

Statement: PS21.61

Cabinet – 24 January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21: Bristol City Docks and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Rachael Clarke

Dear Cabinet members expecting to attend on 24th Jan 2023

Regarding **item 21**- Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges review.

I am unable to attend the meeting in person; I would like the following statement to be considered.

I am alarmed and concerned by the proposed schedule of fees for Harbour Services, which raise mooring and other harbour rates at much higher rates than inflation. This dramatic fee increase, **for which there has been no consultation amongst the bristol boating community**, will have dire consequences for many living in the harbour. A significant number of households will be made homeless by this increase.

The impact assessment that has been submitted holds no water, given that there has been no consultation with any stakeholders. **How can you say that this will have no negative impacts?**

I urge you to hold your decision until appropriate evidence gathering, financial justification and proper detail has been provided, and above all wide consultation has taken place.

The operational review of the harbour has not been made public, details have not been consulted and this means the community cannot see the basis for the review or the increased charges.

I lived on a boat in the harbour for years, and boat dwellers form much of my community. It's a diverse and hardworking community, but not a wealthy one. Many people live on boats in Bristol because they cannot afford either the rents or the instability of private renting, nor do they have the funds to buy a house. If anything, Bristol harbour needs more affordable, secure and serviced residential moorings - not this rash increase of fees. There is money to be made from the harbour, but it is by putting safeguards in place for this vulnerably housed group - not by using them as a cash cow with few rights.

Please reconsider your approach to this matter.

Statement: PS21.62

Cabinet – 24 January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21: Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Rich Hall

Dear Cabinet members expecting to attend the Council meeting on 24th Jan 2023,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting in person, I would however like the following statement to be considered before a decision is made regarding **item 21**- Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges review.

I live and work in Bristol City centre and one of the affordable pleasures I have is being able to enjoy having a boat moored at Bristol harbour. One of the key decisions in being able to own a boat was the reasonable costs of the mooring fees here, and although the facilities in Bristol harbour are quite basic without any of the normal refinements of an expensive marina mooring, this has allowed me to enjoy this pastime without the onerous financial penalties normally associated with them. And while some improvements would be welcomed, if the current proposed increases in mooring fees were to go ahead, I would have to seriously reconsider if I could afford to remain moored in Bristol harbour or even if I could continue to afford owning a boat altogether!

These unreasonable, unjustified and proposed above inflation increases in mooring fees, would also mean Bristol Harbour would lose its diversity of boat owners, becoming only affordable to the wealthier boat owners who would probably come from outside the city, potentially having a negative and damaging affect on the Bristol Boating Community, a significant number of whom are live-aboard boat households, for some it is the only way they can afford to live and work in Bristol, and may well be made homeless if these proposed increases go ahead!

No consultation regarding these increases and how best to implement them has taken place, despite being announced and supported by published guidance, with an impact assessment which has been conducted without any consultation to us the stakeholder boating community, how can this therefore truly reflect the potential impact on those that use the harbour!

Furthermore, the operational review of the harbour has not been made public, which means the community that is most impacted by this, has not been given the opportunity to challenge these findings or seen the basis for why these huge proposed increases in charges are being imposed! And being that these huge increases will predominately have to be met by the stakeholder boating community without having any direct consultation or say on them, it would seem to be grossly unfair and undemocratic to go ahead with its implementation without doing so first?

I would therefore urge you to postpone any decision until all the appropriate evidence has been gathered, and the financial justification has been published, and above all a wider consultation, including those of the boating community at Bristol Harbour, has taken place.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider mine and the views of the boating community at Bristol Harbour on this important matter

Statement: PS21.63

Cabinet – 24 January 2023.

Re: Agenda item 21: Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Richard Walker

Hello Democratic Services

Statement of Objection - Item 21 (increases in Harbour fees) Cabinet Agenda 24th January 2023

I would hearby like to have this statement of objection added to others and raised via the public forum element of this meeting, specific to the proposed raising of harbour fees.

