

Motions received for 14 March 2023 Full Council

GOLDEN MOTION (GREEN): TACKLING KNIFE CRIME AND THE CAUSES OF KNIFE CRIME IN BRISTOL

Bristol City Council believes:

1. Together with agency partners, we are working hard to address the causes of youth violence and trying to engage with young people to help them understand the devastating consequences carrying and using knives can have. This council believes that young people are important and recognises the positive contribution that young people make to the city. Bristol is working to support young people to make more positive choices when it comes to knife crime and youth violence. The impact of knife crime disproportionately impacts the BME communities of Bristol.
2. Knife violence and the impact of violence has increased in recent years. The perception of the danger of knife crime, and fear for one's loved ones has increased. In the year to end September 2022, there was a total of 1,204 incidents involving a sharp object. In that time there were 8 murders that involved a knife, constituting 42% of homicides with the Avon & Somerset area. In addition, there were 164 threats to kill, 12 attempts to kill, 33 rapes, and 597 serious assaults with a knife. [1]
3. Injuries from knife violence increases in times of economic crisis and desperation. In January 2023, a man died in Castle Park due to knife violence, In February 2023, a woman was injured in a knife incident in Filton. One is one too many, and Bristol believes the victims of knife crime should be zero and that zero is possible.
4. The causes of knife crime are complex but rooted in poverty and fostered by school exclusion. The solutions require cross agency working and flexible approaches.

Bristol City Council notes:

1. The Safer Approach Strategy of 2021
2. The Drug and Alcohol Strategy for Bristol 2021-2025 2021
3. Bleed kits may be added to defibrillation units to provide public access in emergency situations.
4. That our city centre public realm must be felt safe for all, with increased visibility and safety measures.
5. That there are several areas of known hotspots in the city centre, where street furniture such as Bus stop advertisements create blind spots from view.
6. That there are some great initiatives across our city run by people with lived experience, who are working to help our young people to avoid being groomed into causes

of knife crime. However, some of these projects are unable to access formal routes of funding.

7. That the route of many young people into the causes of knife crime starts with school exclusions, often due to unsupported needs.

8. That the requirement to save in energy costs should not be to the detriment of personal security.

Bristol City Council resolves to:

1. Assign more funding to the Safer Approach Strategy of 2021

2. Assign more funding to the Drug and Alcohol Strategy for Bristol 2021-2025

3. Work with stake holders to increase coverage of Bleed Kits and training on the use of them into night-time economy venues across the city.

4. Request that the improvement plans for Castle Park are implemented as soon as the plans are finalised and fully consulted upon.

5. Work together with relevant stakeholders to remove the causes of blind spots.

6. Explore other routes of funding for grass roots projects tackling knife crime.

7. Produce a strategy to tackle the negative views held by many of what it means to be neurodivergent so that all our young people can access the support they require.

8. Ensure street lighting and CCTV is installed, replaced & functioning in areas such as Lawrence Hill, Queens Square, Redcliffe & other known hotspots.

9. Work together with local councillors, communities, police teams and the licensing team to identify licenced premises which fuel anti-social behaviours at the root of knife carrying and review the licence compliance.

10. Request the Mayor and relevant Cabinet member to report back to Council on progress on these actions in March 2024.

Motion submitted by: Councillor Mohamed Makawi (Green)

Date Submitted: 2 March 2023

Notes:

[1] Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (sept 2022 data set, table 5)

SILVER MOTION (CONSERVATIVE) CHANGES TO DISTRICT CAR PARKS

“This Council very much regrets the decision to introduce changes in the terms and conditions for the use of the City’s district car parks and, as stated in the Cabinet report on this issue, to sell four additional sites deemed to have ‘low occupancy’ and appropriate for disposal. These proposals were not subject to any prior public consultation.

All identified car parks provide an important role in support of local shops and small businesses. Many serve vital public amenities such as GP surgeries, pharmacies, churches, and community centres.

Council believes such a move is misconceived, based on a flawed premise and methodology, whilst ignoring the needs and social benefits of retaining some free provision in our suburbs. The exclusion of local input from local people and their elected representatives dictates that it should be revisited, reviewed and reversed.

Accordingly, the Mayor is called upon to:

- (i) Listen to and acknowledge the strength of opposition to these ideas
- (ii) Commit to conducting full consultation prior to any introduction
- (iii) Work with local Councillors and communities to explore possible compromise solutions prior to implementation
- (iv) To pause the sell-off of the four secondary car parks to evaluate their impact on local high streets and then consult on those plans as well”

To be moved by Cllr Mark Weston (Conservative)

Date of Submission: 1st March 2023

SAVING BRISTOL WASTE SERVICES

“This Council notes with concern the recently reported challenges confronting Bristol Waste Company Limited, and by extension to the Authority as its sole shareholder.

In addition to the imposition of a range of charges for some refuse and recycling services, contained within the company’s one-year business plan, is a significant reduction in other important aspects of this operator’s work.

A projected funding gap of £4m is to be closed by efficiencies and savings which will result in (i) recycling centres opening for 5 days per week; (ii) a remodelled (reduced) street cleansing regime; (iii) and cuts in its graffiti and fly-tipping removal resources.

Council believes the provision of these services are essentially basic, core functions of local government that simply cannot be allowed to deteriorate, degrade, or be diminished in our city.

Accordingly, the Mayor is called upon to urgently undertake the following actions:-

- Accepts that waste service operations are a universal and fundamental core function that must not be diluted
- Agree to greater transparency and oversight of this arms-length enterprise through the auspices of OSM
- Require an updated Business Plan is produced which covers a longer financial and delivery timespan than one-year
- Consider allocating an emergency financial support package (from reserves) for this company to delay or defer these service changes
- Explore alternative cost-saving measures to enable the company to achieve its stated £2.6m efficiencies in 2023-24
- Allow progress in this matter to be subject to regular review by Scrutiny during the year ahead”

To be moved by Cllr Geoff Gollop (Conservative)

Date of Submission: 1st March 2023

ACCELERATING REMEDIAL WORKS IN THE CITY'S TOWER-BLOCKS

“This Council recognises the need to commission a ‘Waking Watch’ warden service to reassure many residents, post Grenfell, who live in local authority high-rises.

