

Motions received for 5 July Full Council

Cost-of-living motion

The Council notes:

- Inflation has hit a 40-year high of 9%, with the cost of staple foods rising by 13%¹
- Electricity prices are set to rise by 54%
- Rents in the South west have increased by 18% since to 2020.

The combination of these factors, as well as factors such as the rising cost of petrol, which has now reached £2 a litre, has left people struggling to make ends meeting.

Women are disproportionately affected by the rise in the cost-of-living². Equally, research has found that people from racially diverse backgrounds are more likely to struggle paying bills, rent, or mortgages than people from white backgrounds³, and disabled people will also be disproportionately affected by the increase in the cost-of-living⁴. This shows the cost-of-living crisis could have a profound, negative affect on Bristol's efforts to create a more equal, fairer society.

The rising cost-of-living is exacerbated by continued cuts to benefits. The £34 billion cut from benefits spending by successive Governments has resulted in increased poverty - a figure that will likely increase due to inflation and real-terms benefits cuts.

The continued wage stagnation and rise in insecure working conditions, meaning inflation has a stronger impact on people's discretionary income. Between 1992 and 2008, real wages went up by 36%; for 2008 to 2024 a rise of just 2.4% is expected. Currently, 2.8% of all workers in the United Kingdom were on a zero-hours contract, compared with just 0.4% in the mid-2000s.

This has contributed to in an increase in the use of foodbanks, with some 15% of people using food banks are thought to be in employment, with reliance on foodbanks up at least 25% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The Labour administration has implemented a number of measures to help mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. These include suspending the eviction of council tenants, maintaining the Council Tax Reduction Scheme rate at 100%, and introducing the No Cold Homes strategy, which puts the city on track to eliminating fuel poverty by 2028 – among many other things.

This Council believes:

There is a cost-of-living crisis in the UK.

There is a rent crisis in the UK, which compounds the impact of the cost-of-living crisis for the 58,000 households in Bristol in private rented accommodation.

¹ Linsell, Ramnarayan, Goodman. May, 2022. 'Supermarket Food Price Increase Above UK Inflation in Cost of Living Crisis'. Bloomberg.

² Living Wage Foundation. May, 2022. 'Low paid work and cost-of-living crisis disproportionately affecting women'

³ People Like Us, May 2022.

⁴ Research Institution for Disabled Consumers, 2019.

This cost-of-living crisis' effect on the worst-off has been exacerbated by a decade of austerity, first imposed by the Conservative / Liberal Democrat coalition, and continued by successive Conservative Governments.

The Government U-turn on Labour's demands for a windfall tax on energy firms is welcome, needed, and long overdue. However, further work is needed to help the worst-off during the cost-of-living crisis both in the immediate and in the long term, through work to eradicate poverty from the UK.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

To develop a 'One City' regular system of partnership reporting to help track impact of the crisis at ward level to grow our evidence base for our needs analysis and so we can target our response accurately.

Work with community and voluntary organisations to develop our community response, building on what already exists and taking a social justice approach. Ideas include a network of welcoming space where people can spend time, have access to Wi-Fi, free activities and support

Work with council staff and VCSE organisations to roll out signposting training to ensure we maximise opportunities to inform and support residents in crisis and direct them towards services that can advise on saving money on heating bills, employment and skills and wellbeing support.

Support the development of a 'Pledge My Check' type scheme, where beneficiaries of the £400 relief grant who do not need the additional financial support can donate it to organisations that do, and promote this scheme through the Council's social media and websites.

Work to expand the use of the Council's reuse shops, which provide people with cheap household items and supporting our circular economy principles.

Build on our work as a Living Wage City, by encouraging businesses throughout Bristol to end the use of zero-hour contracts and instead give employers secure, fairly paid employment.

Continue to protect the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in full, ensuring the people most affected by the cost-of-living crisis do not have to pay any Council Tax.

Continue to protect children's centres and nurseries as a priority when faced with real-terms Government funding cuts to Local Authorities.

Call on Party Group Leaders to lobby the Government to:

- Keep benefit payments in line with inflation, in a system similar to the state pension 'triple lock'.
- Continue provide free school meals during school holidays and for it to expand eligibility to include anyone in receipt of Universal Credit.

Golden Motion to be moved by Councillor Nicola Beech (Labour)

Received 22 June

Democracy Motion

This Council notes that the Conservative Government's Elections Act replaced the Supplementary Vote system used to elect Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners with First Past The Post.

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer, and greener.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs, Parliaments, and other bodies better reflect the age, gender mix and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.

MPs (and other representatives) better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation, and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. So why not English Local Government or Westminster?

