difficult time
- 3) Write to the Prime Minister urging him to do everything possible to provide tangible help for the brave people of Ukraine

Motion to be moved by:- Councillor John Goulandris

Date of submission 3rd March 2022

PROMOTING BETTER FINANCIAL EDUCATION

“This Council notes the concern which has been expressed by many professionals and finance institutions over the standard of financial education given under the National Curriculum or through Academy schools.

Critics of the existing system of training have argued that much more comprehensive, ‘bespoke’ and relevant material needs to be given to all age ranges. They maintain that children and young people should be taught more than the basic mathematics involved in understanding different forms of credit and debt.

As citizens of a highly competitive consumer society, with easy access to all kinds of complicated investment and saving instruments, the next generation must also be equipped with the tools or methodologies required to evaluate risk.

Council is aware that various schemes for teaching these essential skills have been run by individuals like the moneysaving expert Martin Lewis and some of the high street banks. However, much more systematic work is required.

Accordingly, the Mayor is asked to liaise with his Director of Education & Skills to establish, examine, and evaluate the current level of financial literacy being taught in state-funded schools. Following such an audit, Headteachers should be consulted on how this provision can be improved and built upon.”

Motion to be moved by:- Councillor John Geater

Date of submission 3rd March 2022

RE-INVENTING THE PUBLIC REALM THROUGH TRANSPORT INITIATIVES

“Council is disappointed by the way the Mayor is choosing to unveil controversial and potentially damaging transport proposals. The current Administration seems intent on provoking a hostile political reaction rather than seeking to engage constructively with opposition parties to achieve consensus and positive change.

Council is particularly concerned at the radical plan to close off Park Street (a major thoroughfare) to private vehicles, Queens Road (at the Victoria Rooms) and North View (at White Tree roundabout). Such a move would inevitably harm the various remaining businesses on each of those roads. Making access to the city centre and North View much more difficult for shoppers will continue to reduce the attractiveness of Broadmead as a retail destination and thereby accelerate its continuing economic decline and will also jeopardise the businesses in Westbury Park.

Council fully understands that changes need to be made to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions but following a unilaterally determined policy that puts many more jobs at risk without proper consideration of alternative strategies is not acceptable.

Accordingly, Council asks for the Mayor to give a commitment that there will be a genuine chance of changing any finalised scheme now that the ‘Have Your Say’ public engagement exercise on the proposed designs to improve the A37/A4018 (no.2 bus route) has closed. For consultation to be meaningful, the Mayor and his transport planners should be prepared to take notice of the public’s views and act on them.”

Motion to be moved by: – Councillor Mark Weston

Date of submission: 3rd March 2022

MARKING OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

"This year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. Celebrations are to be held throughout the United Kingdom and The Commonwealth to mark this historic occasion.

To honour this magnificent milestone, a four-day Jubilee weekend will take place from Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th June. The UK Government have confirmed four days of events are to be held which will "mix the best of British ceremonial splendour and pageantry with cutting edge artistic and technological displays".

Celebrations will recognise The Queen's impact over the course of her remarkable reign, which has featured fourteen Prime Ministers since taking the throne on 6th February 1952.

Accordingly, this Council, in the spirit of national appreciation and praise, calls upon the Mayor to: -

1. Write to the Royal Household, to express our congratulations to Her Majesty on seventy years of distinguished service.
2. In conjunction with other senior civic figures arrange a local ceremony to celebrate this landmark.
3. Task officers to identify an area of Council-owned land which would be suitable for tree planting to form a large coppice – accompanied with a commemorative plaque. Such action is consistent with The Queen's Green Canopy Project and would provide an enduring tribute to Her Majesty's lifetime of public service and devotion to The Commonwealth."

Motion to be moved by: - Councillor Mark Weston

Date of submission: 3rd March 2022

Electronic Waste and Rare Earth Mineral Recycling

Full Council Notes:

- The current global efforts for developed economies to decarbonise is leading to increased electrification and digitisation within those economies.
- A consequence of this is the growth in the production of electronic devices, many of which eventually become Electronic Waste.
- This type of waste poses a more significant challenge in terms of recycling compared to simpler materials such as plastic and metal recycling. This is due to the presence of potentially harmful substances within Electronic Waste, many of which are from Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
- Extracting and refining REEs as well as the challenge of addressing Electronic Waste presents logistical problems for national and local governments globally. There are also significant carbon costs associated with these.
- The development of a Circular Economy, where waste is minimised and in some where possible completely eliminated, necessitates bold advances both in REE and Electronic Waste recycling.
- REE recycling in particular is in its infancy globally and significant advances need to be made in order to keep pace with the electrification and digitisation of the global economy.
- Market manipulation practices in the REE market by the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC), including price hiking, is a source of strategic concern internationally. The PRC Government is able to do this due to years of investment in REE mining development and acquiring REE mining rights on an unprecedented scale internationally.

