

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board 4 September 2023 Public Forum



Public Forum Questions

Ref	Name	Topic
Q1 (3 questions)	Dan Akroyd (attending)	Council meetings: webcasting and minute taking.
Q2 (2 questions)	Laura Chapman (not attending)	Development Control

Public Forum Statements

Ref	Name	Topic
S1	Jen Smith	SEND & Q4 Performance Report
S2	David Redgewell Southwest Transport Network Gordon Richardson Bristol Disability Equalities Forum	Transport

PUBLIC FORUM - QUESTIONS

Question 1 – Dan Ackroyd

Question 1a:

The webcast videos of committee meetings are hosted on YouTube. As far as I understand it, this service is zero cost to the council.

I also understand that the council has a policy of "Videos are made available for public viewing for 4 years after the date of the meeting."

Why such a short time limit? Please can the videos just be left on there as it appears to be a cost free thing for the council to do.

Response:

In order to comply with the requirements of the Information Commissioner's Office, all records created by a local authority, be they electronic, paper or any other media must have a review and retention period assigned to them, which covers them from creation, through use to final disposal. For webcasts of public meetings, the agreed retention period is four years, which is consistent with that for background papers.

Question 1b: Why are the responses to Public forum questions given during the meeting not being written down?

For example, for the question I asked Councillor Craig Cheney in the Cabinet meeting on the 4th of July there is a note in the "Written responses to Public Forum questions submitted to 4 July Cabinet" document of "Answer: This answer was provided during the meeting, recording is available at Cabinet - Tuesday, 4th July, 2023 4.00 pm - YouTube"

That link works, but it is incredibly burdensome for a journalist or a member of the public to be able to find the correct timestamp to see Councillor Cheney's response.

The same issue affects the Full Council meeting of 11th July, when I asked the mayor: "Please can you clarify exactly who you mean. For example is it every twitter user who is interested in Bristol that "rolls around in NIMBYism", or is it only the people who don't agree with you?"

The answer written down is "It was Councillor Cheney, and his quote was self-explanatory."

That is not an accurate summary of the answer given and misses entirely the answer given to the follow up question. I think it is entirely disrespectful to the mayor to not accurately record his deeply personal and emotional response he told us, which prompted Councillor Nicola Beech to lead a round of applause.

Not accurately recording his words just because he is a lame duck mayor, seems like it could be interpreted as an insult.

Response:

Thank you for your question, however, it's best directed to the Mayor (for example via a meeting of Full Council) as the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are unable to comment on procedural arrangements at other meetings.

Question 1c: Very recently there has been changes in how the YouTube videos are maintained. The changes I have seen include:

Issue 1. Most videos are 'not listed'. For example the webcast of the Cabinet meeting of the 4th of July is still available at this URI:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5MdaMqvzZM&ab_channel=BristolCityCouncilLive;!!KUxdu5bBfnh!8Yew1ig2aHWZkZboNmmdUbrDpo2yNGneSfzSxB18aQp_8PN95gpu2fLh7QbRjahxjql0xDbBxBODKM8Eo6gCShhR\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5MdaMqvzZM&ab_channel=BristolCityCouncilLive;!!KUxdu5bBfnh!8Yew1ig2aHWZkZboNmmdUbrDpo2yNGneSfzSxB18aQp_8PN95gpu2fLh7QbRjahxjql0xDbBxBODKM8Eo6gCShhR$)

but it is burdensome for people to have to search through individual pdf documents to find the appropriate link for meetings.

Issue 2. At least one video appears to be set to private. In particular the video of the "Development Control A Committee" on the 9th of August is no longer playable.

It is worth noting, that this meeting failed to agree the minutes of a previous meeting. I don't understand exactly what happened in the meeting and was planning to re-watch the video, so as to be able to submit a question to Full Council about discrepancies in some of the statements said by the chair of this meeting.

However, I am unable to check exactly what he said, due to the video archive being unavailable.

This is very annoying.

Why is Bristol City Council hiding recordings of what is happening in meetings?

Please can you immediately make all recordings be publicly available and listed.

Response:

Sometimes it's necessary to temporarily remove a webcast from our website. The Council always endeavors to restore such broadcasts as soon as possible.

Question 2 – Laura Chapman

Question 2a: Do you believe that (as chair of DCA) Richard Eddy followed the deferral process to the letter of the policy on 31st May and 5th July?

Response:

Thanks for your question but Scrutiny are unable to comment on matters relating to other Members or arrangements at Development Control meetings.

