

MOTIONS RECEIVED FOR 12 MARCH 2024 FULL COUNCIL

GOLDEN MOTION (LABOUR): The Caring Economy

This Council notes:

- The UK is one of the most expensive countries in the world for childcare. Parents continue to face huge difficulties finding the right care for their children. Likewise, carers face a number of challenges.
- The West of England Combined Authority has adopted a local industrial strategy, and Bristol City Council is in the early stages of developing an economic strategy. Research has found that a 2% investment in care produces double the number of jobs for women and almost as many jobs for men as the same investment in construction.
- Following a campaign from Labour MPs, the Government now recognises childcare as a form of infrastructure, meaning the Community Infrastructure Levy could be spent on capital costs for childcare provision.

This Council believes:

- Further action needs to be taken to ensure that children across Bristol get the best start in life, regardless of the post-code and economic background they were born into.
- Early years intervention is crucial for improving life outcomes. The council and its partners should continue to prioritise the outcomes of Bristol's children and young people and embed their interests in all its work.
- Childcare remains far too expensive, and it is unacceptable that in 2023, some parents are unable to go back to work due to childcare costs.
- Likewise, action needs to be taken to support carers, both through the council, through its partners, and throughout Bristol.
- Bristol needs a National Care Service introduced, that follows the principles outlined in the Fabian Society's pamphlet 'A National Care Service for all'

This Council resolves to:

- Call on members of the Strategy and Resources Committee to continue to protect maintained nurseries as a priority and reject any proposals to reduce funding for them in budgets put forward to Full Council in future. Furthermore, work alongside the Schools Forum to explore reforming the budget setting model by moving to a benchmarked model based on final summer term registrations from each September, giving nurseries the flexibility they need to maintain the best possible provision for our children.
- Call on Party Group Leaders to write to the Government to ask it recognises state nursery provision a statutory service and provide additional funding to local government to fund this, and lobby the Government to follow the lead of the Welsh Government and exempt nursery schools in Bristol from paying business rates.
- Call on the Children and Young People committee to explore other ways of making childcare more accessible in Bristol.
- Call on the Mayor to instruct appropriate officers to explore allocating future Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy raised in regeneration areas towards capital costs of new establishing new childcare centres and / or nursery schools.
- Call on the Mayor to request West of England Combined Authority explores options of using its investment fund to offer grants to new childcare providers and subsidise the salaries of new employees in the childcare sector. Should this not be viable, call on Party Group Leaders to lobby the Government to do so, with council officers supporting these efforts.
- Recognise childcare as infrastructure and have it included referenced as such in Bristol's upcoming economic strategy.

- Call on the Mayor to instruct officers to adopt the asks of the Caring Economy campaign and request officers report back to Full Council on its progress in future.

Motion Submitted 29 February 2024

Proposed by Councillor Amal Ali

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 29 February 2024

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

Date of submission: 29 February 2024

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 Varney

Date of submission: 29th February 2024

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

Date of submission: 29th February 2024

FACING REALITY ON DELIVERY OF MASS TRANSIT

“This Council endorses the stance recently taken by the Regional Mayor in seeking to rule out further consideration or exploration of the option to build a substantial mass transit underground for our city.

Council is particularly concerned over the City Mayor’s largely unsubstantiated claim (made in his last State of the City Address) that an overground mass transit system is undeliverable.

Whilst, from a practical, engineering, point of view, it might still be arguable or conceivable that some tunnelling could be a solution to overcome an exceptional geological or other feature along the proposed three main routes, this Council recognises that Mayor Rees’s hazy (at best) vision of a Bristol Metro is completely unrealistic in terms of cost and timescale.

Accordingly, Council calls on the City Mayor to accept and finally publicly acknowledge this reality and to commit to working more collaboratively on the Combined Authority on this major infrastructure project. Attracting Government capital investment and delivery of a viable, modern, and attractive public transport system has to be a political priority for the present and any future Administration.”