Full Council Believes:

- Bristol, as a city with a demonstrated environmental ethos, has a responsibility to do its part to tackle the growing problems of Electronic Waste and the wastage of REE.
- That efforts need to be made to reduce the carbon cost of producing more electronic devices with utilise REEs. Ultimately REEs recycling processes will need to be researched, developed, and tested to stop this exacerbating the Climate Emergency.
- Electronic Waste, and that related to REEs, needs to be dealt with in a way that is environmentally sustainable and keeps those individuals processing such waste safe from harm.
- Bristol, and the country, have a moral responsibility in terms of environmental justice to increase the capacity for Electronic Waste and REE related waste to be processed domestically. This should be done with a particular view to ultimately putting an end to the environmental injustice of sending such waste to be processed in questionable conditions abroad, including in developing countries.
- Mutual support and aid groups that promote the sharing and donating of Electronic Devices are an unacknowledged source of community support. Their efforts during

recent lockdowns have helped keep many Bristolian citizens, educated, connected and supported.

- Enforcement of the “Right to Repair” in principle is ultimately beneficial to: consumers, the environment, the wider community, and the economy (local and national), as well as promoting innovation.
- The UK Government’s current goal to ban the sale of petroleum fuelled vehicles by 2030 will likely lead to an increase in electric vehicle purchases. Because of this REE use and wastage is likely to increase exponentially as this deadline gets closer.

Full Council Resolves that:

The Mayor and Council Leadership should:

- Engage with Bristol Waste, our local Universities, and other relevant bodies with a view to establishing electronic waste recycling services that will be able to recycle certain REEs from electronic devices and electric vehicles in a way which is safe to refuse workers and the environment and allows for the expansion of the range of electronic devices eligible for recycling on the BCC list for “small electrical items recycling”.
- Explore best practice, and monitor ongoing research and technological advances in the area, including the University of Birmingham’s developing SUSMAGPRO (Sustainable Recovery, Reprocessing and Reuse of Rare-Earth Magnets in a Circular Economy) project with regard to the above efforts. More advanced programmes and systems for REE recycling in other countries including but not exclusively those in the Asia-Pacific region should be carefully researched.
- Establish a reporting mechanism to allow for regular updates on the above actions to be made to Council through the relevant Scrutiny bodies.
- Lobby the UK Government, in co-operation with other concerned local authorities, to enhance the “Right to Repair” law passed 8th July 2021. This should be expanded to specifically include laptops and Smart Phones in particular within its remit, and to make repair services and resources more affordable and accessible. The law should also enhance end-user “Right to Repair” and provide protection from “planned obsolescence” in electronic devices.

Bristol City Council should:

- Help to promote, publicise (including via the BCC website), and encourage community mutual aid schemes that help recycle electronic devices between users and including those on low incomes.

Motion to be moved by : Cllr Andrew Brown

Date of Submission 3rd March 2022

Support Carbon Tax-And-Dividend

This Council Notes:

1. That while the COP (Conference of the Parties) is over, Britain still has the presidency for a year, so an opportunity to take real action to attempt to 'keep 1.5 alive' exists;
2. Man-made climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, affecting every part of the globe. Since the second half of the 19th century, the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from human activities has warmed the planet by 1.1C. Rapid reductions in GHGs are needed immediately otherwise limiting global warming to 1.5C or even 2C will be impossible;
3. These are the stark conclusions from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, released in August 2021[1]. The report presented the findings from years of in-depth work from over 200 scientists in 66 countries. It provided key evidence for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which is hosted by the UK Government in Glasgow from October 31st to November 12th 2020;
4. Last year already saw record extreme heat in both North America and Europe, the hottest July globally since records began, catastrophic floods in Europe and China, and raging wildfires in Siberia, Europe, and California. And this is with only 1.1C warming. It will get worse, but how much worse depends on how quickly GHG emissions are reduced;
5. It is estimated that the UK will be responsible for ~800 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2021[2]. We need mechanisms to reduce GHG use quickly. One potentially 'game changing' mechanism is a carbon tax that covers all GHGs emitted in the provision goods and services. For the tax to be socially and economically fair, the money raised should be used to pay a 'citizen dividend'. A carbon tax dividend, starting at £100 per tonne of CO2, would generate up to £80 billion, which could make the necessary changes for a rapid transition to a zero-carbon economy, while supporting UK residents[3].

