

Question: CQ08.01

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 08 - Gypsy and Roma Traveller permanent sites

Question submitted by: Councillor Marley Bennett

Question 1: I'm pleased to see this site allocated for travellers - having permanent, regulated sites is in the best interest of the GRT community.

The Equalities Impact Assessment says GRT people have 'the lowest educational attainment levels of any ethnic group in the country, the worst health outcomes of any group in the UK or Europe and have a life expectancy considerably lower than all other non GRT communities'

Please could the Mayor / Cabinet outline some of the support services the council offers to this community?

Answer:

The Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) Team provide a range of support services for these communities around education, access into education and tackling barriers to educational services. GRT school attendance is a standing item at the monthly, 'Attendance and Belonging' Task Group and on the 'Exclusions' Task & Finish Groups.

A range of commissioned services provide support including a Specialist Health Visitor from Serona Health, whose primary role is to directly support GRT clients struggling to access health services and SARI who provide a GRT Community Development Officer to support the community affected by hate crime and discrimination.

Employment, Skills and Learning Team established adult education classes around literacy and numeracy targeted at adult GRT community members.

Close working relationships are in place with a range of statutory and third sector organisations to help GRT communities break down barriers between services and this community i.e. Learning Partnership West, Empire Fighting Chance etc.

I have recently written on this topic on my blog: [Building a better Bristol for everyone - The Bristol Mayor](#)

Text:

Bristol built 2,563 new homes last year – exceeding our ambitious targets. The housing crisis affects everyone, and we're determined to keep building a city where everyone has a safe place to call home.

Our population grew by 10% in the last decade, so we need to build more homes in every community, including our Gypsy Roma Traveller community. So, cabinet recently invested in a new site with six to eight permanent pitches. This will add to existing sites in Ashton Vale and Lawrence Weston/Avonmouth, which opened in the early 2000s, and one in Bedminster which has been operating since the late 19th century. These are, it's worth clarifying, different to the meanwhile sites for vehicle dwellers set up relatively recently.

Feedback from the housing provider who manages another of our permanent sites, is that the proposed site is "perfect" for the job. But our wider, longer-term approach will go beyond utilising one vacant site in Hengrove. We will be looking at applying to a new £10 million Traveller Site Fund announced by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities and looking at other potential sites around our city.

[embed: <https://twitter.com/MarvinJRees/status/1622994171970691080>]

This proposal fits with our wider commitment to reflect the contribution of the traveller community to our city, and reaffirm their rights. Its initial reception has, though, sadly shown that some people still see racism directed towards our GRT community as the 'last acceptable form'. It's not, and it is right to challenge such attitudes whenever we encounter them. After all, such discrimination has fed into 91% of gypsies and travellers having experienced discrimination in the UK.

We are committed to supporting a community disproportionately affected by ill health, infant mortality, imprisonment, child poverty, domestic abuse, illiteracy, mental health issues, and suicide. And, as well as reducing isolation, we are also determined to tell more about their contribution to our city, both historically and in the present day.

Bristol has been home to the Gypsy and Roma Traveller community for more than six centuries. Irish travellers were among the workers that helped build Broadmead, many of our city's high rises and industrial areas. Last summer we raised the GRT flag outside City Hall for GRT History Month and plan to do the same again this June. Ian Bowen, the Council's GRT Service Coordinator, [wrote a brilliant blog](#) to mark the occasion last year.

As we have noted more widely, such stories too often go forgotten or, worse, go deliberately untold. That's at the heart of why we set up the History Commission. Not to talk about one statue, but to help highlight the fullness of an entire city's story: across race, class, and gender; remembering workers, Chartists, and suffragettes; and teaching current and future generations about how war, poverty, and slavery are dyed into the fabric of Bristol. All of these people's lives are part of why our city is how it is today.

We Are Bristol – and that includes our Gypsy and Roma Traveller community.

Question: CQ09.01

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 09 - Bristol Heat Pump Ready Project

Question submitted by: Councillor Philippa Hulme

Question 1: I'm pleased that we're seeking £3.3m worth funding from BEIS to decarbonise 200 homes. How many properties will be decarbonised by the £424m investment secured by the City Leap scheme?

Answer:

City Leap will deliver large scale investment in council buildings, council homes and the key infrastructure to create zero carbon electricity and heat removing 140,000t of carbon dioxide from the city in the next 5 years.

It's not possible to say exactly how many homes will be decarbonised as some of these improvements will be on the council's non-domestic buildings and essential long-term infrastructure like district heating

The Heat Pump Ready Project demonstrate our ongoing commitment to seek further investment in the city's decarbonisation, in adopting innovative approaches and in helping to create green jobs and training for citizens of Bristol.