It is also noted that the cost of up to £2m (from 21st January 2023 – 31st March 2023), and £10.4m for the following year, is a precautionary move which should only be regarded as a strictly short term or interim measure.

For residential buildings over 11 metres tall, an urgent plan needs to be drawn up to install, as a minimum, individual fire alarms in flats and sprinklers in all communal areas.

Whilst acknowledging that this is a complex issue, often involving other defective building practices, Council acknowledges that the Government has already made substantial progress in tackling this problem. For example, through its Waking Watch fund to help building owners meet the cost of providing alarm systems or in the provisions of its Building Safety Programme (BSP), which contains certain financial protections for qualifying leaseholders.

However, more work needs to be done. Accordingly, Council calls on the Mayor to undertake the following actions:-

- (i) Commit to expediting more permanent and cost-effective solutions to this important fire safety matter (as outlined above)
- (ii) Task officers to provide OSM and/or Communities Scrutiny Commission with a regular update (containing timescales and milestones) on the progress of this project
- (iii) Consider joining with PGLs in writing to the Minister of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with a request that sufficient funding is made available to identify and remedy every building found to have unsafe cladding.”

Motion to be moved by Councillor Richard Eddy (Conservative)

Date of submission: 1st March 2023

Voter ID

This Council notes:

- The Government is introducing mandatory voter ID for all elections from 2023 onwards.
- This is despite the fact that in the 2019 General Elections there were only 33 allegations of impersonation at polling stations nationwide, out of 58 million votes cast – 0.000057%.
- In contrast, 1,160,000 voters do not have valid ID, and of these voters, only 1% of these voters have since applied for Voter ID.
- Even if an elector has a valid ID, there is a significant risk they will not know about the restrictions and will not vote as a result – in trials, 740 people out of 2,000 were turned away and did not come back as a result of not having acceptable ID.
- Voter ID disproportionately affects marginalised communities as ethnic minorities are less likely to have an acceptable form of voter ID.
- It is estimated it will cost in excess of £40,000,000 each decade to maintain the voter ID scheme, with councils covering a significant portion of the cost.
- The Government's fund to help with increased costs is a one-off grant. Further funding will be needed ahead of future council elections to ensure already-stretched local government budgets

This Council believes:

- The requirement for voter ID, as set out in the Elections Bill, at elections is unneeded and antidemocratic.
- The miniscule scale of the supposed problem shows that this a blatant attempt at voter suppression, aimed particularly at reducing turnout in demographics less likely to vote for the Conservative party.
- The Government should be looking to encourage the electorate to participate in democracy, not putting up barriers that primarily affect marginalised communities.

This Council resolves:

- Oppose the principle of voter ID and ask the mayor makes Full Council's views known to the Government.
- To mitigate the impact of the implementation of voter ID, request that the Electoral Registration Officer carries out an awareness campaign that covers all equalities groups.
- Call on the government to cover the cost of this unjust, antidemocratic policy in full in perpetuity

Motion to be moved by Councillor Kye Dudd (Labour)

Date of submission: 1st March 2023

Food sustainability motion

This Council notes

- Livestock is responsible for 14% of global greenhouse gases.
- Meat consumption has dropped by 17% in the decade leading up to 2019,
- However, the Government's Food strategy for England recommended cutting meat consumption by a further 30% in a decade.
- As well as reducing meat consumption, work to promote local food growing and reducing food waste is needed to make our food system more sustainable.
- The Labour administration in Bristol is already leading the way on this, as is evident in it being awarded Gold Status for Food Sustainability.

This Council believes:

- We can build on this good work by further encouraging people to make more carbon-friendly food choices.
- Gradual steps are needed if we are to encourage people to take up more sustainable diets and blunt instruments like total bans may cause people to simply not use Council / council-procured catering.

This Council resolves to:

- Explore with Council catering services to only offer plant-based options on one day a week – in a system like 'Meat Free Mondays' Through the One City network, encourage schools, universities, and businesses to do the same.
- Encourage any events on Council-landed, or council-funded events, to offer vegan and vegetarian options.
- Reach out to local schools to encourage them to review their cooking courses to include a wider range of sustainable options and promote plant-based cooking.

Motion to be moved by Councillor Katja Hornchen (Labour)

Date of submission: 1st March 2023

Democracy Motion

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

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

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

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

MPs (and other representatives) better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation, and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken. PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

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

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

In contrast the Welsh Senedd passed the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill on 21 January this year which delivered the following:

- The right of Local Councils to scrap First Past the Post and instead elect Councillors using the Single Transferable Vote
- Votes at 16 - extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds and to all foreign citizens legally resident in Wales.
- Automatic Voter Registration - The bill also paves the way for an overhaul of Wales' outdated and ineffective system of voter registration. The bill could lead to a new system where registration officers can identify people missing from the register and let them know they'll be added.

English voters are already disadvantaged compared to voters in Northern Ireland, where STV has been used to elect Councils for decades, Scotland, where the same move was made in 2007, and now Wales is making the same changes.

This Council agrees to join the campaign by the Electoral Reform Society to demand the same rights for English voters that are already enjoyed by voters in Northern Ireland where STV has been used for years, Scotland, where STV came in for Council elections in 2007 and in Wales where Councils will, inevitably, make the move to fair voting.

This Council also commits to working with other Councils, Core Cities, and others to amend and if necessary repeal the Elections Act in order to:

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

Finally this Council acknowledges that British democracy is broken and calls on all UK political parties to embrace electoral reform for all elections so everyone can vote for the candidates or parties they truly believe in, safe in the knowledge that their vote will always count. Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for all UK elections.