The Elections Act also brought in compulsory photo ID for people wanting to vote, despite the fact that three and a half million people in this country do not have any photo ID, while those forms of ID that are acceptable have been rigged to disadvantage and deter younger voters.

In contrast the Welsh Senedd passed the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill on 21 January this year which delivered 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, and others to amend and if necessary repeal the Elections Act in order to:

- Reverse the scrapping of the Supplementary Vote system that ensures more votes count in Metro Mayor and PCC elections;
- Demand the list of acceptable photo ID for voters in the Elections Act is amended so younger and poorer voters are not excluded; including fully funding the cost of providing voter ID cards for voters with no other valid forms of ID
- Allow:
 - English Councils to switch to STV if they so chose
 - Votes at 16 for all UK elections
 - Automatic Voter Registration enabling registration officers to identify people missing from the register and let them know they'll be added.

Finally this Council acknowledges that British democracy is broken and 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. Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for all UK elections.

Proposed by Councillor Fabian Breckles (Labour)

Received 22 June

Trans Rights Are Human Rights

This Council notes:

- [Figures](#) obtained by VICE Worlds News using Freedom of Information Requests to all 45 UK Police Forces⁵ showed there were 6,363 reports of hate crimes based on sexual orientation in 2014-15, compared to 19,679 in 2020-21 (210% increase). For reports of transphobic hate crimes, there were 598 in 2014-15 and 2,588 in 2020-21 (332% increase).
- Stonewalls [‘School Report’ \(2017\)](#) found:
 - 64% of trans pupils are bullied for being LGBT at school.
 - One in three trans pupils (33%) are not able to be known by their preferred name at school.
 - More than two in five trans young people (45 per cent) have attempted to take their own life.
- Stonewall’s 2018 [‘LGBT in Britain Trans Report’](#) found:
 - 41% of trans people and 31% of non-binary people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months.
 - 12% of trans employees have been physically attacked by colleagues or customers in the last year.
 - 36% of trans university students in higher education have experienced negative comments or behaviour from staff in the last year.
 - 44% of trans people avoid certain streets because they don’t feel safe there as an LGBT person. 40% of trans people adjust the way they dress because they fear discrimination or harassment - this number increases significantly 52% of non-binary people.
 - 41% of trans people said that healthcare staff lacked understanding of specific trans health needs when accessing general healthcare services in the last year.
 - 42% of trans people who would like to undergo medical intervention as part of their transition, haven’t done so yet, because they fear the consequences it might have on their family life.
 - 62% of trans people who have undergone, or are currently undergoing, medical intervention for their transition are unsatisfied with the time it took to get an appointment.
- Trans Actual UK [‘Trans Lives Survey 2021: Enduring the UK’s hostile environment’](#) found:

Everyday Transphobia – Housing, Employment, Family and Public Transport:

- 85% of trans people who responded have experienced transphobia from family members, with 26% experiencing it ‘frequently’ and 13% ‘every time’.
- 85% of trans women reported being subjected to transphobic street harassment from strangers, with 71% of trans men and 73% of non-binary people saying the same.
- 80% of non-binary people reported having experienced transphobia from colleagues compared to 73% of trans men and 73% of trans women saying the same.
- 69% of Black people and people of colour (BPOC) respondents reported experiencing transphobia from their line manager at work.

Media Transphobia:

⁵ VICE World News reported only two police forces, Hampshire and West Mercia, failed to respond.

- 99% of trans people surveyed have experienced transphobia on social media, and 97% reported witnessing transphobia in digital and print media.
- 93% of participants reported that media transphobia had impacted their experiences of transphobia from strangers on the street.
- 85% said that transphobic rhetoric in the media has impacted how people in their family treat them, 81% said this was true of their colleagues, and 70% for friends.
- Over 70% of the individuals surveyed felt that media transphobia impacted their mental health to some extent, with nearly two-thirds reporting that it impacted them 'moderately' or 'very much'.
- **Just Like Us Report 'Growing Up LGBT+' (2021) highlighted:**
 - Transgender staff are the least likely to be out in school (8%).
 - LGBT+ pupils are three times more likely to have witnessed transphobic bullying in comparison to non-LGBT+ pupils (33% vs 10%).
 - 63% of LGBT+ pupils and 57% of non-LGBT+ pupils think a staff member would be supportive of a pupil coming out as transgender, in contrast to 81% of LGBT+ pupils and 80% of non-LGBT pupils think a staff member would be supportive of a pupil coming out as LGB.
 - 84% of young people would be supportive of a friend coming out as transgender.
- **Galop's 'Hate Crime Report 2021'** found Two-thirds (64%) of respondents had experienced anti-LGBT+ violence or abuse. Out of those who had experienced anti-LGBT+ violence and abuse:
 - 9 in 10 had experienced verbal abuse (92%).
 - 3 in 10 had been subject to physical violence (29%).
 - 2 in 10 had experienced sexual violence (17%).
- In the last 12 months, Stand Against Racism & Inequality (SARI), based in Bristol, has seen 40 referrals come from the LGBTQIA+ community in Bristol alone, with concerns about the number of cases that are going unreported.
- The [National LGBT Survey \(2017\)](#), which had over 108,000 responses from people who identify as LGBTQ+ and live in the UK, showed:
 - 5% of respondents said they had been offered conversion in an attempt to "cure" them of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) in their lifetime.
 - 2% said they had undergone conversion therapy.
 - 4% of transgender respondents said they had undergone conversion therapy, and 8% reported having been offered it.
- The proposed plan by the Government is to ban conversion therapy in relation to sexual orientation and not gender identity, despite previous promises. In addition, the proposed ban will not now include those over 18 who "consent" to it.
- The Gender Identity Clinic serving the South West ('The Laurels') is the [worst](#) in the country for waiting times for a 1st appointment.