It is inappropriate, potentially damaging and inequitable that the Harbourmaster should seek to –

1. substantially raise residential, visitor, recreational, marine business and watersport charges and fees
2. Do so based on an unconsulted and unpublished harbour 'review' (sic) and the distortive and illogical rationale that boat-users through their fees and charges should pay for all the harbour service costs (and do so without accountability).

The range of services that are provided (and widely valued) by staff running our harbour estate and its assets are of far greater worth to the economy and livability of the city than just boaters.

Proposed increases, many multiple times current rates of inflation, need to be reflective of a fair proportion of costs, consulted upon with effected parties and considered within the framework of a properly accountable harbour service and appropriately conducted review.

The impacts on those living on boats and those who's livelihoods are dependant upon use of the harbour are of particular concern, but so too are the effects on amenity and the cultural life of the harbour and harbourside communities.

Watersport/Boat fees have increased over recent years at rates consistently above inflation while the services, facilities and access to them (such as at Baltic Wharf Leisure Centre) have been significantly cut and compromised.

Many harbour users are increasingly concerned about the overstretched public safety demands on harbour staff that arise from having so many more people around the harbour and the expansion in the waterside nighttime economy.

Statement: PS21.64

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 - : Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges

Statement submitted by: Robert Skuse

Dear Cabinet members expecting to attend on 24th Jan 2023

Regarding **item 21**- Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges review.

I am unable to attend the meeting in person; I would like the following statement to be considered.

The proposed schedule of fees for Harbour Services have increases that are unreasonable, much higher than inflation and have the potential to negatively affect the Bristol Boating Community; some of which are vulnerable; indeed a significant number of households maybe made homeless.

No consultation about these increases and how to implement them has taken place, despite being announced and supported by published guidance.

The impact assessment submitted has not been carried out with any consultation to any stakeholder; it rings untrue.

I urge you to hold your decision until appropriate evidence gathering, financial justification and proper detail has been provided, and above all wide consultation has taken place.

The operational review of the harbour has not been made public, details have not been consulted and this means the community cannot see the basis for the review or the increased charges.

I have lived in Bristol all my life and have been on the harbour since the age of 2 I now run a business repairing boats working from underfall yard

Statement: PS21.65

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 - : Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges

Statement submitted by: Sabina Douglas

Dear Cabinet members expecting to attend the above agenda on 24 January 2023.

My statement related to the harbour fees review is below and if time permits, I will be happy to read out as I will be attending.

It will be useful to ascertain if the necessary and very expensive repairs to Prince Street Bridge and Redcliffe Bridge were paid out of the 800k CapEx fund.

A multitude of people/businesses wholly unconnected with the harbour use these bridges and it will be good to know that our proposed huge increase in fees is not subsidising the wider public to make up the shortfall.

The criteria for the change to the licence fees has been based on the RPI index. In 2013 the National Statistician concluded that the formula used to produce RPI did not meet international standards and RPI was de-designated as a national statistic. A subsequent review, carried out by Paul Johnson for the UK Statistics Authority and published in 2015 stated:

“RPI is a flawed statistical measure of inflation....taxes, benefits and regulated prices should not be linked to RPI...government and regulators should work towards ending the use of the RPI as soon as practicable.”

Most recently, the National Statistician, in an article published on 8 March 2018, for the Office of National Statistics (ONS), stated:

“Our position on the RPI is clear, we do not think it is a good measure of inflation and discourage its use.” There are other, better measures available and any use of RPI over these far superior alternatives, should be closely scrutinised.”

Not only is the criteria for the calculation of the levy of licence fees based on an index which notoriously overestimates inflation but it is based on the discredited RPI PLUS 5%!

The Impact Assessment has been carried out without consultation with any of the many stakeholders, it is not viable

It is grossly unfair to charge for facilities and services that do not exist.

The comparisons made with other ports are far-fetched, to put it kindly.

I urge you to hold your decision until appropriate evidence gathering, financial justification and proper detail has been provided and above all, wide consultation has taken place.