Motion to be moved by Councillor Fabian Breckels (Labour)

Date of submission: 1st March 2023

Bristol's Bus Crisis

This Council notes:

- First Bus have announced a range of cuts to services over the last year, with 1,450 route cancellations announced this month.
- Some areas, such as Stapleton, have lost their bus services entirely. Others are now only served by infrequent services.
- Passengers have had to put up with frequent, last-minute bus cancellations for months – with buses regularly disappearing off the real-time update boards and the First app without appearing.
- The crisis is caused by a shortage of bus drivers in the region. Approximately 200 drivers are needed to restore lost services.
- Many of these drivers were recruited to higher paying roles driving HGVs and vans, resulting in a shortage of trained bus drivers.
- Covid-19 has also had a significant impact on the sector, as demand for bus services is approximately 75% of pre-Covid levels.

This Council believes:

- Bristolians deserve a reliable bus service that serves every neighbourhood.
- Privatisation of bus services has been a failure, with commuters facing higher fares, fewer services, and more disruption.
- As a public service, buses across the UK should be publicly owned and publicly run.
- While public ownership is a long-term solution to the crisis, it is not an immediate one. Further action needs to be taken in the short term.

This Council resolves for Party Group Leaders to:

- Write to First Bus asking for firm commitments that the routes that recently had the frequencies cut will be restored on 2 April 2023.
- Ask First to provide concrete timescales for when they expect enough new drivers will be trained and recruited to reinstate lost routes and services.
- Call on WECA to audit areas that have lost a bus service completely, or at certain times (e.g. evenings or Sundays) and provide subsidy options to restore bus connections to these communities.
- Call on WECA to extend the elderly and disabled peoples bus passes so they are valid for all journeys at all times.
- Call on the Government to intervene to fund a pay uplift for bus drivers to attract more people to the sector. This could be achieved by increasing subsidies to bus companies, provided the increased funding was spent solely on wage increases for bus drivers.
- Call on the Government to relax visa restrictions for bus drivers, similar to the agriculture workers' scheme.
- Call on the Government to end the ban on councils and Combined Authorities establishing new municipal bus companies, so services can be brought into public ownership.

Motion to be moved by Councillor Marley Bennett (Labour)

Date of submission: 1st March 2023

A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers

This council notes:

- Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. Councils across England are now facing a collective funding gap of £2.4bn for the financial year 2023/24 and a cumulative funding gap of £4.08bn for 2024/25 according to UNISON research.
- Councils led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster. Recent funding announcements from the Government relating to schools did nothing to help.
- Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.
- Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 10% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.
- At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.
- Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2023 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of RPI + 2%
- Call on Party Group Leaders to lobby the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim
- Call on Party Group Leaders to write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

Motion to be moved by Councillor Tom Renhard (Labour)

Date of submission: 1st March 2023

ENDORSEMENT OF THE PLANT BASED TREATY

Full Council notes that:

1. In November 2018 Full Council declared a Climate Emergency and Bristol committed to becoming carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030. [1]
2. The sixth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2021 in its Working Group 1 Assessment Report [2] that it is “virtually certain” that heat waves have become more frequent and more intense since the 1950s, with human-caused warming being “the main driver” and some of the heat extremes seen over the past decade would have been “extremely unlikely to occur” without the climate crisis.
3. The earth's average surface temperature is projected to hit 1.5C above pre-industrial levels around 2030, a decade earlier than the IPCC predicted just three years ago.
4. Between 2014 and 2021 there has been faster growth of atmospheric concentrations of methane. Growth since 2007 is largely driven by emissions from fossil fuels and agriculture, with 32% of methane emissions attributed to animal agriculture.
5. The UN recommends 45% cuts to methane by 2030 [3] in order to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
6. Data derived from the IPCC 2014 5th assessment [4] reveals animal agriculture emissions as 35% of energy production, a figure which excludes deforestation emissions attributed to the growing of crops for farmed animals.
7. The Amazon rainforest is now a carbon source rather than a carbon sink as a direct result of deforestation, with around 80% of the deforestation caused by animal agriculture. [5]
8. The 2019 Land Use report by Ritchie, H. and Roser, M. (2019)[6], calculated that 78% of farmland is used to farm animals yet supplies just 18% of global calories and 37% of protein.
9. A global initiative is underway calling for a Plant Based Treaty [7] that through its three Rs, Relinquish, Redirect and Restore aims to halt the accelerating expansion of animal agriculture, incentivise and promote a plant-based food system, rewild critical ecosystems in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and work to mitigate the climate crisis with fair, equitable transition plans.
10. The Plant Based Treaty has been welcomed by 20 Members of the UK Parliament through EDM 434 [8] which calls on the Government “to be a world leader in recognising the negative impact of industrial animal agriculture on climate change and commit to developing a global strategy to transition towards more sustainable plant-based food systems.”

11. Several local authorities across the UK have already made a commitment to move towards a plant-based future, including Lewisham Borough Council (fully plant-based in all corporate events), Enfield Borough Council (does not serve meat at any meetings or events), Faversham Town Council (fully plant-based at events), Hythe Town Council (fully plant-based at all council functions), Leeds City Council (two meat free days per week in schools), Oxfordshire County Council (fully plant-based in all meetings & events), and Cambridge City Council (fully plant-based at meetings & promoting PB at events).