This Council Believes:

- Bristol is a city that believes in gender equality and solidarity.
- Bristol has a strong history of being a progressive city connected and strengthened by diverse communities that represent it and are embedded in core values of equality, acceptance and solidarity.
- A full ban on conversion therapy is crucial to protecting the entire LGBTQIA+ community, including LGBTQIA+ youth. It must extend to clearly protecting relation to sexual orientation,

gender identity, and people with intersex variations, including surgical conversion therapy on intersex youth. To ensure this legislation is effective, it must clearly extend to **protecting all people** with minority sexual orientations and gender identities and who are intersex. This includes clearly stating in the terminology it includes asexual, aromantic, intersex, non-binary, and genderqueer people and people with other minority sexual orientations and gender identities.

- A full ban should also include practices even where consent has, nominally, been granted, recognising the disproportionate power relationships that often exist between providers and recipients of conversion therapies.
- More work can be done by the council to ensure all local services are inclusive to trans and non-binary people.

This Council Resolves:

1. To recognise and affirm trans men are men, trans women are women, non-binary and genderqueer people's genders are valid, and trans rights are human rights.
2. Facilitate and strongly encourage all Council Staff and Councillors to attend training to learn about the challenges faced by trans people.
3. To continue to fly the trans flag on the International Trans Day of Visibility (31st March), International Non-Binary People's Day (14th July) and Trans Day of Remembrance (20th November)
4. For the Mayor and responsible cabinet member to write the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to call for the government to:
 - Provide the funding and resources necessary to increase the capacity of and improve access to trans and non-binary healthcare, including expanding gender identity services and reducing waiting times.
 - Develop strategies to recruit more clinicians to become gender identity specialists across all relevant disciplines and train staff across the NHS on issues affecting trans and non-binary people.
 - Commit to effectively and regularly consulting trans and non-binary people and groups in the design and delivery of trans and non-binary healthcare.
5. To work with all four Bristol MPs to help coordinate joint cross-party initiatives within parliament to bring forward a full ban on conversion therapy that includes gender identity.
6. To continue supporting the improvement of services in Bristol to be fully accessible to trans and non-binary people, working with recognised trans-inclusive services and not taking advice from or awarding contracts to organisations that promote an anti-trans agenda or propaganda.
7. Conduct an audit of Council services to ensure they are as accessible as possible to trans and non-binary people.
8. Look into what we can do as a Council as an employer to support further those who identify as trans and non-binary and to protect them from transphobic harassment within their roles.
9. To ensure there are accessible gender-neutral toilet facilities throughout the Council's property estate and to ensure there are menstrual care dispensers and sanitary bins in all toilets, regardless of gender, and to encourage best practices amongst its Community Toilet Scheme partners.

10. Encourage schools to follow expert legal guidance outlined by the [Good Law Project](#). That it will consider publishing a 'Trans Inclusion Toolkit' for our schools (as available in Brighton). That it will act on any known instances of anti-trans literature or propaganda being sent into our schools.

11. For the Mayor and Party Group Leaders to write to the Home Secretary calling for:

- An action plan on tackling LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes within the UK.
- Prevented deportation of LGBTQIA+ refugees to Rwanda and a review into applications for LGBTQIA+ refugees claiming asylum status within the UK.

To be moved by Councillor Zoe Goodman

Received 22 June

A FAIRER DEAL FOR INVESTING IN BRISTOL'S SUBURBS

“This Council welcomes the Conservative Government’s ‘Levelling Up’ initiative which seeks to address long-standing economic and social disparities across communities, counties and within cities.

