

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

Wednesday, 10th July, 2019

Present:

Councillor Dine Romero	Council Leader and Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Councillor Rob Appleyard	Cabinet Member for Adult Services
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning, and Economic Development
Councillor Neil Butters	Cabinet Member for Transport Services
Councillor Paul Crossley	Cabinet Member for Community Services
Councillor Kevin Guy	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Richard Samuel	Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Sarah Warren	Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services
Councillor David Wood	Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Joanna Wright	Cabinet Member for Transport Services

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair was taken by Councillor Dine Romero, Council Leader.

The Chair read out the following statement:

'Welcome to the first Cabinet meeting of the new administration.

The Lib Dems were elected to take bold action on the issues that affect residents: transport, housing, the climate emergency, and opening up the Council to give local people a voice.

You will see that, as part of our Cabinet structure, we're allowing roles to be job-shared, bringing a range of expertise and perspective into the Cabinet.

We have created a specific Cabinet portfolio for tackling the Climate Emergency.

And we have introduced a new element to our decision making reports – every decision we take is being evaluated for its climate change impact.

This administration is committed to taking decisive action on climate change, and in doing so, enable and inspire change throughout the community.

As I said at our first Council meeting, we are committed to listening to and working with residents.

We are changing the culture of decision making by building a more open, outward looking and consultative Council.

There is an important role for PDS and, before major decisions are taken, Cabinet members will work with the cross party policy development and scrutiny panels, and with the broader population including specialist interest groups, through a range of consultative means.

Finally, just a reminder.

As we said we would, we will be having an independent review of the clean air zone proposal. The clean air zone must protect residents' health, but it must be fair to the least well-off. So we are committed to not, I repeat NOT, charging for private cars. We said this before the election, during the election and since the election, but I know that fears are being raised that this may change. It will not. We are not going to charge for private cars.'

The Chair invited each Cabinet Member to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their portfolios and their aspirations over the next four years.

Each Cabinet Member informed the meeting of the role in the Cabinet, their portfolios and services for which they were responsible, and the area of commitment which they would be dedicated to.

2 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rob Appleyard declared an other interest in item 14 'RULE 15 Loan Request from Bath Festivals' as his neighbour was one of Bath Festival's principal officers.

5 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

6 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 6 questions from Councillors.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]

7 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Neill Young (Moorland and Oldfield Clean Air – MOCA) read out a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes and available on the Council's website*] where he expressed his concerns on road safety and parking issues at Junction Road (B3111).

Councillor Joanna Wright said that she has been speaking with the relevant officers about road safety and parking issues not only at Junction Road, but also for other roads which were in a similar position. Councillor Wright said that it would not be possible to set traffic and safety improvements instantly, and that she would keep the residents up to date with the developments on this matter.

The Chair said that she would allow David Redgewell to address the Cabinet at a later point of the meeting.

NOTE: David Redgewell addressed the Cabinet after agenda item 13 Youth Justice Plan.

David Redgewell summed up his statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes and available on the Council's website*] by saying that the Council, together with the West of England Combined Authority, must deliver a Bus Strategy before finalising the Joint Spatial Plan.

The Chair thanked David Redgewell for his statement by saying that all comments would be taken on board by the relevant Cabinet Member. The Chair added that the funding had been set aside for the Bus Strategy.

8 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

9 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none.

10 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The report was noted by the Cabinet.

11 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2018/19

Councillor Richard Samuel thanked the Finance Team for their work in setting out the financial position of the Council.

Councillor Samuel introduced the report by saying that the document described the revenue and capital outturn for 2018/19, highlighting net revenue over budget position of £0.92m. The position has vastly improved through actions including a recruitment freeze that have been implemented during the financial year. The improvement has continued since the last report, which forecasted an over budget position of £3.21m based on monitoring for the year to December 2018, mainly due to improvements in income generation within Heritage Services, and a reduction in capital financing costs arising from the review of the capital programme and re-phasing of capital projects.