Full Council believes that:

1. The rapid, strong, and sustained reduction in the three greenhouse gases, namely Carbon Dioxide, Methane and Nitrous Oxide and zero deforestation is a climate imperative.
2. The Paris Climate Agreement is silent on the impact of animal agriculture, one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases, and that needs to be collectively addressed by other means.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Formally endorse the call for a Plant Based Treaty and write to the UK government to call for a global Plant Based Treaty.
2. Help mitigate the climate, ocean, and biodiversity crisis by addressing our food system, including promoting the benefits of locally grown, plant-based foods. For example, encouraging council-run schools to have regular, meat-free days.
3. Lead by example and follow other local authorities in making a commitment to plant-based food at all council meetings and events, where food is served.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Andrew Varney (Liberal Democrats)

Date of submission: 02 03 23

Increase Publicly Available EV Charge Points

Full Council notes that:

1. Sales of new petrol, diesel and “mild-hybrid” cars are due to be banned from 2030.
2. Sales of new “plug-in hybrid” cars are due to be banned from 2035.
3. Bristol has a lack of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points.
4. Much of the housing stock of Bristol does not have private off-road parking provision where residents can instal their own charging facilities.
5. The EV chargepoint scheme provides grants towards the costs of installing charging points for private use for those who own flats or are in rented accommodation – but requires that the applicant(s) has/have sole use of a private parking space.
6. The Government amended Building Regulations in June 2022 so all new build residential and non-residential property and those undergoing major renovation must provide an electric vehicle charge point.
7. Figures from Friends of the Earth suggest that Bristol currently has only 125 publicly accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Points – against a target of 1,627 (derived from the national target of 300,000.)
8. The council has installed – or facilitated the installation of – 84 public charge points, and currently have planned projects to provide a) 150 charge points distributed across 15 wards/10 streets, and b) 10 “ultra-rapid” charging bays as part of the eVan hire scheme. Both these projects are due to be completed in 2023/24.
9. Council notes the funding received by other authorities to develop their EV infrastructure. For instance, in March 2020 Nottingham City with Nottinghamshire and Derby City Councils were granted over £16m funding by the Department for Transport. The Department of Transport recently announced a pilot project to fund 1,000 public charging points across 9 council areas – but that this does not include Bristol.

Full Council believes that:

1. The lack of a substantial network of public charging points imposes a barrier to people switching from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles.
2. That the provision of public charging points will speed the transition to electric vehicles, and that this will help meet climate change objectives as well as improve air quality within the city.
3. The impact of the lack of a public charging infrastructure is most acute in areas of the city which have terraced or flatted housing and/or higher proportions of rented accommodation, where installation of private charging points is not practical. This is likely to most disadvantage those who are younger or on lower incomes.
4. It is unreasonable for government to expect councils to fully fund the required infrastructure costs, but that the council should be more ambitious in their ambitions given the relevant imminency of the ban on fossil-fuelled cars.
5. Re-affirms its commitment to encourage the use active travel or public transport wherever possible irrespective of the power-source of private vehicles.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Set a target of providing 750 public charging points – in addition to those already in place or planned - by 2030, to support our efforts in tackling the climate emergency.
2. Require the Mayor to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other relevant Ministers, to seek further funding towards achieving this target, and meeting the higher target of 1,627.
3. Requests the Local Plan Working Group review the existing local EV charging points policy and consider whether it needs further revision.
4. Establish a cross-departmental working group to identify potential locations, funding streams and supply chains of public EV charging points with a focus on areas of high-density housing where private provision would be excessively difficult. This group should also engage with major landowners to develop their provisions (for instance supermarkets, large private car parks, retail centres). This group should have a focus on delivery in accordance with the Energy Savings Trust's best practice guides.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Jos Clark (Liberal Democrats)

Date of submission: 02 03 2023

Electoral Reform

Council Notes:

1. First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.
2. In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect the parliaments of more than 80 countries. These countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener.
3. PR is the national policy of the Liberal Democrats, Labour Party, Green Party, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Reform UK and Women's Equality Party along with a host of Trade Unions and pro-democracy organisations.
4. PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its use should now be extended to include Westminster.

Council believes:

1. PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of both local communities and of the nation.
2. MPs better reflecting the communities they represent in turn leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
3. PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. Fair, proportional votes also prevent 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

Council resolves:

1. to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws and to enable Proportional Representation to be used for UK general elections.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Andrew Varney (Liberal Democrats)

Date of submission: 02 03 23

A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers

This council notes:

- Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. Councils across England are now facing a collective funding gap of £2.4bn for the financial year 2023/24 and a cumulative funding gap of £4.08bn for 2024/25 according to UNISON research.
- Councils led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster. Recent funding announcements from the Government relating to schools did nothing to help.
- Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.
- Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 10% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.
- At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.
- Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2023 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of RPI + 2%
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

Motion proposed by Councillor Tony Dyer (Green)

Motion submitted: 2/3/23

Mobilise community investments to tackle climate change

Full Council notes:

1. That this council unanimously declared a climate emergency in November 2018 following a Green Motion to Council
2. The motion committed the city to achieve net zero carbon impact by 2030 and there are now 8 years left to this target date
3. A new low risk model called Community Municipal Investments [CMI] was developed by Leeds University and Abundance Investments platform with UK Government and EU support. This had the support of 4 local authorities including Bristol City Council. [1]
4. This concept is now proven to mobilise local and other investment and channels local savings into local projects with low risk and a modest returns. [2]
5. The same process can be repeated again annually for further funds to be raised to support new projects.
6. The council has been progressing a package of low carbon opportunities called City Leap since May 2018. City Leap is nearing the end of a procurement process after restarting the process in 2020 and the joint venture has been suggested as a vehicle to deliver community funded investments alongside the projects it funds.
7. Municipal Bonds can also be used to raise capital for local projects and the LGA offers a platform for this form of investment to be supported.

Full Council believes:

1. That offering local savers a way to support the city's journey to carbon neutrality mobilises community engagement in the process of change, attracts significant sums for named projects, and should be developed. 72% of people want to lend savings to help councils develop Climate Emergency Plans [3]
2. That offering security and a modest rate of interest through municipal bonds is an established way to develop local infrastructure [4]. This could complement other projects such as the successful Bristol Energy Cooperative.
3. That CMIs can help us fund and develop a series of practical projects for a low carbon transition in partnership with others which will be popular with local savers.
4. The Mayor should recognise that CMIs and Green Municipal Bonds as part of the package of investments that will create positive economic opportunities and carbon neutrality while building community wealth.
5. Bristol should join the other councils using CMIs to develop local opportunities for local investors [5]
6. We need to create a lending facility for private individual who want to upgrade their homes and save energy on as low an interest rate as possible.