Council further endorses the two schemes for inclusion in the latest round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) concerning the commercial regeneration of Filwood (South Bristol) and the bid to build the Bristol Cycling Centre (Bristol North West). Locating a major sporting facility in a part of the city (Avonmouth/Lawrence Weston) will raise the status of a very deprived area and reverses a trend in recent years to divest these places of important public amenities.

However, Council believes that much more needs to be done to invest in the city’s suburban Wards. To this end, Council calls on the Mayor to give a commitment that for the remainder of his term in Office, he will seek to prioritise future national, regional and local funding applications for more projects based in and around the periphery of the city.

Council recognises that real change and the delivery of thriving, local neighbourhoods is dependent upon greater capital investment in our secondary retail centres. Echoing the primary objective of the Levelling Up agenda, if we are to ensure that all Bristolians live healthier, happier lives and are enabled to fulfil their potential, there must be a genuine, more equitable or fairer distribution of resources than has previously been the case under the current Labour Administration.”

To be moved by Councillor Graham Morris (Conservative)

Received 23 June

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.”

To be moved by Councillor John Geater (Conservative)

Received 23 June

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.”

To be moved by Councillor Mark Weston (Conservative)

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- Bristol has a strong history of being a progressive city connected and strengthened by diverse communities that represent it and are embedded in core values of equality, acceptance and solidarity.
- A full ban on conversion therapy is crucial to protect the entire LGBTQIA+ community, including LGBTQIA+ youth. It must extend to clearly protecting relation to sexual orientation,

gender identity, and people with intersex variations, including surgical conversion therapy on intersex youth. To ensure this legislation is effective, it must clearly extend to **protecting all people** with minority sexual orientations and gender identities and who are intersex. This includes clearly stating in the terminology it includes asexual, aromantic, intersex, non-binary, and genderqueer people as well as people with other minority sexual orientations and gender identities.

- A full ban should also include practices even where consent has, nominally, been granted, recognising the disproportionate power relationships that often exist between providers and recipients of conversion therapies.
- More work can be done by the council to ensure all local services are inclusive to trans and non-binary people.

This Council Resolves:

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3. Fly the trans flag on the International Trans Day of Visibility (31st March), International Non-Binary People's Day (14th July) and Trans Day of Remembrance (20th November)
4. Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Adult Social Care to call for the government to:
 - Provide the funding and resources necessary to increase the capacity of and improve access to trans and non-binary healthcare, including expanding gender identity services and reducing waiting times.
 - Develop strategies to recruit more clinicians to become gender identity specialists across all relevant disciplines and train staff across the NHS on issues affecting trans and non-binary people.
 - Commit to effectively and regularly consulting trans and non-binary people and groups in the design and delivery of trans and non-binary healthcare.
5. To work with all four Bristol MPs to help coordinate joint cross-party initiatives within parliament to bring forward a full ban on conversion therapy that includes gender identity.
6. To continue supporting the improvement of services in Bristol to be fully accessible to trans and non-binary people, working with recognised trans-inclusive services and not taking advice from or awarding contracts to organisations that promote an anti-trans agenda or propaganda.
7. Conduct an audit of Council services to ensure they are as accessible as possible to trans and non-binary people.
8. Look into what we can do as a Council as an employer to support further those who identify as trans and non-binary and to protect them from transphobic harassment within their roles.
9. To ensure there are accessible gender-neutral toilet facilities throughout the City (including within Council buildings) and to ensure there are menstrual care dispensers and sanitary bins in all toilets, regardless of gender. This includes municipal-run toilets and toilet facilities under its 'Community Toilet Scheme'.

10. Encourage schools to follow expert legal guidance outlined by the [Good Law Project](#). That it will consider publishing a 'Trans Inclusion Toolkit' for our schools (as available in Brighton). That it will act on any known instances of anti-trans literature or propaganda being sent into our schools. That it recognises that beliefs such as that of 'gender critical' can be protected, however this does not provide the right to express those beliefs and will not allow this as a lever for hate speech and bullying in the school estate.

11. To write to the Home Secretary calling for:

- An action plan on tackling LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes within the UK.
- Prevented deportation of LGBTQIA+ refugees to Rwanda and a review into applications for LGBTQIA+ refugees claiming asylum status within the UK.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Brown (Liberal Democrats)

Submitted 23rd July 2022

Ban Conversion Therapy

This Council opposes the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past through the denial of rights and equal treatment, and further recognises that discrimination still occurs today.

This Council recognises and opposes the ongoing harm that the practice of so-called conversion therapy does to LGBT+ people.

This Council notes that the Government has brought forward proposals for a partial ban on conversion therapies but that these will not apply to trans conversion therapies, or where the recipient is over 18 and grants “consent”.