The 2018/19 approved budget has included the requirement for the delivery of £16.99m of savings. The final outturn position has included achievement of £13.58m or 80% of the savings target compared to 82% delivered in 2017/18. Savings items that were no longer deliverable in 2018/19 have been reviewed alongside other recurring budget pressures and have been incorporated into the financial planning assumptions for the 2019/20 budget. It was expected that delayed savings totalling £3.4m would be delivered in 2019/20.

Councillor Samuel highlighted the main areas of over/under budget; Adult Care, Health & Wellbeing (£0.983m under budget), Children & Young People (£1.761m over budget), Economy & Community Regeneration (£1.050m under budget), Transport & Environment (£0.813m over budget) and Finance & Efficiency (£0.058m under budget).

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the motion by saying that it was important to recognise that the Council finances have been suffering from continuous cuts in funding from the government.

Councillor Paul Crossley used this opportunity to highlight contributions from some of the services within his portfolio, in particular bereavement services, crematorium, cemetery, parks, libraries and heritage services.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

- 2.1 Note the revenue budget outturn over budget position of £0.92m for 2018/19 and the use of Revenue Budget Contingency to fund the overall shortfall;
- 2.2 Note that no carry forward requests are being put forward for approval;
- 2.3 Approve that all over budgets are written-off as an exception to the Budget Management Rules for 2018/19.
- 2.4 Note the revenue virements for 2018/19 reported for information in Appendix 2(i)
- 2.5 Note the reserve positions and the use of flexible capital receipts shown in paragraphs 3.14-3.16;
- 2.6 Note the outturn position of the 2018/19 capital programme in paragraph 3.22, and the funding outlined in paragraph 3.24;
- 2.7 Approve the capital rephasing and write-off of net underspends as listed in Appendix 3. This reflects the outturn spend position on projects against final budgets as detailed in Appendix 4(ii).

Councillor Richard Samuel said that this was a routine report. The Council's external borrowing as at 31st March 2019 totalled £226.1 million. The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31st March 2019 was £300.7 million. The difference from actual borrowing has reflected self-investment of reserves and the savings from avoiding new borrowing was greater than interest rate achieved on investments. The overall outturn for Interest and Capital Financing Budget was underspent of £741K towards overall outturn of the Council. This reflected external interest savings from re-phasing of capital spend.

Councillor Samuel added that overall position has deteriorated since March this year, and that political uncertainty in the country could have an adverse impact on financial markets which could affect interest rates and ratings.

Councillor Samuel concluded his statement by expressing his concern that Brexit discussions have completely taken over the Parliament, and that no other business has taken place, which could have severe negative impact on Local Authorities.

Councillor Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the motion.

Councillor Sarah Warren queried if any of the Council's investments were with the funds invested in fossil fuel companies.

Councillor Samuel responded that, as far as he was aware, there were no investments in fossil fuel companies. Nevertheless, Councillor Samuel would ask the officer to add that information in the next report.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

2.1 The Treasury Management Report to 31st March 2019, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted.

2.2 The Treasury Management Indicators to 31st March 2019 are noted.

13 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

Councillor Kevin Guy introduced the report by saying that Council has statutory duty to adopt the Youth Justice Plan although it would be a responsibility of the Youth Offending Service Management Board to ensure the delivery of the Plan. Councillor Guy invited the relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel to oversee the performance of the Youth Offending Service Management Board by inviting their members to one of their meetings.

Councillor Guy also said that youth crime was on the rise locally and nationally, and that there has been a serious issue of a small but increasing number of young people being groomed and exploited into offending (including via so-called 'county-lines').

Councillor Kevin Guy moved the recommendations.

Councillor Rob Appleyard seconded the motion by saying that the provision for the prevention of youth offending depends on national funding, which was now reduced

by 0.4%. Councillor Appleyard suggested that Police and Crime Commissioner Board should be more involved in supporting this work.

Councillor Paul Crossley said that in Southdown a number of young people who work with the Youth Offending Service undertook community reparation projects to help develop their understanding of the harm they have caused others and to make indirect amends. These projects included working with the Council Parks Department and community organisations to improve the environment and animal welfare.