This Council Believes:

1. The moral and economic case for a comprehensive carbon tax with citizen dividends lies in the 'polluter pays' principle;
2. Currently the costs of climate breakdown are not borne by the industries and activities that are causing the damage but by people and communities coming under increasing pressure and danger;
3. Outdoor air pollution from fossil fuels causes 3 million deaths globally each year and up to 36,000 in the UK. [4];
4. A carbon tax, set at the right level, will drive fossil fuel consumption out of the economy and promote investment in clean alternatives;
5. A citizen dividend from the carbon tax, returned directly to UK citizens through equal lump sum rebates, would ensure that the less well-off actually benefit financially;
6. There is widespread support for a comprehensive carbon tax with a citizen dividend. In 2019, the Wall Street Journal published a call for such a tax from US economists, including 27 Nobel Laureates and 4 former Chairs of the Federal reserve[5]. They stated, "a carbon tax should increase every year until emissions reductions goals are met". In the UK, an Opinium survey revealed that two thirds of UK voters support a

tax on carbon emissions[6]. A 2019 study from the Economic and Social Research Institute, reported in The Times[7], found that a carbon tax could reduce GHG emissions and reduce income inequality;

7. Despite the failure of last year's COP26 meeting in Glasgow to do so, the UK can and should introduce its own comprehensive carbon tax, paying dividends raised back to citizens. A carbon 'border adjustment mechanism' should be applied to goods imported into the UK to ensure that the GHGs emitted in their production are also taxed. A border adjustment mechanism would protect more cleanly produced UK made goods and incentivise other economies to lower emissions.

This Council Resolves:

For all Council members who support this motion to sign a letter to those named below, calling for a comprehensive carbon-tax-and-dividend:

1. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson,
2. MP Alok Sharma, President of COP26 (the Glasgow 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference), and to
3. Our four Bristol MPs.

This letter will call for the UK government to:

1. Propose an international carbon tax framework during the year of the COP presidency which ends when we hand the Presidency over to an African country at the end of 2022.
2. Introduce a UK-wide carbon tax by the end of 2022, this tax to be applied to imports as well as to domestic production (and/or "carbon border adjustment mechanism" / tax / tariffs).
3. Include a citizens' dividend mechanism to fairly return carbon tax earnings and support our transition to a cleaner economy.

FOOTNOTES

[1] IPCC, 2021. Climate Change Widespread, Rapid, and Intensifying.

[2] The Climate Change Committee, 2020. The Sixth Carbon Budget – The UK's part to Net Zero; Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2018. Methodology Paper for Emission Factors; Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2018. UK's Carbon Footprint 1997-2018 report. [3] PERILS catastrophe insurance data provider, Zurich, 2021. PERILS sets final £368mn estimate for Feb 2020 UK floods; Royal College of Physicians, 2020. Outdoor air quality in the UK - position statement.

[4] Public Health England.2019. Review of interventions to improve outdoor air quality and public health.

[5] The Wall Street Journal. 2019. Economists' Statement on Carbon Dividends. Bipartisan agreement on how to combat climate change.

[6] The Guardian, Opinion Survey 2021. Carbon tax would be popular with UK voters, poll suggests.

[7] The Times, 2019. Higher carbon taxes 'could cut income divide and emissions'.