This Council calls on the Government to follow through on previous promises to effect a comprehensive ban which both protects trans people and recognises the complex factors which compromise the concept of informed consent in relation to conversion therapies.

Furthermore this Council will highlight and promote the continued support, counselling, and advocacy that local groups provide for members of the LGBT+ Community in Bristol.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Brown (Liberal Democrats)

Submitted 23rd July 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, 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 Brown (Liberal Democrats)
Submitted 23rd July 2022**

Support for BillyChip

Full Council notes that:

1. There has been an increase in street-homelessness following the withdrawal of temporary measures put in place to protect people during the various phases of Covid-19 lockdown.
2. The move towards a cashless society, which has been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, makes life even harder for those forced to resort to begging to survive.
3. Many people have concerns about how any change given to those forced to beg may be spent.
4. The city has a number of schemes and organisations dedicated to helping the homeless, and that there are a number of contactless donation points allowing for indirect electronic donations to be made, by those who wish to do so.
5. BillyChip is a system designed to provide a mechanism for direct donations to homeless people whilst addressing both people's reluctance to give cash and the reduction in use of physical money.
 - a. Donors can purchase the ceramic chips which can then be used by the recipients as payment for a hot drink or something to eat at a participating retailer.
 - b. A proportion of the cost of the chips is also donated to the BillyChip Foundation which aims to support other charities and organisations supporting homeless people.
 - c. The chips are already available in numerous outlets across Bristol (and the UK) and has already had significant success with thousands of chips bought and exchanged, and participants have included both local and national outlets.
 - d. The name is a tribute to the originator of the idea - Billy Abernethy-Hope – who was based in Bristol prior to his early death.

Full Council believes that:

1. BillyChip represents a simple, innovative, and more secure way for members of the public to give financial support to homeless people.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Work with BillyChip CIC and the BillyChip Foundation to increase its profile in City
2. Facilitate the use of Council premises for public information meetings and events.
3. Promote the BillyChip scheme on the Council's website and social media feeds – including a listing of all participating venues
4. Ensure that all appropriate Council-operated venues participate in the scheme and encourage those operating relevant concessions – for example, park café and coffee outlets - within Bristol to do so.
5. Work with relevant partner agencies to further promote the chip across our area.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Brown (Liberal Democrats)
Submitted 23rd July 2022

A citywide ban on Digital Billboards

This Council notes:

- There is a growing pressure from commercial advertisers for new digital advertising screens across the city alongside highways, on footpaths, and on walls of prominent or vacant sites.
- There is also a switch to digital advertising on phone boxes (advertising is their main source of income - not the phone calls in the age of mobile phones) and bus shelters.
- Despite the revenue provided by Bus Shelter advertising in providing a public amenity in support of sustainable transport, the impact of illuminated and digital adverts on bus shelters is out of place in residential streets.
- Existing billboards may not have planning permission but there has been no consistent approach to removing them via enforcement.
- Many advertising companies are switching to digital billboards which allow them to sell many more advertising slots and increase profits as well as reducing the cost of changing advertising. These digital screens show static but alternating digital adverts which can be updated remotely.
- The law governing display advertising restricts objections to ground of highway safety and amenity only.
- Recent planning appeals have been made in response to rejection of digital advertising on some sites, and with stronger declared policies the planning response could be clearer and some of the initial applications and appeals could be avoided.
- That the Council adopted a new Advertising & Sponsorship Policy in 2021 for advertising sites it controls which restricts ads for High Fat Sugar Salt products, gambling, alcohol and payday loans. (1)
- The high energy consumption of digital billboards adds a growing impact to the city's carbon footprint, (2) The Council's One City Climate Strategy from February 2020 resolved to "[Develop] a citywide shared understanding and commitment to responsible consumption (including lower carbon food and reduced flying), which acknowledges the generally lower impact of lower income households; and [Create] advertising standards and restrictions to support responsible consumption."
- The bright illumination from digital billboards at all hours can also affect local wildlife and local residents, including severe mental health impacts. (3)
- Billboards are subject to objections and controversy every time an application is made, local residents do not want such billboards in their neighbourhoods"
- That many outdoor advertising spaces (both council-controlled and private) contain adverts for high carbon industries such as airlines, airports, SUVs and fossil fuel companies.
- That the French city of Grenoble removed over 326 advertising spaces from its city from 2015 onwards. (4)

This council believes:

- New digital advertising screens are unpopular with Bristol residents as evidenced by the high volume of objections received to planning applications for new digital advertising screens. (5)