Full Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to work with the City Leap joint venture to begin development of Community Municipal Investments for the city.
2. That the Mayor promote CMI as a way residents and institutions can be engaged and actively involved in contributing to a zero carbon city.

3. To work up a Green Bond scheme for the city to fund carbon saving infrastructure projects.
4. To request officers to identify carbon saving projects suited to CMI and Green Bond investments in conjunction with partners including the City Leap joint venture.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Martin Fodor (Green)

Date of submission: 2/3/2023

References:

1. The report supported by Bristol:
<https://baumaninstitute.leeds.ac.uk/research/financing-for-society/>
2. Initial proposed interest rate is 1.2%. See: Your questions answered on Green Community Bonds | Abundance Blog
<https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-your-questions-answered-25218ed4d2cb>
3. Survey by One Poll, 2020, cited by the Local Government Association.
4. https://medium.abundanceinvestment.com/community-municipal-investments-the-new-option-for-your-low-risk-money-a9cc5d72e03a?source=post_internal_links-----1-----

5. These are: Leeds Council, Warrington, and West Berkshire. Eg Invest now:
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wbcmi>; <https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/invest-now/warrington-2025>

Support for a £15 minimum wage

Council notes:

1. Bristol City Council is proudly a Living Wage Employer. However, as of 19 October 2022, UK inflation has risen 10.1% in 12 months. As a result, the Living Wage no longer meets the true cost of living.
2. 14.5 million people in the UK are in poverty. 10% of full-time working-age adults are in poverty, rising to a third of working-age adults in families where there is only part-time work. These are the highest rates since records began. 90,000 people a year die in poverty in the UK.
3. Higher minimum wages and empowered trade unions are essential to securing a high standard of living for all.

Council resolves:

1. To support the introduction of a minimum wage of at least £15 an hour, for all workers no matter their age, to help tackle the cost of living crisis;
2. To support all trade union campaigns for £15 an hour, and stand in solidarity with them in fighting for higher wages and working conditions;
3. To raise the minimum wage of council employed staff to £15 per hour by the 2024 financial year;
4. To lobby central government for the funding required to meet this rise;
5. To look into supporting this rise through a reduction in the salaries of the highest earning staff;
6. To strongly encourage all suppliers to Bristol City Council to pay their staff a minimum of £15 per hour by the 2024 financial year;
7. To use the power and influence of Bristol City Council to encourage all employers, especially the major employers within the city, to pay their staff a minimum of £15 per hour by the 2024 financial year.

Motion proposed by Councillor Barry Parsons (Green)

Motion submitted 2/3/2023

Council Motion on Stopping Data Discrimination

Council notes:

- That UK GDPR, and the Data Protection Act 2018 protects individuals from harmful or discriminatory uses of their data. It does so by imposing a duty on organizations to use people's data in a legal, transparent, and fair way.
- That without GDPR students couldn't stop unfair algorithms from grading their A-levels and workers couldn't challenge rob-dismissals. Victims of sexual violence would be subject to digital strip searches by Police and job applicants would face racist automated recruitment tools.
- That the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has proposed a new Data Protection and Digital Information Bill that seeks to water down the strong protections that UK GDPR provides.
- That a coalition of civil society groups lead by the Open Rights Group have expressed concern for the erosion of UK data rights.

Council believes:

- Government plans to water down UK GDPR privacy laws will unleash data discrimination against workers, children, students and vulnerable groups like migrants, victims of violence and minorities.
- That upholding the data rights of residents within Bristol is an important legal and moral duty of the authority.

Council therefore calls for:

- The Chief Executive and Mayor to write on behalf of the Council to Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport expressing concerns at plans to water down the data rights of UK citizens.
- The authority to give its support to the Open Rights Group's campaign to 'Stop Data Discrimination'.
- The Chief Executive to work to ensure the authority strives to abide by the highest standards of data protection, cybersecurity, and to protect the data rights of all local residents.

Motion submitted by Councillor Jenny Bartle (Green)

Date submitted: 2/3/2023

Energy Crisis and Cost of Living

Full Council notes that:

1. We must take action to address the energy crisis and its impact on fuel poverty especially when the energy price cap keeps on rising.
2. We must be ready to protect our citizens from this crisis which can plunge people into poverty at no fault of their own.
3. We must protect the most vulnerable in our community who may be left out.
4. We must support the volunteers and action groups who will offer their help, with a well organised and well-informed action plan.
5. That this is a huge problem that needs to be addressed and that having a actionable plan sooner may not be conceivable. However, this problem is not going away.
6. There is a strong link between lifting people out of poverty and making real terms cost savings, especially in education, welfare, and criminal justice.
7. If you convince people who can afford implementing energy saving actions that are cost neutral, a model to facilitate change is created that can then be funded for lower income homes in the future.

Full Council believes that:

1. Support for households so far is very welcome - but it simply does not go far enough.
2. People are struggling to pay their bills and intervention is needed.
3. The support so far has not extended to businesses, schools, and other public institutions such as hospitals and care homes, who will not be able to afford electricity therefore either going under or seeing periods of closures.
4. Bristol is fortunate in having the Bristol Energy Network (BEN) which has the skills and expertise to resurrect their approaches around education and support outlined in the resolution.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Work with WECA and the Skills and Carbon Reduction Initiative (under the green recovery fund) to seek funding for a direct-action campaign with the "No Cold Homes" Bristol partnership including Bristol Energy network.
2. Work with BEN and the No Cold Homes partnership (subject to any procurement rules) to support them in delivering their programme of education and 'DIY' approach to low cost, impactful measures open to homeowners and tenants. (e.g. draft-proofing, perplex secondary glazing etc).