Sabina Douglas

Statement: PS21.66

Cabinet – 24 January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21: Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Sheila Askew

I have just read the Decision Pathway Report regarding the "Bristol City Docks Fees & Charges Review"

Regarding the Democratic Process involved, it seems to me that this process has NOT been given due regard, & therefore until such time as the full & proper process has been carried out, any decision made on the 24th February 2023 would be made without proper due process.

The Decision Pathway Report states that the Harbour Authority will carry out engagement opportunities with user groups. This has not been done.

In particular I would like to ask the following questions:

- What similar Ports & Harbours were used as a comparison?
- Why is the Savills Report not available to the general public?
- Does the current Balance Sheet show that it is the Mooring Fees & Charges that are causing any deficit?
- Why should the fees be increased by more than the RPI each year?
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- The Decision Pathway Report states these new charges will allow the area to become more inclusive & diverse. Won't these new charges do the complete opposite & make the Harbour only available to the rich?
- The Decision Pathway Report legal advice is that charges can be increased by a reasonable amount. Do the Cabinet think these massive charges are reasonable?
- Why hasn't an Equality Impact statement been produced? The Impact Statement states that if an Equality Impact statement is not produced the reasons why should be clearly stated. This has not happened.

These seemingly unreasonable increases would have a massive impact on my finances as a pensioner & dramatically change my standard of living.

I hope this process can be put back until such time that the above mentioned issues have been carried out & given full & proper informed consideration.

Statement: PS21.67

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 - : Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Stuart Lees

I own a boat moored in Bristol City Docks for about 7 years. Previously I moored it in Portishead Marina. I like basing my boat in Bristol because it's my home city and I'm a member of a social boat club in the city.

Bristol has always had problems for boat owners: It's facilities are poor compared to other locations, and the geography makes access to the sea problematic. This is why it's mooring fees have always been lower than, say Portishead marina.

The Harbour Review directly compare the costs of mooring in Bristol with Portishead, Penarth and other marinas which offer far better facilities, and comes to the conclusion that mooring fees should increase dramatically. They are not comparing like with like. This is demonstrable by the fact that places like Portishead and Penarth are highly awarded with Five Golden Anchors in the prestigious Golden Anchor accreditation scheme. People running these marinas would find it laughable that Bristol compares itself directly with them!

The comparatively poor facilities for boaters in Bristol creates additional costs for boat owners: Maintenance is an essential part of boat ownership. Boats have to be craned out of the water at regular intervals for hull maintenance. At Portishead and Penarth, the cost of keeping the boat in the boatyard to work on is included in their annual fees. In Bristol it is not. These factors do not appear to be taken into account by the review, which appears to take a simplistic view of directly comparing costs of places that are quite different.

Over the years I have seen the city reap great benefits from the Docks. Visitors bring a lot of money to the city, businesses have flourished around the harbour, based on its attraction, and the City has been able to sell land at previously unimaginable values. At the same time, I've seen the number of Council employees dedicated to running the Docks repeatedly cut back, to the point where getting a boat in and out through the lock and bridge systems has become difficult and increasingly time consuming.

I ask the Councillors making decisions about the future finances of the Docks to please bear these points in mind. Bristol is not directly comparable with Portishead and Penarth. And the city has benefitted greatly from the attraction of the Docks. It's unfair to hike mooring fees dramatically, putting the costs on boat owners whilst the harbourside is mostly used by commercial activities - bars, restaurants, offices - which make no direct contribution to its upkeep. Boat owners cannot even park vehicles near their boats for more than half an hour because they are not seen as a priority in a harbour! Yet now, the argument seems to be that boat owners should shoulder the costs of the harbour.

