

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board 5th December 2022 Public Forum



Public Forum Questions

Ref	Name	Topic
Q1 – Q2	David Redgewell	Budget 2023 /2024
Q3 – Q4	Susanne Audrey	7. City Leap Energy Partnership
Q5 – Q6	Councillor Martin Fodor	7. City Leap Energy Partnership

Public Forum Statements

Ref	Name	Topic
S1	David Redgewell	Budget 2023 /2024



PUBLIC FORUM - QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1 – 2 David Redgewell

Question 1:

Has agreement been reached with the metro mayor Dan Norris and the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and Bristol City Council Mayor on the 2023 / 2024 Transport Levy for Regional bus services and public transport services such as metro west railway ferries etc?

Does this now include the public transport and transport staff now being Transferred to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority?

Officer response:

The 2023 / 2024 Transport Levy will be considered a special meeting of the Combined Authority Committee on the 16th December. The Combined Authority is expected to publish paper for this meeting on Friday 9th December.

Questions 2A & 2B:

2A) With so much concern about the Heritage of our Great city. What discussion are to take place with equalities groups and stakeholders about moving the Central Library which has been since 1906.

2B) The Lord Mayor Chapel is the only chapel in the City that is close to the Church of England to allow gay marriage; what consultation has taken place with LGBTQ community about transferring the chapel to Bristol Cathedral and the dioceses of Bristol and Malmsbury. As gay marriage is still banned in the Church of England.

Officer response:

2A) *The work to consider any relocation of the Central Library has only just started. We will look at the specification of what is required for a new central library and undertake an options appraisal. All libraries must meet accessibility standards and any future relocation would be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.*

We do not know yet where an alternative location may be and if any future consultation will be required.

2B) *Marriages do not currently take place at the Chapel. Future arrangements will be discussed in due course.*

QUESTIONS 3 – 4 Suzanne Audrey

City Leap Partnership

Background:

In the absence of the report, I have looked at some of the publicity that is available for City Leap. This indicates: "The partners will invest in the council's estate to deliver low carbon energy infrastructure and support others, such as residents, community energy groups and businesses, to deliver local carbon reducing projects. Private sector partners will contribute capital funding, including £424 million over the first five years of the twenty-year partnership, in low carbon energy and capacity and expertise in the delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure projects. The project will remove around 140,000 tonnes of carbon across the city in the first five years of operation." [Bristol's City Leap - Energy Service Bristol](#).

This sounds positive, but I am unclear what the benefits are to the commercial partners (who presumably need to make a profit) and what are the potential risks to Bristol City Council and council tax payers. I suspect there are other members of the public that are unclear about what is being proposed.

Question 3

Please will you explain, in lay terms, what the main financial gains are likely to be for the commercial partners as part of this arrangement?

Officer response:

- **Long-term investment certainty:** the twenty-year partnership will provide a consistent and certain pathway enabling a strategic and innovative approach to decarbonisation projects.
- **An appropriate return on investment:** opportunities to invest in new energy assets with a well-defined route to monetise these assets to deliver an appropriate return on investment.
- **Developing new business models:** an opportunity to trial and develop new business models that are emerging from the global transition to a smart energy system.
- **To develop a blueprint for the decarbonisation of cities** that others can follow.
- **Sharing in Bristol's reputation as a leading energy city** and being part of a cutting-edge partnership, which is taking technical innovation and pioneering action to address climate change.

Question 4

Please will you outline, in lay terms, the main potential risks to Bristol City Council and council tax payers of entering into the City Leap partnership?