3. Provide a dedicated tab and a web page on the Cost-of-Living Hub, with regularly updated details of all support available, including details of the Warm / Welcome Spaces Programme
4. Work with Bristol's energy suppliers to widely advertise the discounts and grants available to fixed or low-income Bristolians.

Notes:

Reference - Warm Home Discount Scheme: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
About Us - Enough is Enough (wesayenough.co.uk)

The warm home discount scheme: if you live in England and Wales, you qualify if you either:

- get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit - known as 'core group 1'
- are on a low income and have high energy costs - known as 'core group 2'

How you apply for the Warm Home Discount Scheme depends on how you qualify for the discount.

Motion proposed by: Councillor Lisa Stone (Green)

Date submitted: 2 March 2023

Sustainable food choices

A motion for a debate at Bristol City Council on Sustainable food choices and the council's adopted 2030 net zero target

This council notes:

1. The global food system is responsible for up to 30% of greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC, 2019)
2. 1/3 of food produced for human consumption is wasted – UK farmers are forced to waste 10-16% of their crop annually, often due to it being the wrong size or shape (FeedbackGlobal, n.d.)
3. Soil is being lost up to 100 times faster than it is forming; with sugar production in the UK eroding our best soils. This is a critical issue for agriculture, with scientists warning there may be only 100 harvests left. (FarmersWeekly, n.d.)
4. A recent study found that it will be impossible for the EU to cut its methane emissions in line with what the science says is needed (45% reduction by 2030) without cutting emissions in the meat and dairy sector. (ChangingMarkets, n.d.). Producing a kilo of beef creates, on average, 12 times more CO₂e than a kilo of tofu or other soya based proteins; (EthicalConsumer1, n.d.) Producing a litre of dairy milk uses, on average, at least four times as much land as producing a litre of plant milk. (EthicalConsumer2, n.d.)
5. In June 2021, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommended that the consumption of beef, lamb and dairy should be reduced by at least 20% by 2030.
6. Savings to the NHS will come from healthier, plant-based diets. Sustain estimates that meat over-consumption costs the NHS directly £1.2 billion, and 45,000 deaths annually. (FoodForThePlanet, n.d.)
7. Henry Dimbleby, in the National Food Strategy concluded that a 30% reduction in meat consumption is necessary for future food security. The National Food Strategy also states that obesity alone accounts for 8% of annual health spend in the UK, or £18bn. (NationalFoodStrategy, 2021)
8. Currently we only produce around 55% of the food we consume domestically and in the light of supply chain issues from Brexit there's an even stronger case that the UK should aim to produce more of its food locally. (Statista, 2022)
9. Meat and dairy require huge amounts of land; roughly 70% of UK's farming land is agricultural and 85% of that is currently used to produce meat and dairy. A shift in diet from meat and dairy consumption will allow us to produce more of the fruit and vegetables we eat, and therefore a greater overall proportion of our food.
10. As well as meat and dairy there are other high impact foods – such as products grown in heated greenhouses, air freighted and monocultures that deplete soils, such as sugar in the UK. (Nemecek, 2018) (BBC, n.d.)
11. Feeding Bristol is responding to food poverty in Bristol by working to improve provision for those with Immediate need, increase the local community's Food Skills, increase the Food Supply of good quality produce, and to work for Policy change that will help us see a zero-hunger Bristol.
12. In 2021 Bristol was the second city to receive a Gold Sustainable Food City award. (GoingforGold, 2021)

13. Bristol Waste has set an example in improving the collection of domestic food waste with the 'Slim my waste' campaign (BristolWaste, n.d.)
14. Bristol has a comprehensive surplus food redistribution network to ensure edible surplus is not wasted, including FareShare, Olio and FoodCycle.
15. ProVeg UK's School Plates programme helps school caterers to make small changes to menus that can have a big impact on children's health, help save schools money, and even improve the health of the planet. (ProVeg, n.d.)

This council believes:

1. We should act in line with the One City Climate Strategy which identifies consumption in the city as the leading source of global heating emissions to be tackled; the strategy calls for the council to set a national example with our sustainable food supply chain.
2. Without meat and dairy consumption, global farmland use could be reduced by more than 75% – an area equivalent to the US, China, European Union and Australia combined – and still feed the world. Loss of wild areas to agriculture is the leading cause of the current mass extinction of wildlife. (NationalFoodStrategy, 2021)
3. What we do with land is important from a climate perspective because of its 'opportunity cost'. If land wasn't being used for livestock farming it could be used for something that is beneficial for the climate, like reforestation, which removes carbon from the air. Reallocated agricultural land could produce a greater quantities of fruit, vegetables and pulses, therefore increase our self-sufficiency and food security.
4. More can still be done to reduce food waste within the catering, hospitality sector and events in Bristol.
5. Bristol City Council can influence food consumption directly through our procurement policies, and also indirectly through working with partners and informing and influencing others.
6. Bristol City Council can show leadership and own its responsibility for the impact our food consumption has on global deforestation, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Full Council therefore calls on the Mayor to agree that the council will explore options to:

1. Encourage city partners to adopt initiatives to reduce food waste, such as the Sustainable Restaurant Association 'waste no food' initiative.
2. Ensure that food provided at all council catered events and meetings are entirely plant-based and avoids other high impact foods.
3. Ensure that Council school meals services sign up to Pro Veg School Plates campaign, which helps to increase uptake of existing vegetarian meals and increase the quantity and quality of plant-based food and use whatever powers we have to influence non local authority schools.
4. Work on outreach to schools and young people to actively influence and inform of food choices and their impact on the environment, health and animal welfare.
5. Encourage and empower students to make informed decisions about the food available in their school.
6. Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of school and community projects.