FURTHER READING

<https://citizensclimatelobby.uk/climate-income/policy-makers/carbon-fee-dividend/>

MOTION PROPOSED BY: Paula O'Rourke

DATE SUBMITTED: 3rd March 2022

Bristol Living Rent

Full Council notes that:

1. Around a third of Bristol residents are private renters, yet our broken housing market makes renting in Bristol increasingly unaffordable.
2. Private rents have increased by an average of 52% since 2011 and continue to increase faster than the rate at which incomes rise.
3. The 2021 quality of life report indicates that a third of renters are unsatisfied with their landlord, yet weak protections for renters and the fear of retaliatory evictions make it difficult to challenge poor quality, unsafe accommodation, or discrimination based on protected characteristics or type of income.
4. Many letting agents have an informal but well-observed practice of periodically encouraging all their landlord clients to increase rents, contributing to rent inflation.
5. Local authorities have no means to enforce rent controls, and currently have limited influence on private sector rental values or powers over private landlords.
6. Both the Green and Labour Party manifestos in the 2019 General Election supported rent controls, and the Mayor of London has pledged to lobby central government for local authority powers to control rent levels.
7. The high cost of rent disproportionately affects younger people and marginalised people in the city.

Full Council believes that:

1. High private rental costs push people into poverty, debt, and homelessness, contribute to overcrowding, and negatively impact the mental and physical health of renters.
2. Rent increases can be unfair on tenants and can directly lead to housing insecurity.
3. Genuinely affordable rents give people the freedom to live a decent life, helping to lift families out of poverty and not just manage each month.
4. Local authorities should be granted powers to control rents and regulate the private rental market.
5. A “living rent” should be defined relative not to the housing market but to the household income of a region.
6. People on lower incomes should typically not have to spend more than around a third of take-home pay on rent, as recommended by the housing charity Shelter.

Full Council resolves:

1. To support the Mayor to publicly lobby central government for direct powers to control rents and regulate the private rental market of Bristol.
2. To further ask the Mayor to lobby the government for direct powers to give tenants increased rights pertaining to negotiating their minimum tenancy agreements.

3. To research, publish and promote an annual “Bristol living rent” for the private rented sector with a view to exerting influence on the rental market within Bristol. The “living rent” will be specified with consideration of dwelling size.
4. To include in the report the “living rent increase” per annum.
5. To include in this report the current actual average rent rates in each area of Bristol.
6. To define “living rent” as a proportion of median income for Bristolians. The report will make use of existing ONS data on household income.

Motion Proposer: Councillor Barry Parsons

Motion Submitted: 3rd March 2022

Nationality and Borders Bill

Full Council notes that:

1. Bristol City Council is proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety in Bristol and of Bristol's status as a city of sanctuary.
2. There are significant problems with the UK asylum system that affect people in Bristol, including a record backlog of cases awaiting a decision, an effective ban on working, and enforced poverty and homelessness.
3. The Government's Nationality and Borders Bill does not address these issues, and will instead create a two-tier system, penalising people seeking safety based on the journeys they make.
4. People seeking sanctuary, including Ukrainian & Afghani refugees, who reach the UK by themselves via unofficial routes, will be criminalised and threatened with deportation under this Bill.
5. The Bill will create longer backlogs, warehouse people in large accommodation centres, and leave many refugees with a temporary and precarious status.
6. The Government's proposals have been condemned locally by the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Bristol City Councillors, Bristol's four Members of Parliament and, as demonstrated in the Bristol City of Sanctuary Open Statement, an impressive number of refugee, faith, trades union, community groups and individuals across the city. It is also opposed by local government leaders across the UK, the Welsh and Scottish Assemblies as well as the United Nations Refugee Agency.
7. Clause 9 of the bill that gives the Home Secretary power to deprive a person of UK citizenship at her/his discretion without notice and retrospectively threatens the civil liberties of us all.
8. The Bill is at a critical stage, at its third reading in the House of Lords where it is facing significant opposition and has already suffered four defeats.

Full Council believes that:

1. This Bill is effectively an 'anti-refugee' Bill and undermines the right to seek safety; criminalising people purely because of the way they've arrived in Britain is wrong and unjust, it ignores their reason for fleeing here and makes it harder for the victims of trafficking to come forward to seek help for fear of being imprisoned for "illegal entry".
2. This Bill will lead to greater poverty and homelessness in Bristol and will undermine people's ability to rebuild their lives.
3. The UK should uphold our obligations in international law and our responsibilities as a global nation. In the longer term we are likely to see more refugees, not only as a result of war but as the climate crisis unfolds. We should be making more provision for both the number of refugees and the support they receive, not less.
4. The refugee "problem" needs to be put into perspective as it is not even filling the gap of a declining birth rate. In the year to March 2020 there were 35,099 asylum applications. In the same period there were 44,000 fewer births than the previous 12 months.