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Mark Weston

Date of submission: 29.02.24

LOCAL EFFLUENT ECOLOGICAL RIVER REVIEW

“This Council acknowledges the concerns which have recently been raised highlighting the deterioration in the state of the country’s rivers, waterways, and coastline, caused by the dumping of untreated sewage. Worryingly, more than 384,000 discharges of raw sewage were reported by water companies across England and Wales in 2023, and environmental campaigners point out that even Lake Windermere is now threatened by encroaching phosphorus pollutants.

Council recognises that the Government has taken significant steps to address these problems by seeking to provide stronger powers to regulating authorities in the Environment Act 2021 and through a new “Plan for Water” which aims to provide an extra £1.6bn in funding for infrastructure investment. These are all necessary but more work will be needed to improve the management of our water systems.

Last year, Council was hugely sympathetic to and supportive of the Conham River Bathing Group in its campaign to clean up the River Avon and bid for access to Bristol Harbour for swimming. All the accepted arguments used in the debate at that time over the importance of these habitats and leisure spaces dictate that much more needs to be done at a national and local level.

Therefore, Council calls on the Mayor to support and where possible resource such initiatives as:-

- Working closely with community volunteer groups like SusWot etc. to help coordinate river cleaning action days.
- Commit to conducting an audit of the city’s rivers and tributaries to identify problems, policies and plans to improve them.
- Investigate whether changes to development plans could make a meaningful contribution by requiring even more environmental features in new builds such as ‘blue roofs’ (capture & storage) and better drainage facilities.
- Lobby Central Government – perhaps through the LGA – for even tougher action on water companies found to have broken the law. In addition, there needs to be an exploration of alternative strategies, methods or systems which separate sewage from storm overflows entirely.

Clearly, there are no easy solutions to this environmental challenge. Nevertheless, our Victorian-era sewer network is coming to an end of its working life and is increasingly unable to cope with the demands of a growing population. As a result, Council believes that the vast majority of people (once made aware of the threat this poses to human health and wildlife) will demand that its resolution is made a political priority.”

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Steve Smith

Date of submission: 29.02.24

FUTURE PROOFING BRANCH LIBRARY NETWORK

“This Council notes the previous unanimous cross-party support expressed over the importance of the Library Service and maintaining this amenity for the citizens of Bristol.

The benefits of public libraries are well known and long established, ranging from promoting a love of literature and learning, the preservation of our heritage assets, to providing public spaces for shared cultural experiences.

The recent controversy over restricted access to many branch libraries over the Winter months revived concerns that these valuable places are being allowed to wither on the vine.

Accordingly, this Council asks the Mayor to back an all-Party commitment in the forthcoming local elections to include a pledge in their respective Manifestos to keep open and build upon the hours of operation of our branch network.

Furthermore, agreement should be sought to incorporate such an obligation into the Corporate Plan in order to entrench and enhance protection of future provision.”

Motion to be moved by Councillor Mark Weston

Date of Submission: 29.02.24

REINSTATING OR RESTORING WHITE LINE ROAD MARKINGS

“This Council has serious concerns about the current practice of our Highways Department with regard to the common non-reinstatement of important road markings and white lines following resurfacing treatment or other necessary street works.

The present approach or policy appears to be to allow the removal of these features to become permanent on the basis that this supposedly improves road safety and incidentally saves money.

By introducing uncertainty into the minds of motorists/road users, this in theory is said to avoid complacency, which white lines are thought to produce - thereby leading to greater concentration on the part of individuals. In practice, accidents are more likely and most people view white lines and other road markings as essential for road guidance and safety.

Government guidelines on these matters state that there are some areas, where reinstatement may not be necessary, for example in quiet cul-de-sacs. However, it is clear that this notion has been applied well beyond its original limited intention to impact much used busy residential and access roads. This was never the intention, is highly dangerous and likely to contribute to an increase in road accidents.

