

Motions received for 11 July 2023 Full Council

GOLDEN MOTION (GREEN PARTY): Adopt a Vision Zero Approach to Eliminate Road Deaths in Bristol

This Council notes:

1. Statistics from the Department for Transport state that between 2017 and 2021 – the last period with complete data, 36 people were killed and 636 seriously injured by vehicle collisions within the city boundary. On average, 134 people were injured every year.
2. The One City Plan aims to achieve zero people killed or seriously injured (KSI) due to incidents on Bristol's roads by 2040 – Goal 360 - and as part of this, the council has a performance target (BPPM120) to reduce the number of road casualties on our transport network – the current KSI target is ninety-five people per year.
3. Vision Zero is a proven strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. Key principles include:
 - o Safe speeds - encouraging speeds appropriate to the street;
 - o Safe streets - designing an environment forgiving of mistakes;
 - o Safe vehicles - reducing risks posed by the most dangerous vehicles;
 - o Safe behaviours - improving the behaviours of people using our roads;
 - o Post-collision response - learning from collisions and improving justice and care for victims.
4. The council has adopted both the children's charter and being an age-friendly city, these are two of the most vulnerable groups in our society to road traffic collisions.
5. Councils and organisations that have adopted Vision Zero include: Kent, Devon, Cornwall, Brighton and Hove, Blackpool, Leeds, Hackney, Transport for London, National Fire Chiefs Council, The AA, and RAC.
6. The Vision Zero approach is endorsed by international organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and is led by an ethical stance that it is not acceptable that people should be killed or seriously injured as a price for mobility. These are avoidable events – not accidents.
7. Actions that can be taken to achieve vision zero often include:
 - o Road Design, including separation of cycle users and pedestrians from vehicles;
 - o Enforcement of Speed Limits and the Highway Code;
 - o School Streets;
 - o Low Traffic Neighbourhoods;
 - o Education;
 - o A cohesive network of walking and cycling routes.

This Council believes:

1. The vast majority of road deaths are avoidable, and the only acceptable long-term casualty target for road deaths and serious injuries in Bristol is Zero.
2. It is vitally important to provide consistent, accessible active travel infrastructure for people to use across the city. Yet, fear of injury suppresses the demand for walking and cycling. This adversely affects children, older people and people with disabling conditions and prevents them from moving around our city.

3. Although there is currently a One City target of zero deaths/serious injuries by 2040, The council and its partners do not have a published plan to meet this target.
4. The council produced a Safe Systems Plan in 2015 to reduce road casualties and was well placed nationally, given advanced work on city-wide 20mph speed limits, but it has since fallen behind.
5. By separating people walking, cycling, and using vehicles, casualties will be reduced. Work is ongoing to connect routes such as in Old Market and Victoria Street, but currently, much of Bristol's active travel infrastructure is disconnected and does not meet the accessibility requirements of a modern diverse society in our city.
6. High-quality, consistent road design can reduce road deaths. Local Transport Note 1/20 is the current best practice design guideline for all transport schemes and is endorsed by Active Travel England.
7. While there are a number of actions that will require joined-up work with partner organisations, there are some steps to reduce road casualties that the Council could take or investigate now including:
 - o Speed Limiters in all council vehicles to act as pace vehicles for the whole city;
 - o Roll out of 'vision zero' training to all council employees who drive as part of their role;
 - o Investigate actions with One City partners, such as the Police, to enforce 20mph and safer driving practices as part of their operations;
 - o Identify the ten most dangerous junctions in the city and implement coordinated and evidence-based changes to make them safer;
 - o Banning Digital Billboards as these distract drivers;
 - o Re-deployable average speed cameras at hotspots;
 - o A public awareness campaign on #VisionZeroBristol with targeted education programmes that change road user attitudes and behaviour;
 - o Reduce risk through intelligence-led enforcement;
 - o Run an "Exchanging Places" programme to make HGV drivers, bus drivers and cyclists more aware of one another;
 - o Investigate the use of safer HGVs based on the Transport for London (TfL) policy;
 - o Accelerate the rollout of School Streets and provide a road safety forum for schools.

