

**Question: CQ12.01 & CQ12.02**

**Cabinet – 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Re: Agenda item 12 - Structural Repairs to Avon Fixed Bridge and associated Cumberland Basin Complex Structures**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Patrick McAllister**

**Question 1:** In paragraph 23 of Item 12's report, it is stated that "Capital underspends for other approved Capital Projects... should now be rerouted to this new "Critical Ask" along with any remaining WECA underspend. Capital underspends [are] therefore recommended."

How achievable are these future underspends, and is there not a danger that this may put unsustainable pressure onto other important projects to deliver unfeasible underspends?

**Response:**

This answer was provided during the meeting, recording is available at [Cabinet - Tuesday, 5th September, 2023 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question 2:** In the Eco Impact Checklist of Item 12, the proposals are characterised as "Neutral to the environment" because the bridges can support active travel for Bristolians. This may be, but they will also support a high volume of car traffic, and the repairs will also incur a substantial embodied emissions cost.

Does the administration see this characterisation as justifiable?

**Response:**

This answer was provided during the meeting, recording is available at [Cabinet - Tuesday, 5th September, 2023 4.00 pm - YouTube](#)

**Question: CQ18.01 & CQ18.02**

**Cabinet – 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Re: Agenda item 18 - Mission Net Zero funding bid to Innovate Pathfinder Places Programme Phase 2**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Katy Grant**

It is great to see BCC building on its success in winning status as a EU 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, the Net Zero Investment co-Innovation Project, and the relationship with Innovate UK.

If this phase 2 bid for funds to Innovation UK is successful, delivery of a West of England Climate Action Plan is one of the most important outcomes

**Question 1:** I see BCC will work with partners, but how will the implementation of the investment plan be assured in other parts of the Combined Authority area, if the plan is designed by Bristol City Council with funds it has won, and its own transition team?

**Response:**

- It is great news and more confirmation of the reputation we have around the world as being a city that is on the forefront of action and is delivering on climate change.
- We have developed good relationships with our local authority partners in many areas. We will be sharing this work with them, and South Gloucestershire and B&NES have a standing invite to attend the One City Environment Board and the City Gatherings.
- We will continue in our attempts to get the West of England Combined Authority delivering for the city region. A West of England Climate Investment Plan should be developed in the coming year, and it should help the three Unitary Authorities coordinate their efforts. In addition, other key stakeholders such as National Grid Electricity Distribution will be closely involved in specifying and developing the

plan. The plan should be designed collectively by the key stakeholders expected to help deliver it.

- Would suggest that you attend a WECA meeting and submit your questions and statement as it will help remind the room of the need for coordinated work across the city region.

**Question 2:** Given that 75k has already been spent to 'create a broad plan to secure the next £1bn of investment', could you give a little more detail as to how the £890,000 for the West of England plan will actually be spent?

**Response:**

- To be clear £75,000 was for an initial feasibility study only, from which the more detailed Demonstrator Project has emerged, and this funding bid created.
- The spend of the £890,000 will be determined by the WoE Climate Investment Plan.
- The plan will draw upon the Local Area Energy Planning Process including detailed analysis of the energy systems, the energy consuming buildings and the sources of renewable heat and power. Stakeholders will then develop a pipeline of costed projects to be presented to public or private investors.
- Key to this process is combining data from lots of different sources and having a process to keep this up to date. For the detailed spends you're best to direct this question to the Combined Authority.

**Question: CQ19.01 & CQ19.02**

**Cabinet – 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Re: Agenda item 19 - Introduction of penalties for emission of smoke in Smoke Control Area**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Martin Fodor**

I welcome this report and the adoption of the new powers to tackle one of the sources of particulates from combustion in the city. A comprehensive strategy to clean up city air has been long promised so a chance to see this developed will be welcome.

**Question 1:** When will the promised clean air strategy be drafted and then in place to tackle smoke pollution?

**Response:**

- We currently have a clean air plan for NO<sub>2</sub> compliance centred on the Clean Air Zone and its range of associated measures. This will deliver compliance with the legal standards for NO<sub>2</sub> as soon as possible. This is in line with our legal duty.
- When compliant, the new statutory duty for an Air Quality Strategy will apply and the council will develop one then. Work is underway in preparation for this – collecting evidence on the impact of the Clean Air Zone and other issues.
- This will enable the next administration to develop this strategy as quickly as possible and the timing of this will be for them to determine.

**Question 2:** What resources will be allocated for Neighbourhood Enforcement to focus on smoke control, and for the other work promised to inform and educate

about the consequences of smoke particulates, and where will these resources come from?

**Response:**

- Where the resources come from is a good question. This is another perfect example of powers being provided without resources to back them up.
- To date, no additional resources have been allocated to Neighbourhood Enforcement. Enforcement is not easy under the current powers but accepting the powers means we can explore options and we are confident in our approach.
- We have made reporting easy, and anyone can report smoke incidents on the council Smoke Control webpage and upload photographs.

**Question: CQ31.01**

**Cabinet – 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Re: Agenda item 31 - Digital Transformation Programme – Annual Update 2023**

**Question submitted by: Councillor David Wilcox**

I welcome the solid progress made in delivering the many complex components of this programme; nine projects out of seventeen have been delivered.

**Question 1:** Can I and the people of Bristol have a rationale for putting the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery project on hold? This component of the Transformation Programme is core to the council's safe and essential continuous running.

**Response:**

- Phase 1 included creating a written plan for responding to a major IT outage; a review of disaster recovery arrangements for four main systems in Revenue and Benefits, Social Care, HR and Housing; embedding gateways in IT procurement processes to ensure effective and appropriate DR arrangements are established for new IT systems; identifying critical IT systems and recording these in our outage plans; and refreshing our business continuity planning process and templates for managers to help them strengthen their Business Continuity Plans. It was completed in February 2023 with the approval of the Major IT Outage Plan.
- Phase 2 was to be informed by the learning from Phase 1, but also needed more scoping and discovery work to fully assess risk and understand what work needed to be done. As a result Phase 2 was paused in November 2022 to allow this work to be done. The aim is to have it completed by the end of 2023, depending on the timescale and complexity of a planned review of our cyber security posture. The hope is for a further Phase (or entirely new project) to be scoped during our annual planning cycle and considered for our 2024/25 pipeline of projects.

- In the meantime we've taken forward some key tasks as part of business as usual activity, including extending our existing disaster recovery and back-up contract and preparing to procure a new permanent contract. Work on this is happening now.