- Advertising drives consumption and predominantly represents major consumer goods companies; most adverts are for national and international brands not local businesses so this is limited benefit to the local economy.
- Billboard advertising is a danger to road safety; its purpose is to distract attention. (6)
- Envy and body shame are a phenomenon associated with the prevalence of corporate advertising
- Mental health issues relating to body image are a growing and persistent issue affecting many young people and adults. (7)
- The greatest climate impact in our city is the impact on consumption of goods and services; constant pressure to consume is driven by continuous, pervasive advertising. Extra emissions resulting from advertising products is calculated to have added 186million tonnes of CO2e in 2019 (8)
- When travelling or relaxing outdoors residents have no choice if confronted by digital billboards; the council does not have to enable this negative experience
- There are unequal standards of amenity across the city and some areas have traditionally been better protected than others; the council could set a uniform, high standard of amenity to redress this unequal amenity and ensure fairer standards across the whole city.
- While there are pressures for commercialising council assets the council need not be either a driver of digital advertising through its own walls and structures, nor an enabler through weak policies.

This council therefore calls on the Mayor:

- To introduce a new, high standard of amenity across the whole city, excluding digital billboards and taking enforcement action against unlawful billboard sites.
- To set the highest road safety standards across the city with a declared presumption against distracting digital billboards on the whole road network.
- To end council-initiated billboard sites on walls or other structures.
- To introduce these changes through the local plan and public announcements on property policies.
- To enforce existing restrictions in its Advertising & Sponsorship Policy regarding excludes on ads for junk food, alcohol, payday loans and gambling across council-owned advertising sites.
- To update the Council's Advertising & Sponsorship Policy to include restrictions on highly polluting products including as airlines, airports, fossil fuel companies, SUVs, petrol diesel and hybrid vehicles.
- To work towards Bristol becoming a billboard free city, with space left purely for local noticeboards, signage or public information and creative arts and flags.
- Until that time, commit to ensuring the use of renewable energy in all City Council contracts.
- To report back on progress within a year.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Martin Fodor, Green Group

Date of submission: 23 June 2022

Notes:

1. <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s58004/Appendix%20Ai%20-%20Advertising%20and%20Sponsorship%20Policy.pdf>

2. A large digital advertising screen requires the same electricity as 32 average UK households. A double sided bus stop advertising screen requires the same electricity as three UK households (Source: Energy Consumption in the UK 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021>)

3. Living Next to Digital Billboards report, 2021: <https://adfrecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/living-next-to-digital-billboards-M32.pdf>)

4. The Daily Telegraph:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11250670/Grenoble-to-replace-street-advertising-with-trees-and-community-spaces.html>

5. A 2021 survey of residents living or commuting past the new large advertising screens on the M32 in Eastville show a high level of concerns with the advertising screens including degradation of their neighbourhood and social cohesion, a feeling that the commercial interests of advertisers were being prioritised over residents' mental health and wellbeing, impacts of light pollution from the digital screens including through people's bedroom windows, climate impacts of the consumerism model promoted on billboards and distractions to drivers with road safety implications. (Adblock Bristol (2021) Living Next to Digital Billboards report, <https://adfrecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/living-next-to-digital-billboards-M32.pdf>)

6. Oviedo-Trespalacios et al. (2019), The impact of road advertising signs on driver behaviour and implications for road safety: A critical systematic review. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2019.01.012>)

7. How outdoor advertising impacts health and wellbeing, Adblock Bristol (2022)

<http://adfrecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/How-outdoor-advertising-impacts-health-and-wellbeing.pdf>)

8. Advertised Emissions report, 2021 - <https://www.purposedisruptors.org/advertised-emissions>

A Universal Basic Income Trial for Bristol

This council notes:

1. The drastic impacts of the Covid Pandemic on employment and household incomes in the city;
2. The threat to income and employment from automation and artificial intelligence, which could affect a great many more jobs in future;
3. 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;
4. That a trial of UBI was promised by the Labour party had the party won the last general election;
5. The resolutions of other local authorities including Sheffield, Birmingham, Lewes, and Brighton and Hove [with cross party support] calling for trials of UBI;
6. 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.
7. Birmingham City Council has issued a briefing on UBI. (1)
8. 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 (Green Party)

Motion submitted: 23rd June 2022

Sources

- 1) Birmingham City Council's official UBI briefing - see https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=nb28HJzZZy8R6UE9qsv3LHJckreeBwn50Tbzg0riXhiHQcf3zr1WQGQ%3D%3D&rUzwRPF%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcTPhwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlG%3D%3D=hFflUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFflUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJff55vVA%3D&FgPIIEJYlotS%2BYGoBi5oIA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3D&fbclid=IwAR3v5XWzNYc_KENecR4_O6k4xSFL847QcMyKppBD6IUO5x2gLp5E3GdI3_M
- 2) <https://www.bristol247.com/opinion/your-say/otherpartieswillriudiculegreenpolicies/>

