Resources Scrutiny Commission – Extraordinary meeting
31 January 2023 (part 1 of the meeting)
2 February 2023 (part 2 of the meeting)

Public Forum

Questions have been received as listed below (full details are set out on the subsequent pages):

1. Questions from Tom Merchant, UNISON

Statements have been received as listed below (full details are set out on the subsequent pages):

1. Cllr Carla Denyer
2. David Redgewell, Robbie Bentley, Gordon Richardson and Brendon Taylor

PUBLIC FORUM - QUESTIONS

1. QUESTIONS FROM TOM MERCHANT – UNISON

Q1. Deletion of vacant roles in teams by senior managers added to the recruitment freeze has put staff under pressure in several teams but particularly in customer-facing roles like libraries. This seems to be a fait accompli before the council has actually made a decision on cuts, does the committee think that this should be relaxed until staff consultation has been completed some time after this full council budget meeting?

Q2. At Cabinet yesterday, Cllr Asher Craig mentioned about in-house services (which I thanked her for). With the extra workstreams in the recommendations: children's homes; learning disability and autism; and cultural outreach programmes is the committee worried we are wasting in-house talent making council staff redundant when they could be utilised on these projects rather than outside providers?

PUBLIC FORUM - STATEMENTS

STATEMENT 1 - Cllr Carla Denyer

Statement for Resources Budget Scrutiny meeting:

I was concerned to learn that the Council only conducts very high level carbon impact assessments for capital projects, and no assessment at all for revenue spends. I know this has been raised in Resources Scrutiny over the last 2 years by Cllr Fodor and I'm raising it again today because I'm concerned about the lack of progress. I'm sorry I can't attend in person, but I ask members to consider this.

Back in 2018 when Bristol declared a Climate Emergency, the Mayor asked the Green councillor group to follow up our motion with suggestions for how to decarbonise, and we did this through our Change Starts Now report.

One of the key recommendations in this report was carbon accounting. Quoting from the report:

"In Oslo, one of the C40 Cities, a climate budget process is managed by the finance department and run simultaneously with the annual financial budgeting process. The governance systems that have been put in place mean that the city council can only approve spending plans which have a realistic chance of delivering greenhouse gas reduction outcomes, consistent with the goals of the climate strategy. Thus climate goals are given primacy in the financial budgeting process."

Thank you,

Carla Denyer
Councillor for Clifton Down

STATEMENT 2 – David Redgewell, Robbie Bentley, Gordon Richardson and Brendon Taylor

Public statement.
Bristol disability equalities forum on the budget.

We wish to see investment in public toilets in Bristol especially modernisation of park toilets and more investment in changing places.
As Bristol city council and the West of England mayoral combined transport Authority.
Build public transport hubs, we need to see more Cafe kiosks and public toilets provision such as in Staple Hill in Greater Bristol, South Gloucestershire.

With regards to the state of the built environment within the city Region
We are still very concerned about the need to spend more time removing with Bristol waste graffiti.
As we are getting bus shelters and many building tagged.
It makes the city look unsafe at night and gives a very poor impression of our beautiful west country city to tourists and residents.

With regarding to cutting of so many bus service by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority in the city region and North Somerset council area.
We support the view of the metro mayor Dan Norris that the precepting by the Transport Authority may be the only way to improve the bus and rail Network.

But we feel the city council transport levy should be increased along those from South Gloucester council and Banes to protect the supported bus Network.
The routes to south Bristol hospital are being cut back as are the routes to Southmead hospital .
506 city centre to Lawrence Hill, Easton, Eastville, Horfield, Southmead hospital bus station. Withdrawn
Service 10 Avonmouth, Westbury on Trym, Southmead hospital, UWE, Bristol bus station, Bristol parkway, Bradley Stoke, Aztec west, Hortham, Alverston, Thornbury.
Bristol Parkway to Thornbury is withdrawn.
In South Bristol bus service to south Bristol hospital and across South of city have been withdrawn
96 from Hartcliffe to Hengrove South Bristol hospital, Knowle and Brislington and St Anne's.
And 516 Whitchurch, Hengrove, hospital, Knowle.
17 Keynsham, Kingswood, Corsham hospital, Speedwell, Staple Hill, Fishponds Eastville park, Horfield Southmead hospital.
636 Keynsham to Whitchurch.
511 Hengrove to Bedminster.
512 Totterdown to Bristol city centre.
52 Bishopsworth to Bristol.
With all these services withdrawn, disabled people are worried about the quality of Demand responsive bus services.
When buses maybe only 9 or 16 seats.
Will there be wheelchair accessible on buses and people be able to Hospital appointments on time.
The Demand responsive buses only run 7am to 7 pm Monday to Saturday.
With no evening or weekend service.
All lot of South Bristol one of the poorest part of the city will be without public transport.
As will the Yate bus station, Westerleigh, Pucklechurch, Emersons green, Downend, Oldbury court, Fishponds, Fishponds road, Eastville park, St Werburghs and St Paul's. Bristol service 47/ 5

We believe the city council, Banes, South Gloucestershire council freezing the levy to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.
More public consultation should have taken place about the future of bus services in city region and the Transport levy.