Question: PQ10.01 & PQ10.02

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 10 - Filwood Broadway Framework – utilisation of funding

Question submitted by: David Redgewell

Question 1: We very much welcome the framework for Filwood centre and the award from the Department for leveling up. Especially replacement of the cinema with a modern Development. As South Bristol requires Employment how many local jobs will this scheme create in local community in construction and permanent jobs in the Filwood community?

Answer:

Economic modelling to support the 'Transforming Filwood Broadway' Levelling Up Fund Bid calculated that approximately 28 additional FTE jobs will be created through the new library facility / expanded community centre, and 26 additional retail jobs will be created from increased local footfall.

Any works must be tendered in line with the usual procurement regulations to achieve best value.

We've written in social value to those regulations, that means at least 20% of the assessment score will be favoured towards companies who offer:

- local apprenticeships,
- training for local employees,
- local labour
- spend with local suppliers
- targeted local recruitment / work experiences.

Questions 2: With the Regeneration of Filwood which is to be very much welcomed from the leveling up fund one of very few awards in South west England.

What provision is Bristol city council mayor Rees making to improve public transport bus services and sustainable transport walking and cycling facilities with the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority mayor Dan Norris to improve access to the Regeneration area?

Answer:

There are various provisions planned, including:

- New crossing across Creswicke Road for people walking and cycling on Filwood Greenway
- New infrastructure to support walking and cycling on Filwood Broadway
- Improved signage and walking routes to Filwood Broadway

- Bus Services are the responsibility of the West of England Combined Authority, who will be delivering improvements through the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP). We are delivering improved bus priority and other infrastructure through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which includes further bus priority measures through Bedminster and on the Wells Road that will benefit services to/from the Filwood area.

Question: CQ10.01

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 10 - Filwood Broadway Framework – utilisation of funding

Question submitted by: Councillor Chris Jackson

Question 1: The £14.5m investment into Filwood Broadway is great news for people in my ward. The also report says:

'Bristol City Council are developing an Active Travel bid which is due to be submitted to the Department for Transport later in 2023. The bid may include the introduction of cycling and walking infrastructure throughout Filwood Broadway and therefore could support the Re-Create Filwood Public Realm Project'

Please could Cllr Alexander provide more details of this bid?

Answer:

It's great that some of our left behind areas are getting investment. The investment in Filwood Broadway as well as the Youth Zones and Boklok homes are good examples we must celebrate delivering.

There is currently no direct route or formal crossing for pedestrians and cyclists on the Filwood Greenway to cross Creswicke Road from Filwood Park to Filwood Broadway.

This emerged as a key priority for the local community and could be included within the ACT4 bid once we know more about funding requirements.

Question: CQ10.02 & CQ10.03

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 10 - Filwood Broadway Framework – utilisation of funding

Question submitted by: Councillor Zoe Goodman

Background:

The development of Filwood Broadway as one overarching project rather than piecemeal individual projects is very much welcomed.

The report mentions:

- “Site 4: the redevelopment of the current Filwood Library site could provide a considerable number of new homes”
- It also mentions under Site 2 the redevelopment of the former Swimming Pool site for 29 affordable new homes.
- Given that the development frameworks for the area had denoted the Swimming Pool site for mixed commercial and residential development and the library site for residential development, I believe there should be consideration for a mixed commercial and residential development of the library site.
- One consideration might be for flexible work spaces for start-up businesses, alternatively organisations or shops currently based elsewhere on the Broadway might want to relocate to that space, or it might be a combination

Question 1: Will there be consideration for a mixed commercial and residential development of the library site rather than developing it purely for housing and how will the community be consulted on these alternative uses?

Answer:

Both the Knowle West Regeneration Framework and the Filwood Broadway Framework suggests that the existing library site will be redeveloped primarily for new housing if the library is relocated.

However, consideration will be given to the potential for non-residential uses, and the local community will be involved in shaping the site.

That’s where the role of councillors will be important, and we’ll welcome the opportunity to introduce you to developers to make sure you have every opportunity to influence.

Question 2: The large amount of funds going into Filwood Broadway, including the additional £14.5m funding, is also very much welcomed. What measures will be taken to optimise social value within the local area during the construction period, such as through utilising contractors that employ local people and/or that offer apprenticeships and work experience to people from Filwood or South Bristol College, or the broader Bristol City Council area?

Answer:

Any works must be tendered in line with the usual procurement regulations to achieve best value.

We've written in social value to those regulations, that means at least 20% of the assessment score will be favoured towards companies who offer:

- local apprenticeships,
- training for local employees,
- local labour
- spend with local suppliers
- targeted local recruitment / work experiences.