Councillor Joanna Wright said that a venue such as Alice Park skateboard site was important for young people in terms of youth crime prevention.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet:

2.1 Agreed the Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales;

2.2 Adopted the Youth Justice Plan as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework that can be accommodated within the Council budget;

2.3 Noted that the Youth Offending Service Management Board is responsible for ensuring delivery and ask the relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel to oversee performance.

14 RULE 15 LOAN REQUEST FROM BATH FESTIVALS

The Chair informed the meeting that part of this report has been marked as confidential. However, the Cabinet would debate this matter in public without addressing any points from confidential paper. If any of the Cabinet Members felt that they had to raise the points from the confidential papers, then the Chair would ask the public to vacate the meeting.

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that Bath Festivals has approached the Council for a loan of £75,000 to enable them to continue to implement their new business plan and continue to operate. The organisation needed to raise £300,000 of which it had pledges for £210,000 through a Charitable Investment Bond, plus an offer of a loan of £25,000 from a Charitable Trust but only if Bath and North East Somerset Council would agree to provide a £75,000 loan. Following an assessment of their financial position, the Council's Director of Finance has outlined that a more sustainable way forward would be to offer a one-off grant with conditions to support the group through the next three years. The conditions would enable B&NES to assist with improving the Festival's forward programming.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the motion by saying that a one-off grant would be an investment into something that would be a benefit for the residents.

Councillor Paul Crossley welcomed the proposal and added that the first proposed condition in paragraph 3.3 of the report was quite important in terms of involving residents from all community groups. Council Crossley stressed that one-off grant, with conditions, would enable festival to become self-financed.

Councillor Tim Ball agreed with Councillor Crossley by saying that visiting audience would have to be wider, and the only way to achieve that would be in offering different music genre.

Councillor Richard Samuel welcomed the comment from Councillor Crossley that Bath Festivals should be self-financed and invited the Cabinet to agree with the additional recommendation which would read:

‘The Cabinet agree to receive an interim progress report from the Cabinet Member for Community Services by November 2019 to review the achievement of objectives set by the Council as a condition of the grant.’

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

2.1 Approve a conditional one-off grant of £75,000 to Bath Festivals from the Revenue Budget Contingency to ensure that the Council can assist with improving the community reach and accessibility for residents of the Bath Festivals Programme, as well as the profitability of the programme.

2.2 The conditions to be agreed by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

2.3 Receive an interim progress report from the Cabinet Member for Community Services by November 2019 to review the achievement of objectives set by the Council as a condition of the grant.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

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CABINET MEETING 10th July 2019

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Where the intention is to speak about an item on the Agenda, the speaker will be offered the option to speak near the beginning of the meeting or just before the Agenda item.

Public:

1. David Redgewell – Western Gateway & WECA Joint Local Transport Plan
2. Neill Young or Gemma Killick representing MOCA (Moorland and Oldfield Clean Air) - Residents parking and safety on the B3111

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Karen Walker
<p>On the 8 November 2018 this Council resolved to support the document 'Thriving in uncertain times' asking the Government to help us to help ourselves by enabling us to introduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A levy on short-term lettings • A local tourism levy <p>Also by introducing a series of technical changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amending the current Business Rate retention systems • Allowing us to levy fees for listed building applications <p>Could we please be given an update as to where we are now with these discussions and how the new administration plans to deliver what was agreed?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Richard Samuel
<p><i>Council in November 2018 adopted the "Thriving in Uncertain Times" document which sets out proposals to influence central government policy in ways designed to benefit our area. As well as those highlighted in the question itself, there were requests for further engagement with central government on other proposals such as the power to charge business rates for purpose built student accommodation. I am aware that the previous leader of the council worked hard to press these matters with central government, including meeting with ministers and circulating the document to partners. I understand however that none of the main policy requests set out in the document, including the powers to raise a levy on tourism and short-term lettings, have been agreed by ministers.</i></p> <p><i>On the technical proposal relating to business rates retention, the council was invited to take part in its consultation on Business Rate Retention Reform, and this the council has done. On the proposal to allow us to "levy fees for listed building applications", it is important to note that council amended this proposal to read "we will be engaging further on how best to compensate Bath & North East Somerset for these costs".</i></p> <p><i>With all of these financial matters, then, and as with all local authorities, we now await the detailed outcomes of the Fair Funding Review. We will of course continue to press for changes in government policy that benefit our area, whether that is to restore money directly to us through the Revenue Support Grant or identifying new sources of income where appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>We will of course continue to press for changes in government policy that benefit our area, whether that is to restore money directly to us through the Revenue Support Grant, identifying new sources of income where appropriate, or addressing the serious and systemic ongoing failure by national government to recognise and tackle the crisis</i></p>		