Mobilise community investments to tackle climate change

Full Council notes:

1. That this council unanimously declared a climate emergency in November 2018 following a Green Motion to Council
2. The motion committed the city to achieve net zero carbon impact by 2030 and there are now under 10 years left to this target date
3. The council has been progressing a package of low carbon opportunities called City Leap since May 2018. City Leap is still subject to a procurement process since a new process was started in 2020 and the role it will play in decarbonisation of the city is not yet known.
4. A new low risk model called Community Municipal Investments [CMI] has been developed by Leeds University and Abundance Investments platform with UK Government and EU support. This concept had the support of 4 local authorities including Bristol City Council. [1]
5. This model of green bonds with a local authority guarantee is proven to mobilise local and other investment and channels local savings into local projects with low risk and a modest return to investors [2] and after the first issue further calls can be automated. The Local Government Association presents it as a model for mobilising widespread private investment to decarbonise localities.

Full Council believes:

1. That offering local savers and other ethical investors a way to support the city's journey to carbon neutrality mobilises community engagement in the process of change, attracts significant sums for named projects, and should be developed. 72% of people want to lend savings to help councils develop Climate Emergency Plans [3]
2. That offering security and a modest rate of interest through municipal bonds is an established way to develop local infrastructure [4]. This complements other projects such as the successful Bristol Energy Cooperative.
3. That CMIs can help us amass funds on a regular basis develop a series of practical projects for a low carbon transition now in partnership with others which will be popular with local savers. This mobilises capital that could otherwise leave the city.
4. While CMIs are floated as possible way that might be used in the city to help fund the energy upgrade of community buildings in the SONNET project [see 5] no actual CMIs are yet planned.
5. The Mayor should prioritise CMIs as part of the package of investments that will create positive economic opportunities and carbon neutrality while building community wealth.
6. Bristol should join the other 3 pioneers of CMI in developing local opportunities for local investors [e.g. 6]. In 3 months about £1m funds can be collected for investment and this can be repeated periodically.

Full Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to begin development of Community Municipal Investments for the city.
2. That the Mayor promote CMI as a way residents and institutions can be engaged and actively involved in contributing to a zero carbon city.
3. To request officers to identify carbon saving projects suited to CMI investment in conjunction with city partners.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Martin Fodor, Redland ward Green Party

Date of submission: 23rd June 2022

References:

1. The report supported by Bristol: <https://baumaninstitute.leeds.ac.uk/research/financing-for-society/>
2. Initial proposed interest rate is 1.2%. See: Your questions answered on Green Community Bonds | Abundance Blog
<https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-your-questions-answered-25218ed4d2cb>
3. Survey by One Poll, 2020, cited by the Local Government Association.
4. https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-the-new-option-for-your-low-risk-money-a9cc5d72e03a?source=post_internal_links-----1-----
5. Survey of community groups underway in the city – see [SONNET – The Bristol City Lab – Bristol Energy Network](#)
6. These are: Leeds Council, Warrington, and West Berkshire. Eg Invest now:
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wbcmj>; <https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/invest-now/warrington-2025>

Cost of living crisis

Full council notes:

1. That inflation is at its highest in 40 years, whilst wage increases are not keeping pace, with regular pay falling by 2.2% in the three months up to April 2022.
2. That more than half a million people in the country now regularly rely on a food bank.
3. That the energy price cap was raised by 54% in April 2022, increasing many household bills by £700/year, and consequently the government has announced some measures in order to help households to pay their energy bills:
 - A £200 discount on their energy bill this autumn for domestic electricity customers in Great Britain
 - A £150 rebate for households in England in council tax bands A to D, known as the Council Tax Rebate.
 - £144 million of discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate and offer carefully targeted 'top-up' payments to the most vulnerable households in bands A to D, known as the Discretionary Fund.
4. That the 21/22 Revenue budget outturn report presented to Cabinet in June found a £0.9m in-year underspend and recommended £0.5m of this to be placed in the Council's general reserve.
5. The Council's Local Crisis Prevention Fund helps people in financial crisis to afford basics like food, gas, electricity or household goods. Funding for this has been cut by the administration in recent years.

Full council believes:

1. That the state has not intervened sufficiently to help those in crisis due to the acute rise in cost of living this year.
2. That the council should focus resources into helping those who are urgently struggling to make ends meet.