Question 2b: Do you believe it was valid for DCA to debate affordable housing (to be provided via Homes England grants, not the planning system) re Broadwalk on 5th July, when affordable housing was not cited as a reason for refusing the Broadwalk application on 31st May?

Response:

As above.

PUBLIC FORUM - STATEMENTS

Statement 1: Jen Smith

I was interested to read in the Quarterly Performance Report (Quarter 4 2022/23) p.13, that the council is 'On Track' for delivering improvements for children with Send, by working with schools and settings to become more inclusive...'

This is directly at odds with my experiences again this year. Five years of a total failure by this council to get to grips with inclusion and secondary education in the city, has left my child with no GCSEs this August. He was fully capable of getting some and with good grades.

I saw this coming more than five years ago. I did everything to try and get my child access to education and was met with barriers, judgement, accusations of abuse, discrimination, annual legal action, dishonesty, cover up, spying and incompetence. All of this must be shared between both this city council and the various education settings responsible. Since 2019, I've been through Sendist 6 times.

This academic year just gone, a third education setting – the second in Bristol – has again hoovered up High Needs Funding like my child's EHCP is some kind of cash cow and simply not delivered Send provision between March and the end of the academic year.

I am baffled that probably one of the biggest providers of post-16 education in the city has been allowed by the council to take money for my child and simply push out a pupil whilst retaining that money. At no point did I feel any support from the council with the situation and they left my child again to flounder against the strategic multi-agency Send incompetence in Bristol.

I feel like in any other walk of life, acquiring money and then deliberately not providing the service would be fraudulent.

And were this not bad enough, the council has failed to pay at least one ALP tutor I know of for many months. Someone who has worked extremely hard this year teaching my child. Someone who has been tasked with teaching five years of missed maths provision to a deeply traumatised young person – traumatised due to his direct experiences of Bristol Send. So you'd think the least Bristol City Council would do is pay them for their work.

The Quarterly Performance Report (Quarter 4 2022/23) waffles in and out of disadvantage experienced by Bristol's children and young people. You do realise that children pushed out of education who are entitled to FSM don't get them right? Your behaviour pushes families into poverty and keeps them there.

This impacts on the young people who are excluded from society. It is incredibly depressing for young people in this situation. There are kids in this city still living in lock down. One of mine lives and is taught in one room in our inner city flat. During this time, the amount he has learned about the criminal underground way this city works far surpasses any academic subject. Being exposed to the levels of violence outside the window must be harmful and damaging. This isn't living is it? It's existing. And I'm telling you it's a misery for them.

And do you know what happens when families complain? Of course you do because you know how you react.

The council reacts in a vindictive manner. Which brings me to my council complaint about our EHCP social care. When the council didn't implement it for months I complained. When it was implemented, it was immediately cancelled to my child's face on the outcome of that complaint. How spiteful is that? A manager at this council had my child's social care provision cancelled on the spot and instead of going through me, they did it to his face. Happy to back this paragraph up with emails and complaint findings.

And the reason this was done was because they don't like me. And I also caught out the department collating my Tweets and coming up 'with a plan'. I find it deeply disturbing that social workers in Bristol are able to do this. How can they be trusted to work with disabled families when they act in a vindictive manner? If you don't believe me, I am also happy to include and publish the emails I found in my SAR. Might be a bit embarrassing for you though.

So you might colour your little box in Green and feel all pleased with yourself. But your Send system in Bristol is shambolic. It's practically a hate crime against the city's young disabled population. It's vindictive, unlawful and reacts with spite, actively aiming to harm children and families.

Statement 2 – David Redgewell Southwest Transport Network.
Gordon Richardson Bristol Disability Equalities Forum

Dear councillor

We again bring to your attention the difficulties and hardships on residents and visitors to Greater Bristol try to use the public transport and bus Network. Many community groups residents Tenants association youth group have Express very deep concern about not being able to get school, college, university work, hospital, food shopping and other shopping and leisure and Tourism facilities.

The public transport Network is the responsibility of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council jointly through the bus service improvement plans.

With funding through the bus service improvement plan and importantly the funding the supported bus service through the transport levy. Paid by the unity councils Bristol city council Banes and South Gloucestershire council with contributions from North Somerset council.

The power to provide public bus services is the responsibility of the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council Mayor Dan Norris and councillor Hannah young transport executive North Somerset council.

And Bristol city council Banes South Gloucestershire county council under the west of England mayoral combined Authority act.