in social care funding.

Supplementary Question:

Can you please advise that you are driving these discussions through the Central Government, and in particular what is important and relevant for Bath and North East Somerset?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

It is an extremely volatile political environment that we are faced with in relation to the stability of the Central Government. Decisions on Adult Social Care suggested changes are still in waiting, 10 years and counting. There is a high likelihood that majority of the Government will change in the next few months, which will not be helpful in terms of the position where Local Governments are. Central Government has passed some of their responsibilities to Local Governments but failed to fund the same, and this is what is causing our deep underlining problem.

We will continue to voice our case via local MPs, but I am not overly optimistic to see the light at the end of the tunnel in this financial year, or even in year after.

M 02

Question from:

Councillor Karen Walker

Would you agree to release the answers to Cabinet Questions from Councillors say 3 hours before the start of a Cabinet meeting?

This would allow Councillors to decide whether they want to attend the Cabinet meeting to ask a supplementary question and time to prepare a supplementary question.

The present system gives insufficient time for Councillors to read and digest the information given in the responses. Because of this they are often unable to ask a considered supplementary question.

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

I agree that it would be helpful to have sight of Cabinet responses to questions in advance of the actual meeting. Whenever possible we will seek to release these at least an hour prior to the meeting. However, it is important to recognise that answers may be further amended if additional information or advice is received.

Supplementary Question:

Would you consider reviewing your response in 2 months, and consider benefits of releasing answers at least 3 hours before the meeting?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

I have moved meetings of the Cabinet to 6.30pm, and I believe that release of answers at least an hour before the meeting will give enough time for those asking questions to consider the answers, and prepare a supplementary question if they wish.

M 03	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
<p>1. Can you confirm whether the Realising Talent scheme, approved last week by WECA, will be implemented in time for the next year 10 cohort in the Autumn?</p> <p>2. When the Youth Service CiC is implemented will their service be commissioned to include any learning role for NEETs? Will we be commissioning outcomes for the parishes that are contributing for their own local services?</p> <p>3. Will the Council education arrangements moving forward be retained at Director level?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Kevin Guy
<p>1. <i>Work is underway to plan the implementation of the scheme with Bath College and other partners and whilst the timing of the approval means the scheme may not be fully operational by the start of the autumn term, it will be in place during the autumn and will be able to target the new year 10 cohort.</i></p> <p>2. <i>The existing specification for the service commissioned from Youth Connect will continue and does include statutory tracking and reporting on the education, training and employment status of young people. This information is used locally to inform targeted work to support young people not in education employment or training, to enable them to engage. The targeted services provided by Youth Connect through Council funding are available to vulnerable young people across the whole area. Where Parish Councils and others commission additional services, that will be for them to specify the outcomes they are seeking.</i></p> <p>3. <i>We value our remaining maintained schools and we will continue to support them to the highest standard possible. The Council's role in education has been changing over the last decade and 80% of local schools are now academies. Our services and our management arrangements will continue to evolve to ensure that the Council can deliver its statutory duties and seek to maintain our existing positive working relationships with multi-academy trusts, Teaching Schools and other partners in the education world, in order to promote educational excellence and the safeguarding of all of our children and young people. Unless government policy changes, the resources available for the Council to dedicate to this area of work will be limited, but there will continue to be a Director accountable for our education responsibilities. Any changes to management structures would be subject to appropriate engagement and formal staff consultation in line with Council policies.</i></p>		
M 04	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
<p>Can you confirm that given the potential for a Bath post-14 Skills academy on the BCA site, the council will ring fence adequate property to allow such a scheme to emerge?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Dine Romero
<p><i>There are a number of distinct issues behind this question:-</i></p>		