This Council resolves to:

1. Set a Vision Zero target for road deaths and serious injuries by 2030.
2. Include consideration of this target in all relevant council decisions and strategies e.g. road design and procurement, by implementing LTN1/20 when building any new walking, cycling and road projects or providing diversions around highway maintenance work.
3. Develop supplementary planning documents and/or other guidance to support the delivery of Vision Zero via Bristol's Local Plan process and the Joint Local Transport Plan.
4. Work with One City partners and other organisations including Arcadis – our strategic delivery partner, West of England Combined Authority, Major Employers, Avon & Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue, South West Ambulance Trust, Bristol Health Partners, Bristol Blue Licensed Taxi Association, FirstBus, Stagecoach, Transpora, Voi, Developers and residents to achieve Vision Zero.
5. Work with the West of England Combined Authority and the surrounding Unitary Authorities to promote a joined-up approach to Vision Zero across the region.

6. OSMB to hold an inquiry day with relevant stakeholders, including One City partners and citizen groups.
7. Request the administration to report back to Full Council on progress towards these steps in 6 months.

Motion Proposed by: Councillor David Wilcox (Green Party)

Motion Submitted: 29 June 2023

SILVER MOTION (KNOWLE COMMUNITY PARTY): 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 24 May 2023

AUDIT BRISTOL WASTE COMPANY

“Council has become increasingly perplexed by the continuing problems which appear to beset the Authority’s wholly owned municipal waste and recycling business. Aside from a far from satisfactory one-year business plan, which posited a range of service reductions and additional charges for customers, it has become clear that there are some serious challenges confronting this enterprise.

Recently, Council was made aware of the sudden departure of prominent directors of the company, as well as growing discontent amongst its wider workforce.

Council understands that morale is particularly low in relation to those cleaning and security staff who were transferred to this entity under the Mayor’s outsourcing/co-sourcing arrangements agreed in March 2021. Despite assurances of TUPE protections, the unions report that there has been a steady erosion in the employment terms and conditions of these formerly highly valued in-house employees.

Given the absence of an adequate explanation for all of these decisions and events, Council calls on the Mayor to agree to instigating an urgent formal investigation/inquiry into the governance of Bristol Waste Company. This should be undertaken by our external auditors and – at a minimum – involve adding or including this business as part of the annual value-for-money report process. All their findings, and any recommendations for improvement, to be then shared with Audit Committee prior to publication.”

To be moved by Cllr Geoff Gollop (Conservative Party)
Received 27 May 2023

PRIORITISING POTHOLE ROAD REPAIRS

“This Council recognises that after seemingly decades of neglect, some of the city’s vital infrastructure is at last being comprehensively refurbished. For example, the recently approved ‘New Cut River’ bridges repair programme is both welcome and has highlighted the scale of the problems created by a lack of adequate and early intervention work.

Similarly, the deteriorating and worsening condition of our highways from neglected potholes starkly demonstrates that far more resources need to be invested in restoring, renovating, and resurfacing the road network.

Council acknowledges the positive news of additional Government funding – nearly £1m from the Pothole Action Fund – which will help to address some of this backlog. This investment recognises that the ‘curse of potholes’ is not just an inconvenience to road users, but also something presenting a real danger to life, limb, and property. But, clearly, extra spending in addition to such important grant funding is still required if the Authority is to meet all of its legal and moral obligations to the travelling public.

Accordingly, Council calls on the Mayor to review his Administration’s current corporate priorities and the capital programme to identify where greater investment can be found for the better upkeep of carriageways all across Bristol.”

To be moved by Cllr Steve Smith (Conservative Party)

Received 27 June 2023

SAVING BRISLINGTON MEADOWS

“This Council is alarmed by the unfortunate turn of events which has seen the Planning Inspectorate rule in favour of outline plans to build 260 homes on much treasured meadowland. A decision which represents a serious blow to the previously expressed wishes of all Parties in this chamber on the need to protect and preserve the city’s most valued green spaces against development.

The contradictory messaging from the Mayor over the status of the Brislington site – firstly to endorse its use for house building – only then to execute a seemingly politically expedient U-turn after the land had been sold, is deeply regrettable and has caused great reputational damage to the Authority.