One of the main reasons I want to moor my boat in Bristol is because I'm a member of a boat club, the Cabot Cruising Club. The proposed restructuring of the fees removes a discount that has always been applied to boats moored with the club, because it helps maintain the moorings and simplifies administration for the Council. This discount has historically helped the club keep its head above water financially by attracting members. The club makes no financial gain from the discount itself. Without the discount the club is likely to dwindle, which will be a loss not just for boaters, because members of the Cabot Cruising Club maintain an important - and generally unrecognised - element of the city's maritime history: The John Sebastian lightship. The ship, moored in Bathurst Basin, is registered as an historic vessel. It's a Victorian lightship that used to be anchored in the Bristol Channel to safeguard ships navigating to Bristol. I believe there is only one other remaining afloat. Without the voluntary work of the club members, the ship would fall into disrepair and be lost.

Please reject the proposed increases in mooring fees, and reinstate the Club discount.

Statement: PS21.68

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 - : Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges

Statement submitted by: Su Crowther

Dear all

I am writing this email to you all because of the concerns I have regarding the above item, and I am very unhappy about the proposed fee increases, which seem to be very unfair. Also, I understand that the intention is to remove the discount that Cabot Cruising Club members currently receive. Also, my other concerns that there has been no consultation regarding the increase in fees.

Firstly from a personal point of view, the proposed fee increase will have a direct impact on my budget.

I moved my boat from Brecon and decided to moor my boat in the Bathurst Basin because I wanted to support the Cabot Cruising Club, and the maintenance of John Sebastian, which is such an asset to the whole community in Bristol. Since becoming a member of the club I have thoroughly enjoyed the events they have offered, and being able to make new friends has been a real life saver for me. Also, I made a conscious decision to no longer travel abroad as I am very aware about the impact of this has on our environment, therefore, I chose to spend as much time as possible visiting Bristol, which can only be good for the local economy. The new clean air zone has already had an impact on my purse, as I drive an old diesel car, and cannot afford to buy a new car, consequently this has added an extra £9.00 every time I visit my boat. I live in Carmarthen, Wales, and getting a train would unfortunately not be an option, as I live a fair distance from the station, and also the times of the trains are not convenient for me.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, and would appreciate a response to this email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Su Crowther

Statement: PS21.69

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 - : Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges

Statement submitted by: Tiggy Latcham

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am deeply concerned about the 'Bristol City Docks Fees & Charges Review' which only came to my attention on Saturday. No 'engagement opportunities' have been offered by the Harbour Authority as promised.

It would seem that a fair and democratic process has not been followed as the numerous stakeholders of the Bristol harbour have been given almost no time to lodge their concerns and very valid objections.

Savills have been commissioned (no doubt with public money) to write a report which is not available to us. They are a property company so I can only suspect this move is to make money from additional development of the harbour for property developers motivated by profit and not the collective good that the harbour brings to Bristol.

Has a balance sheet exercise been carried out? I accept that our fees are lower than other harbours but so too are the facilities. There is not a wait for moorings and some stand empty, certainly at Bristol Cruising Club. If the motivation is to bring more money to the harbour, a full cost impact assessment along with a more complete equalities impact assessment (not just Q1 and Q5 answered) would probably show that current boat owners and businesses would be priced out and there aren't the wealthier boat owners lining up to moor in the harbour.

This rushed and ill-considered move by the Harbour Authority and the outgoing Mayor does not represent a pride in or care for Bristol. It will be to the detriment of Bristol Harbour and to those who live, work and enjoy their leisure time on and beside our historic waterways. With the current economic and environmental crisis, the move should not be a race to the bottom by selling off our assets or giving a free reign to developers to build higher, bigger or on top of our green and natural assets.

At least put back this process. Take it off the table for discussion at the cabinet meeting tomorrow so that due process can be followed - stakeholders properly consulted and the equalities and financial impact assessments carried out properly.

I look forward to my concerns being listened to and a response given before tomorrow's meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Tiggy Latcham
Boat owner and Bristol Resident

Statement: PS21.70

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 - : Bristol City Docks – Fees and Charges review

Statement submitted by: Tim Start

Dear Bristol Council

I have owned a boat in Bristol Harbour for many years.

Each year I hand over a large sum of money (over £2,000) in exchange for a parking spot against the harbour wall. The only extra facility available is an insecure electricity hookup.