The areas of Greater Bristol and Bath city region are on the following areas with bus route having been withdrawn;

Service 5 / 47 route from Bristol city centre St Paul st werburghs Eastville park Stapleton Broomhill Fishponds Oldbury court Downend Emerson green Pucklechurch westerleight yate bus station yate North

Which could be restored by extending stagecoach west 525 Yate North Yate bus station, westerleight Pucklechurch Emerson green service back to Bristol city centre.

Via Downend Oldbury court, Fishponds Broomhill, Stapleton, Eastville park

The service could terminate at The Eastgate centre or Bristol city centre.

Ashton vale is a community on the North Somerset council city and county of Bristol border without a public bus service since the withdrawn of bus service 23 from Ashton vale Southville Bristol city centre bus .

But the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Run the 505 Southmead hospital bus station Clifton, Hotwells ,Ashton Gate long Ashton park and ride service run by stagecoach west and can be extended to Ashton vale estate and Back to the long Ashton park and ride via Winterstoke Road.

For a connection to Southville Bristol city centre Cabot circus, old market ,Easton Eastville ,Horfield, Lockleaze, Southmead hospital bus station

By First group plc bus 24

West of England buses .

Brislington, Knowle, Hengrove, Whitchurch park Hartcliffe and Bishopsworth.

Service 36 Bristol city centre, Old market, Barton hill , St Anne's park needs Extension to Brislington , via Hungerford road Knowle Hengrove hospital, Whitchurch estate Hartcliffe, Bishopsworth.

Service 52 Bishopsworth South Bristol hospital to Bristol city centre and Broadmead.

Has been withdrawn this weekend.

672,Bladon Chew valley, Bridgwater Road Bedminster Bristol city centre has been withdrawn.

This leaves South Bristol cemetery without any Bus service.

The 52, 672 service needs addressing, with a new service starting from cheddar.

North Bristol.

Service 10 and 11 .

Service 10 11 operators from Shirehampton and Avonmouth to Westbury on Trym and Southmead hospital bus station but leaving the community with bus link except at school and colleges and work journeys

To UWE Bus and coach station Bristol parkway railway station

This link needs to be restored to allow passenger to get to and from the university and City of Bristol college And South Gloucestershire and Stroud college.

Bradley stoke Aztec west Hortham Alverston Thornbury.

Service 622 Cribbs causeway bus station Bristol zoo, Lower Almondsbury, Olverton Alverston, Thornbury, Tytherington and yate bus and coach station.

Which at present is just a school and colleges service 917

Services in South East Bristol and North East Somerset.

The 522 Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads station.

Arnos vale Brislington, Keynsham marksbury, Timbury, Paulton, Midsomer Norton Westfield, Radstock peasdown st john Bath spa bus and coach station.

This service need to operate via Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads station, Arnos vale ,Brislington Keynsham , Marksbury Timsbury Paulton Midsomer Norton Tesco ,Timsbury Tunley Bath spa bus and coach station.

Service 414,424 Frome coach station To Radstock Westfield Midsomer Norton paulton needs to include bus route 82 .

In North Somerset council area; Service 126 Wells bus and coach station

Easton, Draycott, cheddar, Axbridge Winscombe, Banwell ,locking, Weston bus and coach station interchanges needs urgently restoring. It was promised in September 2023 And October 2023 .

Alan Peters of Abus has offered to run the service.

Service changes in Greater Bristol to serve areas without bus services .

Are service No1 from Cribbs causeway bus station to Broomhill and Brislington.

Via Blaise castle estate, Henbury Westbury on Trym, The Downs Clifton Down station park street, Bristol city centre, Bristol Broadmead shopping centre Bristol Temple meads station Arnos vale Brislington at sandy park road the route can split going service 1 Alison road Broomhill Brislington.

1 a sandy park road St Anne's park Guilford Road Broomhill road Brislington trading estate Hungerford Road, Brislington village, school Road Brislington st Anne's park, Wick Road Sandy park road Bath road normal route .

Other route is service 24 24 a

Running from Ashton gate Southville Bedminster Redcliffe Bristol city centre Bristol Cabot circus old market Easton Eastville Horfield Lockleaze Bristol Southmead hospital bus station

The other route is 24a being split

From some service could start from Bishopsworth upland on the 52 route Ashton vale Southville Bedminster Redcliffe Bristol city centre, Bristol Cabot circus st Paul's st Werburghs Eastville park Horfield Lockleaze Southmead hospital bus station .