In order to try to reverse or repair this misfortune, Council calls upon the Mayor to carry out the following actions:-

- (i) Confirm the steps that have already been taken with the appellants (Homes England) to resolve this planning dispute
- (ii) Clarify what (if any) formal representations he has made to the Secretary of State for Communities and the Government’s land agency to save this wildlife haven?
- (iii) In the event of no direct contact under (ii), undertake to submit a joint letter to the Minister making the case for his intervention and mediation in this matter
- (iv) Commit to explore every potential alternative to development by considering the feasibility of re-acquiring this land through purchase or by offering some substitute Council-owned sites similarly earmarked for disposal.
- (v) Engage with Opposition councillors through scrutiny in charting a route out of this crisis and embarrassing planning/ecological debacle. ”

To be moved by Cllr Jonathan Hucker (Conservative Party)

Received 27 June 2023

Ban Conversion Therapy

This Council opposes the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past through the denial of rights and equal treatment, and further recognises that discrimination still occurs today.

This Council recognises and opposes the ongoing harm that the practice of so-called conversion therapy does to LGBT+ people.

This Council notes that the Government has brought forward proposals for a partial ban on conversion therapies but that these will not apply to trans conversion therapies, or where the recipient is over 18 and grants “consent”.

This Council calls on the Government to follow through on previous promises to effect a comprehensive ban which both protects trans people and recognises the complex factors which compromise the concept of informed consent in relation to conversion therapies.

Furthermore this Council will highlight and promote the continued support, counselling, and advocacy that local groups provide for members of the LGBT+ Community in Bristol.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Brown (Liberal Democrats)
Submitted 29th June 2023

Boys Need Bins

Council notes Prostate Cancer UK's campaign of "boys need bins" which highlights the growing numbers of those who suffer with incontinence issues as a result of prostate treatment.

Prostate Cancer UK cites that 1 in 8 people with prostates will get prostate cancer and that 1 in 3 men over 65 are estimated to have a urinary incontinence problem. Council believes that it is important to make life more comfortable and dignified for those who suffer such problems.

Council supports the provision of sanitary bins in all toilets so that waste products can be disposed of in a discreet and hygienic manner.

Council requests that a programme to provide sanitary bins, in all Council owned or managed toilets regardless of gender by the end of 2023. Council calls upon Cabinet to make the funding available to achieve this.

Council further requests that the Mayor writes to the MPs covering our Authority area to ask them to publicly back the campaign, as found on the Prostate Cancer UK website.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Classick (Liberal Democrats)
Submitted 29th June 2023

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 Clark (Liberal Democrats)

Date of submission: 29 June 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 Varney (Liberal Democrats)

Date of submission: 29 June 2023

Women's Safety

Council Notes

1. Council notes with concern the detrimental impact that violence against women and girls by men has on individual women, their dependents, their communities and society as a whole. Council also notes that women living in poverty are particularly vulnerable to experiencing violence and face disproportionate challenges in accessing the necessary support to make them safe. Lack of access to secure housing, precarious employment, difficulty accessing social security and poverty work to keep women in abusive situations.
2. The Public Order Bill will potentially silence the right to protest in a meaningful or impactful way and make it difficult for women to be heard on this issue.
3. Council further notes there are already many excellent initiatives and campaigns by local and national organisations aimed at safeguarding the welfare of individuals, such as the work of Bristol Nights to tackle the issue of harassment facing women in the night time economy

Council Believes

1. Council believes everyone should have the right to be safe from violence and harassment on our streets and in our communities.
2. Council also acknowledges that it is not just women who are at risk but that any individual may be vulnerable to attack for various reasons.

Council Resolves

1. To have a zero-tolerance approach to misogyny
2. To work with schools, colleges, the University, and workplaces to ensure that consent and bystander intervention training are available as standard, which are known to be effective, and commits to offering such training to employees to set an example.
3. Council further calls for work with venues across Bristol to ensure they embody these values and staff are sufficiently trained to deal with vulnerable people, sexual violence and harassment, and security and measures such as CCTV are adequate and effective.
4. Council also accepts there are steps the Authority can take to help and calls for a review of street lighting to see where gaps and dark spots may exist across Bristol and for the improvements recommended in the review to be built into the Council's capital programme. Good street lighting will not just help people feel safer, but also make a valuable contribution towards improving their safety.
5. Council resolves to work with partners to ensure that non-contact sexual offences, such as voyeurism and indecent exposure, are treated as the serious crimes they are, with support for victims, full investigations, and early intervention for perpetrators, as these crimes are known to be associated with an escalation to more serious offences.
6. Council instructs the Mayor to write to the Government to request funding into research into these offences and how they escalate and invest in local police forces to ensure they

have access to the technology and other resources to enable them to link up related offences and catch perpetrators before their actions result in further incidents