There is no security whatsoever. Every year the problem of anti social behaviour and consequent criminal damage increases, with the Harbour Estates Office taking great pains to do nothing to help, despite their obvious responsibilities

Historically there has been a complete absence of anything approaching a customer service ethic from the Harbour Master, whose usual response to any issues is to resort to bullying and intimidation to get his way.

You say you are going to increase mooring fees to be more in line with other harbours. I have used many other harbours and have experience of what facilities and support is typically provided.

So I ask you, what will you be doing to upgrade facilities and service to Bristol boat owners that might remotely justify the outrageous proposed increase in fees?

I trust that my question will be included in your meeting this week and I look forward to hearing your response.

Tim Start

Statement: CS21.71

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 - : Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges

Statement submitted by: Tim Wright

I am unable to attend the meeting in person; I would like the following statement to be considered.

My main problem with these proposals is the seemingly secretive and underhand way in which they are being justified and put through what are supposed to be rigorous processes.

The proposed schedule of fees for Harbour Services have increases that are unreasonable, much higher than inflation and have the potential to negatively affect the Bristol Boating Community; some of which are vulnerable; indeed a significant number of households may be made homeless.

No consultation about these increases and how to implement them has taken place, despite being announced and supported by published guidance.

The impact assessment submitted has not been carried out with any consultation to any stakeholder; it rings untrue.

I urge you to hold your decision until appropriate evidence gathering, financial justification and proper detail has been provided, and above all wide consultation has taken place.

The operational review of the harbour has not been made public, details have not been consulted and this means the community cannot see the basis for the review or the increased charges.

As a residential license holder in the docks I am personally concerned about how I will be treated by the Harbour authorities in the future and am really unclear as to if these proposals will affect me directly.

Tim Wright

Statement: PS21.72

Cabinet – 24 January 2023.

Re: Agenda item 21: Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Trevor Gray

Dear Cabinet members expecting to attend 24th January 2023

Regarding item 21 - Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges Review

I am able to attend the meeting in person and would like the following statement to be considered.

An increase of Harbour fees is both inevitable and prudent, the proposed fees maybe justifiable, but without consultation or a clear plan of revenue & expenditure I cannot say, surely fees rise whilst services & facilities improve, there is a danger of Bristol charging 5 star prices while offering a 1 star service.

These price hikes could be damaging to the boating community, are we to see harbour Gentrification at the expensive of the long standing community.

Your decision today may have far reaching consequence for the lives of ordinary people and families, please give this the scrutiny it deserves.

Where is the detail, if This appears to be a one page business plan.

I ask the Cabinet, with the limited info you have tonight, have you undertaken due diligence and can make an informed decision.

The devil is in the detail and the detail is clearly lacking.

Statement: PS21.73

Cabinet – 24 January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21: Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: William Elliott

I am a long standing boat owner in Bristol Harbour and also belong to one of the Boat Clubs. Every year we pay the Bristol City Council a mooring fee for this privilege and as with council tax the fees may increase in line with inflation, so why has the Council decided this year to raise it 177%!!!!

But, more importantly this has only come to our knowledge within the last week, without any warnings, information and consultations. The Council has employed Savills, probably at great expense to draw up this paper, and **a meeting is to be held at the City Hall, Tuesday coming 23th January.** This has come as a huge shock to all concerned, not only for leisure boaters in the harbour but also for companies that use the harbour as their livelihood e.g. river ferries, tower bell, Bristol Packet Boat trips and more, not to mention the many people who dwell on their boats. The increase to the boating companies is even much much higher increase and will probably mean a lot of loss of jobs and even loss of their company. Likewise, with dwellers, who will not be able to meet the high price rise having to sell and could even end up homeless. Other businesses that could be affected are cafes/pubs, such as Grain Barge and Beeses Tea gardens. Some charities will also miss out, as the boat clubs often have fund raising donations that go to places such as RNLI.

The impact of this proposal is a disgrace to Bristol, which as a thriving City, it has many tourists and Bristolians who enjoy time around the harbour, many believe will be damaging to the future of Harbour life that many are use to seeing.