Officer response:

- *City Leap is an innovative pathfinder project of substantial scale that has the potential to deliver a wide range of benefits to Bristol. The associated procurement process has been complex and lengthy and has required the council to take extensive legal, financial and commercial advice. At all times, the council has sought to ensure that the risks arising from City Leap are understood and minimised so far as is possible and is setting up the new City Leap Client Function to manage these risks and the council's relationship with Bristol City Leap.*
- *However, there are risks that are beyond the council's control, for example, relevant Government policies and support, which have the potential to materially impact on the number and scale of projects carried out by Bristol City Leap.*
- *There are risks associated with the monopoly position of the heat network. To prevent such risks do not materialise, the Strategic Partner will give certain contractual commitments (see page Appendix A (ii) to the Cabinet Report), which are intended to ensure that the interests of heat network customers are protected until such time as national regulation is introduced.*
- *Financial risks to the council and the tax payer in relation to City Leap are limited given that:*
 - *Ameresco is meeting the operational costs of the Bristol City Leap joint venture company;*
 - *Vattenfall will meet the cost of building out the heat network in full;*
 - *In entering into the various City Leap Contracts, the council is making no financial commitments nor taking any decisions as regards the council contributing to the funding of future projects;*
 - *Any future funding contributions made by the council to Bristol City Leap projects, such as contributing towards the decarbonisation of its social housing, will be subject to the applicable decision-making and scrutiny processes of the council;*
 - *All projects on the council's estate, whether in its operational buildings or its social housing, must go through a clearly defined Project Approval Process (managed through the council's City Leap Client Function) and meet specified Project Acceptance Criteria, including above a de minimis value a demonstration of market value; and*

- *The council will also conduct an annual value for money audit of a sample of Bristol City Leap projects to ensure that it achieves value for money throughout the lifetime of the partnership.*

QUESTION 5-6 – Councillor Martin Fodor

Question 5

City Leap Partnership

5. How have the Citizens Assembly recommendations been taken into account in developing the initial business plan for the JV?

Officer response:

5. When designing the procurement criteria for the City Leap Energy Partnership, the council was mindful of the good work done on the Citizens Assembly pilots in Bristol.

In our instruction to bidders we asked potential partners to respond to criteria relating to community participation, making specific reference to Bristol's Citizen Assembly work.

Bristol City Leap will support a number of the recommendations from the Citizen's Assembly including: employment and skills, transparency through publishing plans and data, decarbonising housing stock, creating a trusted partner for decarbonisation for partners for all sectors, contributing to improved policy and regulations, creating pilot and demonstrator projects and many more.

Question 6

6. How will the proposed community forum be put together to ensure a balance between geographic communities/residents' groups and professional/ special interest and groups with a specific theme?

Officer response

6. The council and Bristol City Leap partners have engaged with a number of community groups across Bristol, a specific is the Bristol Green Energy Partnership and their Community Climate Action Plans to which have made specific commitments of support, these focus on the impact of climate change in communities that can be defined in either geographic or demographic terms and are helping to ensure a just transition to the low carbon economy.

Within the business community Bristol City Leap is engaged with Business West and have a number of work streams supporting their members through opportunities within the City Leap supply chain, helping with their decarbonisation plans, recruitment and training of the work force to deliver the projects generated by Bristol City Leap and supporting innovation in the decarbonising economy.

The Community Energy Propagator, a consortium of community energy groups has been engaged with the Bristol City Leap throughout the procurement process and have played a part in shaping aspects of the winning bid. Collaboration with the Community Energy Propagator will continue once Bristol City Leap launches to maximise the shared ambitions of developing and increasing community energy within Bristol.

PUBLIC FORUM - STATEMENTS

STATEMENT 1: David Redgewell

Budget 2023 /2024.

Firstly, we welcome the major proposals for Public transport, Network Division and the City Transport including bus and railway officers to move to WECA.

Especially bus stop maintenance design and delivery to the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority.

6 years ago before covid 19 the City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Banes were looking to transfer all major transport functions to West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority.

As per the statutory order in Parliament

The metro mayor Dan Norris has the control of a large number Transport Projects all in Partnership with North Somerset council.

With the West of England committee.

These are Bristol Temple Meads station and quarter. £92 MILLION.

Bus service improvements plan. £105 MILLION.