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Classick (Liberal Democrats)

Date of submission: 29 June 2023

Dentist Motion

This Council Notes

- There are no dentists in Bristol currently offering appointments to new NHS patients
- That Bupa in St Paul's is set to close at the end of June – leaving its NHS patients without access to affordable, sustainable dentistry in Bristol.
- Since May 2022, the Integrated Care System (ICS) is responsible for the provision of dentistry in the West of England.
- The detrimental impact of austerity on NHS has weakened the health service's ability to provide sufficient medical care, with cuts to NHS dentistry being amongst the hardest hit.
- The Covid Pandemic has compounded the problem, causing a vast backlog of appointments.
- The NHS Dental Contract is outdated, provides disproportionate funding that routinely is taken back to a centralised pot and incentivises dentists to do the bare minimum.

This Council Believes:

- We do not have a universal dentist service free at the point of delivery in this country.
- The current situation is unsustainable, unequal, fragmented and inadequate. Action needs to be taken to resolve the current crisis in dentistry. Bupa in St Paul's should not be closing down, creating a 'dental desert' and relevant authorities should explore options available to prevent its closure.
- Everyone should have access to sustainable, affordable dental care.
- Those residents who do have an NHS dentist come to do so by happenstance, provision isn't purposeful or equitable. Health visitors are unable to get treatment for some of our most vulnerable and in need communities including children, refugees and asylum seekers.

This Council Resolves:

- To call on the ICB to ensure Bupa St Pauls' NHS patients are offered dental provision nearby at an affordable cost.
- To request the ICB undertakes procurement to provide additional dentist capacity in Bristol as a matter of urgency.
- Noting the increase in housing being delivered in Bristol, ask that the ICB looks to facilitate more dentists opening in areas predicted to have high population growth.
- To request regular updates from the ICB on the progress of these resolutions.
- Write to the Health Secretary to support the British Dentist Association's ask for a reformed Dental Contract that will incentivise dentists to join the workforce, provide adequate and affordable treatment and ensure proportionate allocated funding stays within our BNSSG ICP footprint
- Trial a supervised toothbrushing programme in Bristol's primary schools in order to take a preventative approach to oral health and hygiene in children.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Amirah Cole (Labour)

Date of submission: 29 June 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: Cllr Katja Hornchen (Labour)

Date of submission: 29 June 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: Cllr Fabian Breckels (Labour)

Date of submission: 29 June 2023

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: Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend (Green Party)

Motion submitted: 29th June 2023

Sources

- 1) Birmingham City Council's official UBI briefing - see https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=nb28HJzZZy8R6UE9qsv3LHJckreeBwn50Tbzig0riXhiHQcf3zr1WGQ%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_O6k4xSFL847QcMyKppBD6IUO5x2gLp5E3GdI3_M
- 2) <https://www.bristol247.com/opinion/your-say/otherpartieswillridiculegreenpolicies/>

A citywide ban on digital billboards

This Council notes:

- There is a growing pressure from commercial advertisers for new digital advertising screens across the city alongside highways, on footpaths, and on walls of prominent or vacant sites.
- There is also a switch to digital advertising on phone boxes (advertising is their main source of income - not the phone calls in the age of mobile phones) and bus shelters.
- Despite the revenue provided by Bus Shelter advertising in providing a public amenity in support of sustainable transport, the impact of illuminated and digital adverts on bus shelters is out of place in residential streets.
- Existing billboards may not have planning permission but there has been no consistent approach to removing them via enforcement.
- Many advertising companies are switching to digital billboards which allow them to sell many more advertising slots and increase profits as well as reducing the cost of changing advertising. These digital screens show static but alternating digital adverts which can be updated remotely.
- The law governing display advertising restricts objections to ground of highway safety and amenity only.
- Recent planning appeals have been made in response to rejection of digital advertising on some sites, and with stronger declared policies the planning response could be clearer and some of the initial applications and appeals could be avoided.
- That the Council adopted a new Advertising & Sponsorship Policy in 2021 for advertising sites it controls which restricts ads for High Fat Sugar Salt products, gambling, alcohol and payday loans. (1)
- The high energy consumption of digital billboards adds a growing impact to the city's carbon footprint, (2) The Council's One City Climate Strategy from February 2020 resolved to "[Develop] a citywide shared understanding and commitment to responsible consumption (including lower carbon food and reduced flying), which acknowledges the generally lower impact of lower income households; and [Create] advertising standards and restrictions to support responsible consumption."
- The bright illumination from digital billboards at all hours can also affect local wildlife and local residents, including severe mental health impacts. (3)
- Billboards are subject to objections and controversy every time an application is made, local residents do not want such billboards in their neighbourhoods"
- That many outdoor advertising spaces (both council-controlled and private) contain adverts for high carbon industries such as airlines, airports, SUVs and fossil fuel companies.
- That the French city of Grenoble removed over 326 advertising spaces from its city from 2015 onwards. (4)