There are two Boat Clubs in the harbour who enjoy a social gathering, whether it is in their club or on their boat, many of whom have been members for many years (one member is 92), his boat is his life, for socialising, exercising and general well-being, as with many other boaters. Not all boaters are rich wealthy people, most starting with a first boat later in life and enjoy as their hobby, (we don't all start with a Rolls Royce!!!, but work our way up over time). There are quite a lot of boat owners who are retired and will certainly find it almost impossible to pay the proposed increase for mooring, making us feel unnoticed and bullied into having to sell our boats. All boats pay by per metre in size, and apart from having a secure mooring, the Council provide little else. The council do not provide recycling bins for our clubs, so after social events there is a lot of waste, that should not be thrown away, e.g. glass, tins.

We all know that the council is struggling for money, like everyone and everywhere at this very difficult post-covid time, even pre-covid the council shut libraries, swimming pools and many other cut backs, so we feel now it is our turn to be victimised and do this ludicrous proposal. Where will they go next!!! It is certainly unfair, especially thinking about all the money that has been wasted over unused or unnecessary things in the City by the Council. Surely it would make more sense if they continued to put mooring fees up as before and keep boats in the harbour, rather than what maybe a mass leave and they end up with even less money and empty pontoons. This would not look very good for 'Ship Shape Bristol', especially to any visitors!!!!

Therefore, inconclusion we hope that all our requests to put a stop to the proposal will be taken note.

Statement: PS21.74

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21

Statement submitted by: David Bassett, Trustee, MV Balmoral Fund Ltd.

BRISTOL CITY DOCKS-FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW

**Response in connection MV Balmoral;a Member of the National Historic Fleet,
an elite group within the Register of National Historic Ships.Owned by charitable company
MV Balmoral Fund Ltd.,Charity Registration no. 1155339**

Dear Sirs

We have been made aware of this item for decision tomorrow only late this morning via the Harbourside Forum. As such Balmoral's trustees are not yet able to fully understand how much of the proposed charging will apply to this vessel.

We note that this is described as having apparently taken 2 years in work-up, however there has been no direct or indirect consultation with this charity. The report appears to make no mention of historic vessels at all; or what consideration is to be given to historic vessels moored within the Floating Harbour. Together and individually these provide much of the visual and historic interest which makes up the tourism and heritage value of the Harbour, and its contribution to the general attraction of Bristol.

In respect of Balmoral, trustees and volunteers are now returning, and increasing, the ship's contribution to the attraction and education offer of the harbour to communities in Bristol, that were badly interrupted by Covid.

Whilst we continue to aspire to passenger sailings once more, in the meantime Balmoral brings supporters from outside Bristol too.

We must make you aware that if the charges were to apply to this vessel this would hit us very hard, and could well result in us having to give up on any intention to stay in Bristol and in practice would mean disposing / scrapping the ship.

We are happy to provide other information and evidence of our contribution in kind to Bristol.

Yours faithfully
David Bassett
Trustee
MV Balmoral Fund Ltd.

Statement: PS21.75

Cabinet – 24th January 2023

Re: Agenda item 21: Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges

Statement submitted by: Jackie Cannon

Dear Cabinet Members

I write in connection with the above which causes me great concern, both as a boat owner and a citizen.

I urge you to defer any discussions or decisions on the issues raised until such time as all interested parties have access to a full and thorough assessment of implications and impacts.

It appears that a number of documents have been unlawfully and misleadingly presented before the Mayor and his officials for approval (with others withheld) at Cabinet which do not adhere even to democratic principles, failing to engage in due diligence and adhere to proper administrative procedure, not least in terms of stakeholder engagement and impact assessment.

Given the failure to engage with all stakeholder groups and the absence of the promised Harbour Review for public consultation, any attempt to ratify the incomplete documents presented on this issue put before Cabinet on 24th January 2023, will be seen as an abdication of responsibility, thereby resulting in all members becoming culpable of malfeasance in public office.