Westlink Demand responsive bus services.

Northern area .

Needs to serve the following destination to make interchange with Bus and train services.

Aztec west metro bus stop

Bristol Cribbs causeway bus station.

Bristol parkway station.

Uwe bus station

Filton Abbey wood station
 Patchway station.
 Southmead hospital bus station.
 Downend ?Oldbury court ,Fishponds Broomhill, Stapleton ,Eastville park
 Easton, Barton hill, Dings
 Bristol Temple meads station

In South area
 To serve Ashton vale
 Long Ashton park and ride site
 Brislington park and ride site.
 Brislington Hungerford road.
 Bristol Temple meads station

Abus service review with new contracts and service is due to go to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority West of England scrutiny commission in October 2023 And 6th October 2023 west of England mayoral combined Authority committee. And joint committee on 6th October 2023 .

Bus service are very important in Greater Bristol and Bath city region community's and will be a major issue in the Bristol city council election and General election.

And council Cheney and his proposals for the transport levy from Bristol city council to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority mayor Dan Norris and North Somerset council must be scrutinised.

Other public transport Network issues
 Investment is the need to progress Metro west railway service Network.
 Henbury loop station platform needs planning permission granted in south Gloucestershire county council area. With provision made for through running to Avonmouth Dock station.
 And construction of stations at Filton arena and Exhibition centre And Ashley Down.
 On the Bristol Temple meads station to Bedminster, Parson street, pill Portishead with a new station at Ashton Gate. The business case is being rewritten for the Portishead line.

With the opening of Bristol Portway park and ride .
 A bid has been put in for a full public transport interchanges bus access
 To allow buses to travel to Severnside and North Bristol via Lawrence Weston Westbury on Trym
 Southmead hospital bus station UWE bus and coach station and Bristol parkway station.

To Severnside.
 And to Portishead and Clevedon.
 The Terminal building and EV charges need addressing and Taxis provision.

Tickets office closures.
 And the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.
 Western gateway Transport Board Objects to the closures of tickets offices on the metro west railway Network At
 Cheltenham spa
 Gloucester central.
 Yate

Bristol parkway.
 Bristol Temple meads station.
 Keynsham,
 Oldfield park.
 Bath spa
 Bradford on Avon
 Trowbridge Westbury Warminster Salisbury/ Frome.
 Nailsea and Backwell
 Yatton for Clevedon.
 Worle parkway.
 Weston super mare.
 Bridgwater.
 Taunton.

These tickets office sell 50% Discount tickets for wheelchair users, bus railway integrated tickets
 Railway ferry tickets to Ireland Northern Ireland channel islands isle of man and the Scottish island.
 Railway cards. Split and cheap tickets and help wheelchair and passenger with reduced mobility and
 Assist travel partly sighted passengers on and off the train .

On mass transit system

The Bristol bus and coach station to Bristol Temple meads station ,Arnos vale Brislington, Keynsham, Salford Newbridge, Weston ,Bath spa bus and coach station Railway interchange.
 Is out for public consultation. By the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority mayor Dan Norris. But the proposal to put a road down the North Somerset railway line should be protected as a railway corridor.
 From Bristol city centre Bristol Bus and coach station, Bristol Temple meads station Arnos vale, Brislington, Talbot road station to Bath Road to Keynsham saltford Newbridge Weston Bath spa bus and coach station railway interchange.
 This link could cross the river Keynsham Bitton Kelson Weston railway corridor and street run into Bath spa interchange. And a link from Callington road corridor Hengrove park Whitchurch Hengrove hospital imperial park Hartcliffe Bristol Airport.

The other consultation issue to make sure bus coach and Taxis service can operate through the proposed Broadmead shopping centre and central regeneration scheme.

And wheelchair access consultation to all coaches by the Department for transport.
 And the need for the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset as transport Authorities and operator on the m2 metro bus service Long Ashton park and ride site to Harbourside Redcliffe Bristol city centre Bristol Temple meads station and Bristol Cabot circus.
 To have a consultation about the need to access to spike island for blue badge holders and people with reduced mobility and residents who need to access their homes and small businesses.
 Jointly with Bristol city council as Highway Authority.

On Ferry service.

We welcome the extension of the ferry services from Hotwells Bristol city centre, Bristol Temple meads station to Natham. But we need an accessible boat for wheelchair accessible to be addressed by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

David Redgewell Southwest transport Network.
Gordon Richardson Bristol disability equalities forum