£520 MILLION City Region transport plan.

£152 million pounds for the metro west railway route.

Bristol Temple Meads station Bedminster, Parson Street, Pill and Portishead.

But all the Mayoral Combined Transport Authority have staff.

To carry out Main Highway functions.

Railway Executive functions.

Bus service information and infrastructure services.

Bus and rail interchanges.

Walking and cycling.

All the other Mayoral Combined Transport Authority have precepting powers.

We very much and fully support the transfer of Transport functions and Public transport Network officers to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

As we have this should of happen years ago.

The public transport campaign organisations have been asking Mayor Rees to help set up an integrated transport Authority. With the appropriate office to run the Authority.

There are concerns about the west of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority.

But this because it needs officer and staff to run still quite new Authority.

Bristol City Council is doing the right thing by transferring offers and functions.

We want to see a stronger West of England mayoral combined Transport Authority committee and Transport executive. With Transport councillors from Bristol City Council, Don Alexander

Sarah Warren, BANES, Stephen Reade Transport Executive, South Gloucestershire North Somerset Council Steve Hogg.

We must set up an integration Transport Authority.

Especially to deliver Metro West railway projects Bus service improvements plan. Joint local transport plans and mass transit system.

All Transport campaign groups.

Transport for Great Bristol.

Railfuture Severnside.

Friends of Bristol Suburban Railways.

South West Transport Network.

Somerset Bus Partnership.

Somerset catch the bus campaign.

Gloucester catch the bus campaign

Bath and Greater Bristol tram group
Bristol Disability Equities Forum.

All support the setting up of an Integrated Transport Authority.

And North Somerset Council join the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and the LEP in the Levelling Up Bill.

On other budget issue we are very concerned about the city estate. As a major proposal.

The leasing of the lord mayor chapel to Bristol Cathedral. The terms are not laid out in budget.

On Bristol central library we are very concerned that such an ironic grade 1 listed library building should be sold off.

The central library was built by Charles Holden and Anthony stocker clean built in 1906.

£ 30.000 take from £50 000 left for construction.

We do not understand the reference to poor disabled access when we have a fully accessible public library. We are not marginalised from the building.

The migrant community vulnerable people and the deprived communities have bus services to college Green and the city centre a few minutes walk or wheelchair roll from college Green.

We have a great Network of libraries across the city region with Bristol city council and libraries west.

Including St Paul's, Easton , Bedminster, Fishponds, Knowle, Lockleaze.

Kingswood, staple hill, Patchway and Filton in South Gloucestershire.

Where regional book services can be ordered computers are available

Both the lord mayor chapel and the central library should be commercialised.

With wedding and Events better catering facilities and menu reorganisation of the library to create a public space and meeting room.

We do not support relocation of the central library for the city and the city region is in the interest of the of the communities of the city and county of Bristol to Debenhams in Broadmead or Marks and Spencer building.

Broadmead shopping centre facilities and Tourist area need a lot of investment but not the central library.

As a Trustee of Bristol Disability Equities Forum I would like to full equalities impact assessments. Not a few lines about disabled and migrant communities and Vulnerable people and deprived people.

If the central library is sold off to the school, money should be returned to Vincent stuckey and lean family members via the merchant ventures.

We support invest in city parks and Garden but would like to see more investment in cafes and public toilets to generate income.

We also need a budget for public toilets. Especially within the new Transport interchanges in the west of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority building and hubs in Bristol.

We need to maintain a budget for the night-time economy and Tourism within the city. As both are big economic development for the city region with visit west.

A new tourist information centre could be in the central library or the bus and coach station

We also need to see the Transport Levy for bus and public transport Network services transfer to the West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and Metro Mayor Dan Norris.

For bus services and metro west railway.

Coaches ferry and bus services.

**David Redgewell South west transport Network and Railfuture Severnside
Bristol Disability Equalities Forum.**

Ian Beckey Gloucestershire catch the bus service campaign.