Harbour Office revenue has been undoubtedly affected by the extensive sale of harbourside estates to property developers. Nevertheless those who choose to work and live on the water cannot be expected to make up deficits in income with unreasonable fee hikes and short-term autocratic policy proposals.

In a transparent democratic system, there are too many questions to be asked and answered by and to the appropriate authorities and relevant stakeholders before any reliable or lawful decisions can be made or approvals granted in respect of the item before you.

I am unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday but I put my trust in you guaranteeing that all interested parties will have sight of this email correspondence in advance of the meeting.

Attentively,

Jackie Cannon

Statement: PS21.76

Cabinet – 24TH JANUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 – Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Alana Fleming

Dear Sir or Madam

I have just read the Decision Pathway Report regarding the "Bristol City Docks Fees & Charges Review"

The Democratic Process involved has not been followed correctly , to me it would seem that this process has not been given due regard or thought and therefore until such time as the full and proper process has been carried out any decision made on the 24th February 2023 would be made fraudulently.

In particular I would like to ask the following questions:

- What similar Ports & Harbours were used as a comparison?
- Why is the Savills Report not available to the general public?
- Does the current Balance Sheet show that it is the Mooring Fees & Charges that are causing any deficit?
- Why should the fees be increased by more than the RPI each year
- The Decision Pathway Report states that the Harbour Authority will carry out engagement opportunities with user groups. This has not been done.
- The Decision Pathway Report states these new charges will allow the area to become more inclusive & diverse. Won't these new charges do the complete opposite & make the Harbour only available to the rich?
- The Decision Pathway Report legal advice is that charges can be increased by a reasonable amount. Do the Cabinet think these massive charges are reasonable?
- Why hasn't an Equality Impact statement been produced? The Impact Statement states that if an Equality Impact statement is not produced the reasons why should be clearly stated. This has not happened.

These seemingly unreasonable increases would have a massive impact on my finances & dramatically change my standard of living and lifestyle - in short despite my partner and I being in the higher tax bracket we will have two options-

1) sell our boat

2) move our mooring to a different council for example Portishead where we will have the added benefit of washing facilities & hot water in closer proximity (not including the added sea access of lock out times due to Portishead allowing 4hrs either side and Bristol allowing only 2.5)

Both decisions will remove any income to Bristol Council thus making the increase irrelevant.

Myself and my family look forward to the time spent on our boat, not necessarily taking it out, but just going to the harbour and socialising after a busy

week at work. In many instances we end up purchasing drinks or food in the many choices of restaurants and bars - again showcasing a further impact with the proposed price increases to local business, our local businesses that make Bristol, Bristol

I have enrolled in the Navigation & Water Safety lesson given for free onboard Sabrina 6 with my young nieces and nephews which will allow them to be taught safety on the water

These lessons also help to keep many of the members that attend, active and in some instances it's their only form of interaction in as many weeks - if this was your family member is this something you would like to be removed from them without any consultation?

There are also free boat maintenance sessions - an added benefit to many again a life line to many of the older generation

At the time of writing this email over 1000 people have signed a petition in less than 24 hrs - surely at quick glance this indicates the risk to this plan and the damage it will cause

I hope this process can be put back until such time that the above mentioned issues have been carried out and all correct people consulted, as per the guidelines and process that governing body themselves set out

Regards

A.Fleming

Statement: PS21.77

Cabinet – 24TH JANUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 – Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Jennifer Conway

Dear Cabinet members expecting to attend on 24th Jan 2023

Regarding **item 21**- Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges review.

I am unable to attend the meeting in person; I would like the following statement to be considered.

The proposed schedule of fees for Harbour Services have increases that are unreasonable, much higher than inflation and have the potential to negatively affect the Bristol Boating Community; some of which are vulnerable; **indeed a significant number of households maybe made homeless**. No consultation about these increases and how to implement them has taken place, despite being announced and supported by published guidance.

The impact assessment submitted has not been carried out with any consultation to any stakeholder; it rings untrue.

I urge you to hold your decision until appropriate evidence gathering, financial justification and proper detail has been provided, and above all wide consultation has taken place.