Again, having councillor eyes on this to help us monitor this will be important.

Question: CQ11.01 & CQ11.02

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 11 - Housing IT and Transformation Programme

Question submitted by: Councillor David Wilcox

Background:

Capability gap in service

On pages 79, 95 & 103, the current system components are described as being End of Life, Out of Support or Out of Contract by May 2024.

Pages 93 and 124 state the earliest date for delivery of the new system is October 2024 or later.

Page 143 states there is only a 50% chance of delivering any part of the systems by May 24 and a 25% chance of the system not being delivered by January 2025.

Question 1: Can the mayor provide more details of the contingency planning to assure members that our residents will not be impacted negatively by this project?

Answer:

From Dec-23, Click (Workforce) system will be supported by BCC IT, and all changes frozen in advance of this date. The system is stable, and we own perpetual licences for ongoing use. IT have confirmed that this will provide suitable and adequate support to the system and our users, staff and residents.

Support for current Housing systems (Cx, Keystone and Abritas) will be extended until May-25 and this is being agreed now with the supplier, Civica, IT and the contract owner. This is a 12m minimum length contract offered by the supplier, commencing when the current agreement ends in May-24.

Support for APP, also Civica but under a separate agreement, is supported under a rolling agreement which is being extended until Mar-25 by the contract owner. Again, this is a 12m minimum length contract offered by the supplier, commencing when the current agreement ends in May-24.

Current systems will not be decommissioned until implementation of the replacement platform is complete. This will be done in stages, during 2024 and planned to complete by October of that year.

Support for systems delivering Critical Services will continue post-programme for several months, as stated above, to ensure a smooth transition to the new platform for staff, tenants and residents. All historical system data will be retained by BCC.

Background:**Budget for the project**

Page 148 States that the contingency budget for the project is 15%; the finance advice states the budget is £7.5m, so that's £1.125m allocated. I agree that this is overly optimistic for a project of this scale and complexity, especially given the current inflation rates.

Page 93 Calculates the Contingency Budget as "Calculated as 20% of BCC and 30% of supplier delivery costs sought, plus £217k (10%) for ongoing support charges.", but does not give a figure.

Question 2: Will this be reviewed and reported to members?

Answer:

Use of the contingency funds is subject to approval by the programme board, headed by Donald Graham, which meets every month which Cabinet Member for Housing Cllr Renhard attends. In addition, the programme manager has monthly focus meetings with Cllr Renhard and all Heads Of Service for Housing.

Current total value of contingency can be supplied to members but is commercially sensitive hence its removal from the redacted versions of our documents, referred to above.

Scrutiny is welcome to request this on its work plan and we will of course support them in the usual way.

Question: CQ12.01 & CQ12.02

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 12 - Grant determination for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2023/24 & 24/25

Question submitted by: Councillor Christine Townsend

Question 1: The Holiday Activity Fund grant will continue until at least March 2025. The Grant Determination letter allows for up to 15% to be used for other vulnerable groups of children. I see the decision pathway names children in receipt of an EHCP and those without course to public funds – this is welcome. For what reasons does this group not extend to Children in Care, children adopted immediately following being in care and those with a Special Guardianship Order?

Answer:

It does extend to these groups.

DfE guidance states councils can use up to 15% to cover the cost of HAF provision for vulnerable children not in receipt of FSM. This can be determined by the Local Authority.

In Bristol our wider HAF programme does, and will continue to, use this funding to support looked after and previously looked after children, children with EHCPs, refugee & asylum seekers and children known to children social care services.

Question 2: In the EQIA report, point 2.3 states 'key stage 2, 3 and 4 free school meal entitlement is particularly accurate'. Universal Free School Meals were introduced in Sept 2014 meaning all children up to and including Year 7 were entitled when in KS1. What actions has the administration taken/will take to ensure all entitled children receive their free school meal and the pupil premium funds that will sit behind it under the pupil premium 'Ever 6'?

Answer:

Since April 2018, children who became eligible for FSM/pupil premium (including early years pupil premium) will retain their eligibility until the end of their current educational phase (where Early Years Pupil Premium is linked to the primary phase).

Our Liquid Logic IT systems enables the Free School Meals team to extend the 'end date' of all children covered by this transitional protection. This has improved the retention of children continuing to be eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium after their universal entitlement ends.

As part of our school engagement strategy, we've developed a database of school 'Holiday Activity Food champions' to ensure messaging and information regarding

eligibility is clear and to encourage and promote free school meals take up, enabling more families to access support through their FSM/PP entitlement. The school also benefits with additional pupil premium funding.

Our new executive director will be working with schools to make sure they're getting their entitlement.

This will also be an agenda item for monthly community development workers forum.