We are very supportive of the transfer of Transport staff to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.
To improve bus service rail services.
Mass transit system, metro bus.
Ferry service. Information systems.
public transport Networks.
City region transport plan.
Bus service enhanced quality partnership.
Bus service improvement plan.
Or Franchising.
We would hope the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and Dan Norris would also employ an in house of equalities officer

But every modern city region needs a good public transport Network.
Including Metro west railway service to Pill and Portishead and new station at Ashton Gate.
The Bristol Temple meads to Ashley Down Filton North and Henbury.
Good bus service and metro bus service

We ask that Bristol city council, Banes, south Gloucestershire county council and North Somerset council look at the transport levy to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.
And in future precepting powers and North Somerset council as full member of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

Regarding the bus service cuts
We are concerned about the effects on disabled people on Demand responsive bus services more need to be to explain the new Network many older people do not use apps so clear Phone numbers are required.
And clear stopping places at bus stops
The bus drivers need equalities training
And CAB checks this most not be a way of bring poor quality drivers onto the Network
All buses need to be wheelchair accessible and bus stop sites checked for wheelchair access.
With regards to buses services the equalities impact assessments have shown that whilst westlink should work in rural areas where it has been successful in Wales and Wiltshire with service 101 102 Devizes and Pewsey.
We are concerned about the lack of support bus services in South Bristol and East Bristol.
Especially the loss of service 96 From Hartcliffe, Hengrove, South Bristol hospital to Knowle, Brislington and St Anne's park .
With no replacement service which affects access to south Bristol hospital.
and local community access to shops Hospital community facilities and schools.
Service 516 Whitchurch park, Hengrove hospital and Knowle is of concern.

As is service 52 Bishopsworth to Bristol city centre.
636 Keynsham to Whitchurch.

Brislington Town service to Knowle has no replacement service 513 514
Unless a fixed timing points.
Brislington Knowle local service is design Network is developed

511 Totterdown to Bristol city centre.
512 Hengrove to Bedminster.
These routes could be fixed timing
Points and Demand responsive buses.

Similarly in Keynsham and Saltford.
With bus service 663 664 665.

We are also concerned about the loss of service 17 Keynsham, Kingswood corsham hospital, Staple hill, Fishponds, Eastville park, Horfield, Southmead hospital bus station.

506 Bristol city centre, Easton, Eastville, Horfield, Southmead hospital bus station.

Service 10 Avonmouth, Shirehampton, Lawrence Weston, Southmead hospital bus station, uwe bus station, Bristol parkway station, Bradley stoke, Aztec west, Hortham, Alveston,Thornbury.

47 5 Yate bus station Westerleigh, Pucklechurch, Emersons green, Downend, Oldbury court, Fishponds road, Eastville park, St werburghs, st Pauls, Bristol city centre
172 Bath spa bus and coach station, Peasedown St John, Radstock, Westfield, Midsomer Norton, Paulton and Wells bus and coach.
Evening service is withdrawn.
This will affect Passenger accessing Bath city centre night time economy.
And access to the Royal United hospital.
There are some Bus service improve plan meeting not let
We would like to see let
517 Chew Magna to Wells bus and coach station.
518 Midsomer Norton Radstock link
519 Keynsham town service.
520 Southmead hospital to Longwell green
521 Hengrove park to Brislington.
523 Brislington town service
524 Long Ashton park and ride to Hengrove hospital via Hartcliffe.
Chew valley link
526
527 Chew Magna to Anchor Road

As D 2 bus service Bath spa bus and coach station to Midford Norton, St Phillips, Rode, Beckington and Frome.

All of the support services need equalities impact assessments.
As many people in East Bristol, South Bristol and North Bristol are left without bus services.

We need to maintain these services and Transport levy should be increased.

All these bus service are main line buses.
Which can easily be replaced by westlink bus services.
But are access to the main hospitals in Southmead hospital and South Bristol.

It would appear that at present no discussion have taken place with the Hospital trust in North Bristol and university Hospitals trust Bristol and Weston .

There is a view in the equalities and disabled passengers passenger organisations.
That there was no consultation by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority or Bristol city council, Banes and South Gloucestershire council.
Into the bus service cuts once it became known just before Christmas that the Transport levy was not enough to pay for the support bus services.

The mayor of Greater Manchester travel on the bus rail and tram Network with disabled passengers and groups we would like to Mayor Dan Norris and council steve Hogg travel the bus rail and ferry services to see the difficulty for themselves.
Social care Housing are very important but so are quality public transport Network services to jobs school colleges university, Hospitals Heath care shopping leisure and Tourism.
Public transport connects communities and people and need to be properly funded.

Disabled people want to be able to travel are the city region on a good public transport Network.
Safety clean well run and with good governance like Liverpool city region
west Midlands combined Authority and Greater Manchester Authority.

The west of England mayoral combined Authority budget which the mayor does not have a vote .
But we must have a inclusive public transport Network in the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council area.
Greater Bristol and Bath city region.

WE NEED BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL TO RAISE THE TRANSPORT LEVY TO THE WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AND TO NOT TAKE LEVY FROM FERRY COMPANIES IN BRISTOL HARBOUR WHICH ARE PART OF BRISTOL PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK.
AND WILL THE REQUIRE PUBLIC SUBSIDIES FROM THE WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED TRANSPORT.

WE MUST SET UP URGENTLY THE WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY AND NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL BUS SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD TO OVER SEE THE BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN. AND BUS SERVICE FUNDING .