This council believes:

- New digital advertising screens are unpopular with Bristol residents as evidenced by the high volume of objections received to planning applications for new digital advertising screens. (5)
- Advertising drives consumption and predominantly represents major consumer goods companies; most adverts are for national and international brands not local businesses so this is limited benefit to the local economy.

- Billboard advertising is a danger to road safety; its purpose is to distract attention. (6)
- Envy and body shame are a phenomenon associated with the prevalence of corporate advertising
- Mental health issues relating to body image are a growing and persistent issue affecting many young people and adults. (7)
- The greatest climate impact in our city is the impact on consumption of goods and services; constant pressure to consume is driven by continuous, pervasive advertising. Extra emissions resulting from advertising products is calculated to have added 186million tonnes of CO2e in 2019 (8)
- When travelling or relaxing outdoors residents have no choice if confronted by digital billboards; the council does not have to enable this negative experience
- There are unequal standards of amenity across the city and some areas have traditionally been better protected than others; the council could set a uniform, high standard of amenity to redress this unequal amenity and ensure fairer standards across the whole city.
- While there are pressures for commercialising council assets the council need not be either a driver of digital advertising through its own walls and structures, nor an enabler through weak policies.

This council therefore calls on the Mayor:

- To introduce a new, high standard of amenity across the whole city, excluding digital billboards and taking enforcement action against unlawful billboard sites.
- To set the highest road safety standards across the city with a declared presumption against distracting digital billboards on the whole road network.
- To end council-initiated billboard sites on walls or other structures.
- To introduce these changes through the local plan and public announcements on property policies.
- To enforce existing restrictions in its Advertising & Sponsorship Policy regarding excludes on ads for junk food, alcohol, payday loans and gambling across council-owned advertising sites.
- To update the Council's Advertising & Sponsorship Policy to include restrictions on highly polluting products including as airlines, airports, fossil fuel companies, SUVs, petrol diesel and hybrid vehicles.
- To work towards Bristol becoming a billboard free city, with space left purely for local noticeboards, signage or public information and creative arts and flags.
- Until that time, commit to ensuring the use of renewable energy in all City Council contracts.
- To report back on progress within a year.

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Martin Fodor, Green Group

Date of submission: 29 June 2023

Notes:

1. <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s58004/Appendix%20Ai%20-%20Advertising%20and%20Sponsorship%20Policy.pdf>

2. A large digital advertising screen requires the same electricity as 32 average UK households. A double sided bus stop advertising screen requires the same electricity as three UK households (Source: Energy Consumption in the UK 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021>)
3. Living Next to Digital Billboards report, 2021: <https://adfreecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/living-next-to-digital-billboards-M32.pdf>)
4. The Daily Telegraph: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11250670/Grenoble-to-replace-street-advertising-with-trees-and-community-spaces.html>
5. A 2021 survey of residents living or commuting past the new large advertising screens on the M32 in Eastville show a high level of concerns with the advertising screens including degradation of their neighbourhood and social cohesion, a feeling that the commercial interests of advertisers were being prioritised over residents' mental health and wellbeing, impacts of light pollution from the digital screens including through people's bedroom windows, climate impacts of the consumerism model promoted on billboards and distractions to drivers with road safety implications. (Adblock Bristol (2021) Living Next to Digital Billboards report, <https://adfreecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/living-next-to-digital-billboards-M32.pdf>)
6. Oviedo-Trespalacios et al. (2019), The impact of road advertising signs on driver behaviour and implications for road safety: A critical systematic review. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2019.01.012>)
7. How outdoor advertising impacts health and wellbeing, Adblock Bristol (2022) <http://adfreecities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/How-outdoor-advertising-impacts-health-and-wellbeing.pdf>)
8. Advertised Emissions report, 2021 - <https://www.purposedisruptors.org/advertised-emissions>