Question: PQ15.01 & PQ15.02

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 15 - Short Breaks Innovation Fund Bid

Question submitted by: Sally Kent

Question 1: I'd like to ask for a breakdown of information in regard to the 129 children who are currently not attending school.

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s80726/SB%20Innovation%20Fund%20Feb%202023.pdf>

How many have EHCPs

How many are going through the EHCP process

How many do not have a plan and are not going through the EHCP process. How many are on the roll of mainstream schools

How many are on the roll of special schools How many are not on the roll of any school

How many girls

How many boys

How many currently waiting for a special school place to the paragraph regarding schools.

Answer:

For this project, the data was provided to us by schools anonymously, therefore we are not able to provide a detailed breakdown as requested.

The total of '129 Children Young People with autism, or on the pathway, who are missing education' was collected as a snapshot at the time of writing the bid to the DfE in October 2022.

Question 2: Does the council have any intention of developing and co-producing information/pathways/strategy on Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)? Currently nothing exists and despite the reports alternative use of the term 'Socially self- isolating due to negative cycles of anxiety management' this new service is clearly targeting children who have EBSA whilst failing to address the underlying root cause as to why 129 autistic children in this city cannot currently attend school.

Answer:

There is work being done by both the Educational Psychologist team and Child Adolescent Mental Health Service in relation to emotionally based school avoidance (both have provided training to schools) and we circulate resources to schools to support this area of activity.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance has been identified by both the Attendance and Belonging Team and the Education Welfare Service as a barrier to attendance. In collaboration with both the Education Psychology Team and CAMHS schools and settings have been provided with training, advice and resources in relation to this area.

Resources and further information are provided for professionals via the Attendance Toolkit. Schools and settings are further briefed about this area through: School Attendance Network Meetings, Locality Attendance Meetings and the Weekly Attendance Drop-in. Colleagues are made aware of any further information via the Weekly Attendance Update

Petition: PP16.1

Cabinet – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Re: Agenda item 16 - Future of St Barnabas C of E Primary School

Petitioner: Sophie Higgins Wheeler & Lotty Cronk

Signatures: 2,495

St Barnabas CE VC Primary School has been at the heart of the St Paul's and Montpelier community for 150 years. Generations of local families have attended the school. It is a hidden oasis in the heart of the city centre, with its fields, woodland, vegetable gardens and playgrounds. St Barnabas is a small, nurturing community, offering amazing support to children and families. Its SEND provision is second to none among mainstream schools in Bristol, and the school won a national Covid response award in recognition of the support it offered to families through the pandemic, opening a community food bank and providing every child with laptops and tablets so they could continue to learn. It is truly a community school, and everyone who spends time there describes it as a unique and very special place.

However, due to an overprovision of primary school places in the local area following the opening of two new primary schools in 2012 and 2015, the number of pupils at St Barnabas fell dramatically, and the school budget subsequently went into deficit.

School leaders and governors tried everything they could to increase the number on roll, including bidding to be the site of an autism resource base which would have added two classes to the school, and applying to join a Multi-Academy Trust. Unfortunately they were blocked at every turn.

In November 2022, staff and parents were informed that Bristol City Council had begun the process of closing St Barnabas Primary permanently. Everyone was shocked and devastated. The school community is now pulling together to fight against this short-sighted judgement, before the Council Cabinet makes their final decision in January.

Please support St Barnabas to stay open. Our children deserve the chance to carry on learning with their friends and teachers, in a loving school where their needs are met by amazing staff who do not deserve to lose their jobs. And the school deserves the chance to grow, succeed, and keep serving the community it has served for so long.

[Thank you for submitting the petition and making your representation to the cabinet meeting.](#)

I understand that this decision will have significant impact on children, families and staff currently at St Barnabas.

Unfortunately, funding has been an issue for the school for some time. School budgets are mainly based on pupil numbers and pupil numbers have fallen to just over 50 pupils, despite the school's capacity for 210.

Demand for primary school places is reducing across Bristol because of lower birth rates. New housing doesn't make up for this fall in numbers and there are surplus places in many of the surrounding schools, with more vacant primary school places as the bulge in school places demand passes to secondary schools.

Due to the continued reduction in pupil numbers, the governing body approached the Bristol City Council to request a public consultation on a proposal for closure. The process is laid out in statutory guidance, including the publication of a formal proposal, which was done on 18th November for four weeks. Conversion to a Special School was explored but was not possible under school organisation legislation. Options such as federation and academisation were also considered but could not be advanced due to the low numbers. Ultimately the governors have concluded the school is not sustainable.

We understand that this is a very emotive issue and don't underestimate the challenges on children their families and the school staff that this will bring. The school and the council will support parents to find new school places.