5. The UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Publicly restate its commitment to refugees both through its website, public statements and its partnership with City of Sanctuary.
2. Call on the UK Government to throw out the Nationality and Borders Bill.
3. Call on the UK Government to work with Local Authorities and communities to provide the necessary resources, enabling them to build a fairer and more effective asylum system.
4. Review our policies in regard to housing, social care and education in particular to ensure we are helping asylum seekers and refugees to the maximum of our legal ability in settling in Bristol. In particular regarding resettlement programmes as outlined in LGA guidance on resettling refugees.
5. Encourage partners through the One City partnership to pledge any active measures they can take to support any asylum seekers and refugees who live in our City and to report back in an agenda item at the One City partnership in a similar approach to the “One City Climate Ask”.

Motion Proposer: Cllr Mohamed Makawi

Motion Submitted: 3 March 2022

A Universal Basic Income Trial for Bristol

This council notes:

The drastic impacts of the Covid Pandemic on employment and household incomes in the city;

1. The threat to income and employment from automation and artificial intelligence, which could affect a great many more jobs in future;
2. The development of universal basic income (UBI) trials in other countries, which offer a non-means-tested sum paid by the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status, which has been widely debated in recent months;
3. That a trial of UBI was promised by the Labour party had the party won the last general election;
4. The resolutions of other local authorities including Sheffield, Birmingham, Lewes, and Brighton and Hove [with cross party support] calling for trials of UBI;
5. A network of Universal Basic Income Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus. One is operating in Bristol.
6. Birmingham City Council has issued a briefing on UBI. (1)
7. UBI has been Green Party Policy since about 1973 and more recently taken up by other parties. (2)

This council believes:

1. That the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities;
2. A UBI is the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on people's incomes as it does not discriminate between employment status, caring responsibilities, age, or disability when providing basic support;
3. There is a danger of increasing numbers of people facing poverty as a result of the coronavirus crisis;
4. Testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to help address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, loss of community, and breach of planetary boundaries through:
 - i. Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their jobs;
 - ii. Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
 - iii. Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;

- iv. Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;
 - v. Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce strain on the environment in line with the One City Climate Strategy;
 - vi. Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy.
5. The success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them; and,
 6. Given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Bristol is ideally placed to pilot a UBI.

This Council calls on the Mayor to:

1. Send a joint letter with the other party leaders to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, and all local MPs, asking for a trial of Universal Basic Income in the city citing the above reasons.

Motion proposer: Ani Stafford-Townsend, Central Ward Green Party Councillor

Motion submitted: 3rd March 2022

Sources

- 1) Birmingham City Council's official UBI briefing - see https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=nb28HJzZZy8R6UE9qsv3LHJckreeBwn50Tbzb0riXhiHQcf3zr1WGQ%3D%3D&rUzwRPf%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlg%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&FgPIIEJYlotS%2BYGoBi5oIA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qij0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&fbclid=IwAR3v5XWzNYc_KENecR4_O6k4xSFL847QcMyKppBD6IUO5x2gLp5E3Gdl3_M
- 2) <https://www.bristol247.com/opinion/your-say/otherpartieswillriudiculegreenpolicies/>

Large Telecoms Ground Station and Pole in Redcatch Park

Council notes the huge public concern at proposals to site a large telecoms ground station and 20 metre pole in the much loved Redcatch Park. Infrastructure and services in the park are very popular and have largely been provided by local effort. A very large protest group are reflecting the public anger at this move and, although significant powers have been given to telecoms companies, the council is in a position to resist this move, and will have the opportunity to do so at a meeting of the executive director later this month.

The operator claims emergency need, but as there is more than significant doubt about their claimed date for the cessation of service from a nearby mast, their “rollover “claim is undermined. The proposed new mast would also be an upgrade not a replacement. In addition, ward members have identified a suitable alternative site on the Broadwalk Shopping Centre and the owners have offered their building for use. There may be a further alternative to share facilities at the water tower in Knowle.

It is regrettable that, following questions to the Mayor in January, no communications have been received to reassure a very anxious local public.

This council calls for the application to be rejected.

Motion submitted by : Councillor Hopkins

Date of Submission: 3rd March 2022