Full council calls on the administration to:

1. Prioritise the payment of all unclaimed council tax rebates
2. Expand access to the warm homes and debt advice services
3. Write to government demanding an immediate benefits uplift
4. Increase support for local action on food security
5. Inject £0.5m of funding into the Local Crisis Prevention Fund, using the additional funds recently put into the General reserve

Motion proposed by: Councillor Jenny Bartle (Green Party)

Date submitted: 23 June 2022

A New Railway Station for Lockleaze

This council notes:

- The section of track, known as the Filton Bank, has recently been upgraded to four tracks to accommodate both hi-speed express and local services.
- Lockleaze and the surrounding area is set to have 1000 new homes constructed in the next five years.
- The average distance between London Overground Stations is 1.49km. There are 112 stations on a network of 167km.
- A possible location for the new station is south of Constable Road Railway Bridge. This location is 1.25 km from the proposed station at Ashley Down and 1.67 km from Filton Abbeywood. This location is close to significant developments at Bonnington Walk and the Dovercourt Depot.
- Viable alternatives to motor car use must be available to the citizens of Bristol to meet the councils' climate change targets.

This Council resolves to:

- To work with the West of England Combined Authority and Network Rail to conduct a feasibility study and define a business case for constructing a new Railway Station in Lockleaze.

Motion proposed by: Councillor David Wilcox (Green Party)

Motion submitted: 23 June 2022

Democracy Motion

This Council notes that the Conservative Government's Elections Act replaced the Supplementary Vote system used to elect Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners with First Past The Post.

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer, and greener.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs, Parliaments, and other bodies better reflect the age, gender mix and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.

MPs (and other representatives) better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation, and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. So why not English Local Government or Westminster?

The Elections Act also brought in compulsory photo ID for people wanting to vote, despite the fact that three and a half million people in this country do not have any photo ID, while those forms of ID that are acceptable have been rigged to disadvantage and deter younger voters.

In contrast the Welsh Senedd passed the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill on 21 January this year which delivered 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, and others to amend and if necessary repeal the Elections Act in order to:

- Reverse the scrapping of the Supplementary Vote system that ensures more votes count in Metro Mayor and PCC elections;
- Demand the list of acceptable photo ID for voters in the Elections Act is amended so younger and poorer voters are not excluded; including fully funding the cost of providing voter ID cards for voters with no other valid forms of ID
- Allow:
 - o English Councils to switch to STV if they so chose
 - o Votes at 16 for all UK elections
 - o Automatic Voter Registration enabling registration officers to identify people missing from the register and let them know they'll be added.

Finally this Council acknowledges that British democracy is broken and 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. Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for all UK elections.

Motion proposed by: Councillors David Wilcox, Fabian Breckels & Andrew Brown
Submitted: 23 June 2022

Stop attacks on Press Freedom

This Council notes:

- The Local Democracy Reporting Service is a public funded resource offering reporting about local politics.
- The service provides regular and unbiased reporting, helping local people engage with the Council and local politics, which is in the interests of a flourishing democracy.
- The Local Democracy Service rightly challenges all of us local politicians and attempts to hold us to account; this is also part of a healthy democracy.
- Reporters from the LDRS recently asked the Mayor about his decision to fly 9000 miles to speak about the climate emergency, and it is a legitimate part of their job to ask difficult questions of local politicians.
- All our local media outlets benefit from the LDRS, including those publications still printed as daily newspapers.
- That the Press Office has banned this public service from Council Press conferences, apparently in retaliation for posing questions the Mayor does not like.

This Council believes:

- That Freedom of the Press is a fundamental human right.
- That the media business model for local news reporting does not serve local communities across the UK well, with some towns relying more on facebook than local media.
- The Local Democracy Reporting Service is a valuable public resource, funded by the BBC in addressing local news deserts, as acknowledged by academic research ([Local papers lose out to Facebook as UK towns become 'news deserts' | Regional & local newspapers | The Guardian](#))
- That it is fundamentally wrong for the LDRS to be banned from any press conference or other press opportunity. Any such attack on the press does not demonstrate strong City Leadership.
- This brings the Council, and potentially the City, into disrepute.
- That the role of the Council Press Office is to serve the City and people of Bristol, not the partisan political needs of any political administration.

This Council resolves:

- That the Press Office should reinstate access to the LDRS to all press opportunities
- That the monitoring officer be instructed to examine how the administration's decision sits with the relevant Codes of Conduct for officers and the Mayor/politicians.
- If necessary to instruct the CEO to review Council policies to ensure that the role of the Press Office is depoliticised so as to be focused on serving the needs of the City and people of Bristol
- That as we move to a committee system, the new constitution should contain safeguards against unwarranted attacks on the freedom of journalists to do their jobs.

Motion proposer: Councillor Ed Plowden (Green Party)

Date: 23 June 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 (Green Party)

Motion Submitted: 23rd June 2022