7. Recognise the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
8. Use City Council Civic events to promote and showcase plant-based food options, alongside displayed information about the climate benefits and relative cost of different protein/food sources.
9. Ensure that when events occur on City Council open spaces, and where catering is provided, that plant-based options are available (ie minimum from at least one caterer), secured through the use of terms and conditions of hire (where reasonably possible).
10. Secure through a contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers that plant-based food and drink options are to be available at kiosks on City Council open spaces and Council run cafes (where reasonably possible) and avoid other high impact foods. Similarly when possible via future contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers for Council run cafes, specify that vegetable/legume rich plant-based options are listed prominently on menus, above non plant-based options in line with Flexitarian principles.
11. Endorse the Treaty locally and on behalf of the city write to the government to supporting UK signing the Plant Based Treaty, inviting all Party Group Leaders to sign the letter.
12. Report back to Full Council regarding progress on the actions above.

Motion submitted by: Cllr Martin Fodor (Green)

Submitted: 2 March 2023

Footnotes

1. http://changingmarkets.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CE_Delft_210502_Methane_reduction_potential_in_the_EU_Def.pdf
2. www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/climate-impact-meat-vegetarian-vegan-diets
3. www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/plant-vs-dairy-comparing-their-climate-impacts
4. <https://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/faqs>
5. ProVeg UK's School Plates programme helps school caterers to make small changes to menus that can have a big impact on children's health, help save schools money, and even improve the health of the planet. <https://proveg.com/uk/school-plates-the-programme/>
6. National Food Strategy (published July 2021) - <https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/National-Food-Strategy-Recommendations-in-Full.pdf>
7. <https://josephpoore.com/Science%20360%206392%20987%20-%20Accepted%20Manuscript.pdf>
8. [https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://proveg.com/uk/school-plates-the-programme/__;!!KUxdu5-bBfnh!6yrH4MtYrOuWqGxr_NSbcaNtIElh4h2QztWu1CP2K3J0YLi6HzdMK1R5Ts83gBnNt8cH3zKcMUmMrBCuvZ4SULomPnmpmSW_gqW7LA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://proveg.com/uk/school-plates-the-programme/__;!!KUxdu5-bBfnh!6yrH4MtYrOuWqGxr_NSbcaNtIElh4h2QztWu1CP2K3J0YLi6HzdMK1R5Ts83gBnNt8cH3zKcMUmMrBCuvZ4SULomPnmpmSW_gqW7LA$)
9. Poore and Nemecek – 2018 – science magazine – impacts of greenhouse gases per kilo of food servings.
10. Food System Facts - Feedback (feedbackglobal.org)
11. Only 100 harvests left in UK farm soils, scientists warn - Farmers Weekly (fwi.co.uk)

A Universal Basic Income Trial for Bristol

This council notes:

1. The drastic impacts of the Covid Pandemic on employment and household incomes in the city;
2. The threat to income and employment from automation and artificial intelligence, which could affect a great many more jobs in future;
3. The development of universal basic income (UBI) trials in other countries, which offer a non-means-tested sum paid by the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status, which has been widely debated in recent months;
4. That a trial of UBI was promised by the Labour party had the party won the last general election;
5. The resolutions of other local authorities including Sheffield, Birmingham, Lewes, and Brighton and Hove [with cross party support] calling for trials of UBI;
6. A network of Universal Basic Income Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus. One is operating in Bristol.
7. Birmingham City Council has issued a briefing on UBI. (1)
8. UBI has been Green Party Policy since about 1973 and more recently taken up by other parties. (2)

This council believes:

1. That the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities;
2. A UBI is the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on people's incomes as it does not discriminate between employment status, caring responsibilities, age, or disability when providing basic support;
3. There is a danger of increasing numbers of people facing poverty as a result of the coronavirus crisis;
4. Testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to help address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, loss of community, and breach of planetary boundaries through:
 - i. Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their jobs;
 - ii. Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
 - iii. Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
 - iv. Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;
 - v. Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce strain on the environment in line with the One City Climate Strategy;
 - vi. Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy.
5. The success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them; and,

6. Given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Bristol is ideally placed to pilot a UBI.

This council calls on the Mayor to:

1. Send a joint letter with the other party leaders to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, and all local MPs, asking for a trial of Universal Basic Income in the city citing the above reasons.

Motion proposer: Ani Stafford-Townsend Central Ward Green Party Councillor

Motion submitted: 2 March 2023

Sources

- 1) Birmingham City Council's official UBI briefing - see https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=nb28HJzZZy8R6UE9qsv3LHJckreeBwn50Tbzg0riXhiHQcf3zr1WGQ%3D%3D&rUzwRPF%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNIh225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnl%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJff55vVA%3D&FgPIIEJYlotS%2BYGoBi5oIA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3D&fbclid=IwAR3v5XWzNYc_KENecR4_O6k4xSFL847QcMyKppBD6IUO5x2gLp5E3Gdl3_M
- 2) <https://www.bristol247.com/opinion/your-say/otherpartieswillridiculegreenpolicies/>

Establishing a museum and memorial to the victims of enslavement

Full Council notes:

- Bristol was the pre-eminent slave trading port in the world between the 1720s and 1740s. The city enriched itself through the kidnapping, enslavement, torture and murder of thousands of people of African descent.
- Bristol was also home to one of the strongest pro-slavery lobbies in the country, extending well beyond the abolition of 1830. Its continued celebration of slavers such as Edward Colston has shaped the city's institutions, built environment and public monuments.
- In recent years, peer cities including Liverpool and Bordeaux have recognised their role in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people through monuments, memorials and museums - notably the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool.
- Bristol, by contrast, has no permanent museum space dedicated to informing and educating the public about its legacy of enslavement. The need for such a facility has been exacerbated by the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston by Black Lives Matter protesters in 2020 which opened up the dialogue and understanding, putting Bristol on an international stage.
- The Seamen's Mission on Royal Oak Avenue near Queen Square in the centre of Bristol's historic trading district has recently been offered for sale after lying derelict for decades. Prior to the announcement of the sale campaigners 'Abolition Shed Collective' had identified the potential for the site to accommodate the Interpretation Centre / Museum for a Memorial to the Victims of Enslavement to also be nearby to another identified site for a memorial (the vacant land between Arnolfini and the architecture centre).
- The vision is to tell the story of anti-slavery campaigners that, combined with African agency and resistance of the enslaved themselves, brought to an end this heinous crime against humanity. In addition to centring on African agency and resistance (as well as unsung British abolitionists) in the fight to end slavery, Abolition Shed would be a major centre for education that would also promote African art, architecture and culture.
- Commissioned by the City Council via the legacy steering group, the Project TRUTH consultation was conducted in 2021 with Afrikan Heritage communities and recommended that there be "a facility available to all Bristolians and its visitors to facilitate a place for learning, respectful remembrance and provide opportunities for non Afrikans to engage in work as allies in the quest for reparatory justice in fulfilment of the four resolutions of the atonement and reparations motion passed by Full Council in Bristol on March 2nd, 2021.
- Such a scheme will surely enable better education and understanding and heal divisions in the city that repeatedly arise every time the topic is raised.

Full Council believes:

- As an international city the proposal of such a museum will also satisfy an information and tourism void that currently exists.
- The sale of the Seaman's Mission offers the opportunity to establish a permanent museum and memorial to the victims of enslavement in the heart of Bristol.
- Such a museum would provide a prominent, centrally located space to honour the victims of enslavement, centring African agency and resistance.
- The potential costs would be met in collaboration with other partners and would be a fraction of the capital spend allocated to Bristol Beacon (over £130 million to date).

Full Council resolves:

- To support the establishment of an interpretation centre/museum of enslavement and abolition at the Seaman's Mission.
- To support the purchase of the Seaman's Mission.
- To support the sale and purchase of the land owned by the same brewery located between the architecture centre and the Arnolfini, for a memorial garden and permanent memorial.
- To identify funding and resources in collaboration with 'Abolition Shed Collective', African heritage community stakeholders and other institutions who benefited and are connected to this history, to enable the purchase and renovating of the building.

Motion proposed by: Councillor Lorraine Francis (Green)

Date submitted: 2 March 2023

VALUING THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

This council is facing a considerable financial shortfall and there is general concern that even more valued community services will be closed. In some cases, a much better solution is to encourage the community to take over the service with an asset transfer or to let the community become involved in managing the venture or facility.

Too often the option of community management is considered late in the day after the salami slicing council department has made the task twice as hard.

Cllrs from all parties will no doubt have examples from their own wards of ventures that are working or others that could be given a chance. I have added in notes a list of the ventures within Knowle ward as an example.

Asset transfers give the new owners access to grants that the council could not and are able to tap into enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer. Customers become more flexible and forgiving of small errors.

This Council has the services of a very good specialist officer to deal with asset transfers but there is concern that the back-up is not always as positive as it should be and a short consideration of asset transfers by Communities Scrutiny has led to the need for a second report. This could be done by extending time available to Communities Scrutiny or even better by a scrutiny enquiry day.

In the meantime, some positive factors that should provide encouragement:

1. We should look at the community value and not just a narrow and potentially misleading financial calculation as it affects the council in the short term.
2. we should look at how partners (e.g. police and NHS) can be involved.
3. we should be encouraged if the income is commercial from the public and not purely grants.
4. we must have the option of a responsive licensing facility prior to actual CAT.
5. we should be encouraged if a recognised problem is being tackled that has not been effectively up until now.
6. help in kind in early stages should be considered by the council.

This Council therefore calls for the Administration to show a more positive attitude towards asset transfers and community management and taking into account points 1-6, calls for action to follow a scrutiny enquiry and that a regular review be set up to consider progress and potential new opportunities.

NOTES

Examples from Knowle Ward:

1. Arnos Vale Cemetery - compulsorily purchased for £1 from "developer" and handed to trust formed by campaigners. Huge grants attracted and successful commercial and community activity. Voted one of the best cemeteries in the country.
2. The Park Daventry Road - old Merrywood school on closure 20+ years ago given to trust that brought together charities investing in training, education and community

benefit. Turbo charged by asset transfer and recently completed a new £10M + new community building and a key partner in new secondary school opening shortly on part of the site. A good example of council cooperation.

3. Redcatch community centre - some 20+ years ago a group of local people took over a dilapidated unwanted council building and with grants and local effort turned it into a massively popular, high quality community centre with low hourly charges. All volunteer, no wages taken by anybody involved. Asset transfer followed and used as an example by officers of a successful CAT in report to scrutiny.
4. Jubilee pool - council failed to run this much-loved community facility efficiently. Despite unfriendly conditions imposed by Mayor and severe challenges of energy costs memberships has doubled and there is a trading profit. Cat completed 30/9/22.
5. Redcatch Community Garden - took over redundant bowling green 5 years ago. Have attracted grants, despite failure of council to extend license efficiently and attract 200,000 visits a year for training, social activity and environmental and horticultural education. Asset transfer finally after much delay getting started.
6. Redcatch Park Pavillion- parks department a few years back aborted investment plans for urgent repairs and said they wanted to asset transfer instead. Partnership formed between community garden and The Park football club who needed extra facilities because of Daventry Rd developments. Parks department have failed to progress CAT or even licence and sports changing facilities unusable. In the biggest irony, the football club had previously done exactly the sort of renovation needed and the lowest bidder for the aborted scheme is a local sponsor of the club and stands ready to do the work for them for free. One of the most successful sporting organisations in Bristol with an emphasis on disabled and female teams frozen out.
7. There are many other community organisations, including our parks group, that have transformed Redcatch Park, that do excellent work and what binds the vast majority of them together is a desire to benefit the local community, roll up their sleeves and contribute positively. Being held back by the council is very frustrating.

Proposed by Councillor Gary Hopkins (Knowle Community Party)

Received 2 March 2023