The operational review of the harbour has not been made public, details have not been consulted and this means the community cannot see the basis for the review or the increased charges.

I lived on a boat in Bristol harbour for 9-years, I did this when I was on an incredibly low income and could not gain housing security anywhere else. It is a hard and often insecure but economic way of living - and with the current housing crisis in the city boat living is a lifeline to many. I have no doubt that these proposals with above inflation increases will drastically effect the community and the unusual and wonderful ecology of Bristol's harbour. I understand the council are desperately trying to cut costs and generate revenue after a decade of Tory cuts but placing this burden on the doorstep of the boating community is not the way forward. Access to this space should not be left to the elite who can afford it.

Please listen to those of us opposing this reckless proposal and involve us in a conversation.

Jennifer Conway

2 Lower Knowle Gardens, Berrow Walk, Bristol, BS3 5EZ

Statement: PS21.78

Cabinet – 24TH JANUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 – Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Kathleen Bennett

Dear Sir/Madam,

Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review.

I have several questions regarding this review and at the moment no answers.

- 1) Why as a boat owner in Bristol Harbour, am I just finding out about the possibility of such a large increase in my mooring fees?
- 2) Why am I not able to see the Savills Report? I would certainly like to know the other harbours etc in the Southwest we were compared with.
- 3) Does the Cabinet think the fee increases are a 'reasonable charge' as permitted in Article 7 of the Bristol City Docks Harbour Revision Order 1998?
- 4) No reasons have been given why an Equality Impact Statement has not been produced. Why not?

I can only hope the Cabinet will reject the Fees and Charges proposals and enter into a consultation process with all the harbour user groups and hopefully come to an agreeable 'reasonable charge'

Regards

K.I.Bennett

Statement: PS21.79

Cabinet – 24TH JANUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 21 – Bristol City Docks - Fees and Charges Review

Statement submitted by: Rachel Evans

I believe that the democratic process has not been followed for this review.

For a review to take place, there should be an equalities impact assessment. Looking at the documentation (Equality Impact Assessment version 2.9, 1.3). The question 'Will the proposal have an equality impact?' has been answered 'no' and I do not understand the explanation given on the form as to why this is the case as it is incomprehensible.

For an Equality Impact Assessment, there should be consultation with harbour users who will be impacted by these fee changes. There has been no consultation with harbour users on this so how can the council know whether it will have an equality impact?

I am a boat owner. My boat is moored on a council pontoon and I only found out about these proposed changes a few days ago. The fee change to my mooring coupled with the removal of the Bristol Cruising Club discount will increase my costs by about 60 per cent. From the documentation provided, these fee rises do not seem to be related to any improvement in the standard of facilities offered to boat owners. The current facilities are practically non-existent. I believe there is one shower and a toilet on the harbourside, but I've never seen them and don't know how I would access them. There are not enough electricity points so I currently have to share one with the boat moored next to mine. The proposed fee rise will have a detrimental impact on me. I currently use my boat for leisure. I am a single parent and rather than owning a caravan, I use my boat to take my children on trips up the river and to partake in the Bristol Harbour Festival. I am also enrolled in a navigation course run by the Bristol Cruising Club as I want to learn more about boating. This fee rise will mean I will have to sell my boat. This will have a negative impact on my standard of living. I have spoken to several members of the Bristol Cruising Club who will be similarly impacted by this fee rise. Aside from my own personal circumstances, I am concerned about the impact these fee increases will have on the whole harbour. Businesses such as Tower Belle and Bristol Ferry have not been consulted and these fee changes could easily put them out of business and have a knock-on impact on other businesses that rely on boats to bring their customers, such as Beeses. The chance to go on a boat in the harbour is a major draw to tourists, but this long-established characteristic of Bristol could simply disappear if these fee changes go ahead without more careful consideration.

I understand that 'Bristol City Docks Fees and Charges Review' has also not gone before the Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission. I wonder how such a major change to the harbour can be put forward by the mayor without scrutiny.