Accordingly, Council calls on the Mayor to issue an instruction to Highways Officers, which encourages them to utilise local knowledge more, before making any final decision on the non-reinstatement of road markings and white carriageway lines. To this end, early consultation with ward councillors in this process should be mandatory and ultimately the view of ward councillors should hold sway”.

MOTION TO BE MOVED BY Councillor John Goulandris

Date of Submission: 29.02.24

Plant Based solutions for the Climate

A motion for a debate at Bristol City Council on plant based solutions to the climate emergency.

This council:

Notes:

- 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. [1]
 - Producing a kilo of beef creates, on average, 12 times more CO₂e than a kilo of tofu or other soya based proteins; [2]
 - Producing a litre of dairy milk uses, on average, at least four times as much land as producing a litre of plant milk. [3]
 - 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. [4]
 - A 2018 Oxford University study concluded that adopting a plant-based diet is the single biggest thing we can do to reduce emissions.
 - 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. [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.
 - Sir David Attenborough has said that we ‘must reduce our meat & dairy consumption for the sake of the planet’, & that the planet ‘simply cannot sustain billions of meat eaters’
 - That a growing number of councils have made a commitment to plant-based catering or a shift away from meat, eg Lewisham Borough Council - fully plant-based in all corporate events; Enfield Borough Council - does not serve meat at any meetings or events ; Leeds City Council - two meat free days per week in schools; Oxfordshire County Council - fully plant-based in all meetings & events; Cambridge City Council - fully plant-based at meetings & promoting PB at events; Exeter City Council; Edinburgh City Council; Salford City Council; Norwich City Council, and others.

Believes:

- 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;
- 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. [6]
- 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 and ecological emergencies, like reforestation, which removes carbon from the air, or rewilding.

Therefore Council Calls on the Mayor to:

- Ensure that food provided at all council-sponsored events and meetings is entirely plant-based, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisation, using these events to promote plant-based food options through information about the climate benefits and relative cost of different protein/food sources
- Ensure that Council school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least two days per week
- 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.

- Encourage and empower students to make informed decisions about the food available in their school.
- Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of school and community projects.
 - Recognise the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
 - When events occur on City Council open spaces, and where catering is provided, ensure that plant-based options are available (ie minimum from at least one caterer), secured through the use of licensing or terms and conditions of hire (where reasonably possible).
 - Secure through a contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers that plantbased food and drink options are to be available at kiosks on City Council open spaces and Council run cafes (where reasonably possible). 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.
 - Endorse the Plant Based Treaty [7] locally and on behalf of the city write to the government to support the UK signing the Plant Based Treaty, inviting all Party Group Leaders to sign the letter.

Motion submitted by: Cllr Martin Fodor

Date of submission: 29th February 2024

Footnotes

1. [http://changingmarkets.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/06/CE_Delft_210502_Methane_reduction_potential_in_the_EU_Def .pdf](http://changingmarkets.org/wpcontent/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-climateimpacts
4. <https://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/faqs>
5. National Food Strategy (published July 2021) - <https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/National-FoodStrategy-Recommendations-in-Full.pdf>
6. <https://josephpoore.com/Science%20360%206392%20987%20-%20Accepted%20Manuscript.pdf>
7. <https://plantbasedtreaty.org/>

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 just 6 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 it 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 through the City Leap Joint Venture but this uses private sector capital from its partner companies, Ameresco and Vattenfall. No individual savings are likely to be involved.
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 £15millions invested through 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 growing number of other councils using CMIs to develop local opportunities for local investors such as Plymouth, LB Hammersmith and Fulham, LB Southwark, Cotswold, West Berkshire, LB Camden [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 agree 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

Date of submission: 29th February 2024

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

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, Page 261
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

Date of submission: 29th February 2024

Sources

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&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlG%3D%3D=hFflUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFflUdN3100%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/yoursay/otherpartieswillridiculegreenpolicies/> Page

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ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT

This council notes:

1. Following the terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas on 7 October, Israeli forces imposed a “complete siege” on Gaza, with “no electricity, no food, no fuel.”
2. The political leadership of the UK has rightly condemned the atrocities carried out by Hamas. However, they have refused to condemn Israel’s atrocities or back the United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for an “immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce” and “continuous, sufficient and unhindered” provision of lifesaving supplies and services for civilians”..
3. Israel is continuing to attack civilian targets in Gaza. Only limited humanitarian aid has been allowed to enter, and supplies of water are critically low.
4. More than 30,000 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis have now been killed, and there are over 100 Israelis and foreign nationals held as hostages.
5. Israel currently is illegally occupying East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Gaza, and is engaged in an illegal programme of settlement in these territories, as recognised by the United Nations and the majority of its member nations including the UK.
6. Previous conflicts in the region have been associated with increases in community tensions, islamophobia, antisemitism and hate crime in the UK.

This council believes:

1. There must be an immediate ceasefire to end the violence. Humanitarian aid and basic services must be immediately restored. Hostages must be immediately released.
2. Israel’s actions in Gaza include the indiscriminate bombing of residential areas and refugee camps, forced displacement of civilians, and blockades on electricity, food, fuel and water, which amount to collective punishment. These constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity under international law.
3. The long absence of a meaningful political dialogue and peace process has created a vacuum, which has been filled by those who offer violence as a solution. There is only one way to secure peace between Israel and the Palestinians. That is for a just political settlement based on the end of occupation of the Palestinian territories and the creation of a Palestinian state. A just and lasting peace in the region cannot and will not be brought about through violence, but will only be the result of a political negotiation based on democratic principles, equal rights for all and an end to occupation.
4. As a UN Security Council member, with a particular responsibility due to its historical mandate, the UK must do all in its power to prevent the spread of the conflict to Page 264 neighbouring countries, and press urgently for a new political initiative that addresses the fundamental cause of these latest acts of violence.
5. There can be no place for hate in our city. Bristol must be a safe place for those of all faiths and nationalities. We must support those whose families and loved ones are caught up in this conflict. And as a City of Sanctuary we extend a special welcome to those fleeing war and persecution.

This council resolves:

1. To ask the mayor and party group leaders to write to the UK government demanding that it call for an immediate ceasefire.
2. To call for a renewed peace process to establish a political settlement that guarantees freedom, justice and safety for both Israelis and Palestinians.
3. To work with city partners to ensure safety for our Muslim and Jewish communities, and to be ready to welcome refugees from the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Motion submitted by: Cllr Barry Parsons, Cllr Mohamed Makawi, Cllr Martin Fodor (Green Party)

Date of submission: 29th February 2023

Energy Crisis and Cost of Living

Full Council notes that:

- We must take action to address the energy crisis and its impact on fuel poverty especially when the energy price cap keeps on rising.
- We must be ready to protect our citizens from this crisis which will plunge people into poverty at no fault of their own.
- We must protect the most vulnerable in our community who may be left out.
- We must support the volunteers and action groups who will offer their help, with a well organised and well-informed action plan.
- 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.
- There is a strong link between lifting people out of poverty and making real terms cost savings, especially in education, welfare, and criminal justice.
- 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:

- Support for households so far is very welcome - but it simply does not go far enough.
- People are struggling to pay their bills and intervention is needed.
- 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.
- 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.

The 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 to be moved by: Cllr Lisa Stone

Date of submission: 29th February 2023

Standing up for Responsible Tax Conduct

Full Council notes that:

1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.
2. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.
3. Almost two thirds of people (64%) agree that the Government and local councils should consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.
4. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
5. It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.
6. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.

Full Council believes that:

1. Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be.
2. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.
3. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
4. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.
5. More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils’ ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.
6. UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.
2. Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
3. Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.
4. Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
5. Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
6. Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.
7. Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.

8. Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.

Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

Motion submitted 29 February 2024

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Tom Renhard

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 submitted 29 February 2024

Proposed by: Cllr Fabian Breckels

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 offer only 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 submitted 29 February 2024

Proposed by Cllr Katja Hornchen