- *Does Bath and North East Somerset require a post-14 skills academy?*
- *How might that be established, funded and operated?*
- *Where is the most appropriate venue for such an academy?*
- *Is this the best use of the BCA site and/or what type of educational provision would be most appropriate for that site?*

I can confirm that the administration is committed to education provision on the former BCA site and we will be assessing the options for the future use of the site, taking into account professional advice on how those options can benefit both the local community and wider education needs of the area. We will be keen to engage with the community and with a range of educational providers before any decisions are made about the future of the site. It would be premature to commit to any specific schemes until the options appraisal and engagement work has been carried out.

We will be happy to explore the concept of a skills academy and the need for that alongside other education needs of the area.

Supplementary Question:

I want to make sure that the BCA site is committed to education, but education in wider terms because it is important to do that and continue to engage with the community. Also, will you engage with me as a Councillor who was a previous Cabinet Member for Children Services and has experience in this matter?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

I will always value your thoughts on this particular issue.

M 05

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

1. Following the Climate Change Emergency vote at the March Full Council Meeting in the previous Administration, and given that airplanes are a major contributor to pollution, what is the Cabinet going to do to work with North Somerset Council to stop the expansion of Bristol Airport, which will not only increase the number of planes over B&NES but increase the amount of traffic on our rural roads?
2. Can the Cabinet Member(s) confirm that, despite the potential impact on air quality, they have signed a contract to incinerate black bag waste rather than it being sent to landfill as has been the case in the past?

Answer from:

Councillors Sarah Warren and David Wood

1. *We have written to North Somerset Council raising this Council's concern that the expansion of Bristol airport is incompatible with the Climate Emergency declaration made on 14 March, requesting a meeting and urging them to take the Climate Emergency issue into account as a matter of urgency. We have also submitted a Local Planning Authority response to North Somerset's planning consultation on the proposed airport expansion on local highways grounds, in particular the impact on*

rural roads and communities, as we could only object on current planning policies. We will soon be laying out the Council's approach to the Climate Emergency Declaration in more detail, including the commitment to oppose Bristol Airport expansion.

2. Following a competitive procurement process under EU regulations, the West of England Waste Partnership, of which B&NES is a partner, is now in a position to award the waste treatment contract which is to come into effect 1st April 2020 when the current contract expires. B&NES Council has agreed the award and published its decision to do so on 4th June 2018. There is a detailed report on our website.

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1254>

The proposed contract awards are the result of a legal tender process and represent the best available residual waste management treatment processes available to the Council from April 2020 in meeting its zero waste and climate change aspirations. The report details the benefits of Energy Recovery (generating electricity) from waste rather than landfill which is the least favoured legal option to treat waste due to its environmental impacts. (in accordance with the EU Waste Framework Directive).

The new contracts will use plants that are within the West of England, minimising the environmental impacts associated with the transportation of waste and ensure that waste is wholly treated within the UK, rather than being transported to Europe (as happens now). Additional value will be recovered from waste by recovering both recyclates and electricity (which will be exported to the national grid), contributing to reducing the UK's reliance on fossil fuel for electricity production.

M 06

Question from:

Councillor Paul Myers

The growth in demand for children's services and SEND was underpinned by increasing the base budget by £2.3m last year; does the Cabinet Member support this approach should these pressures continue this year?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

This Council has an excellent track record in delivering good services for children and young people in need of help and protection and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, as evidenced in our positive Ofsted/CQC inspections. Like other Councils up and down the country we are also facing massive demand pressures in both of these services. We are keen to identify further efficiencies and improvements that can help mitigate the financial pressures locally but we believe that ultimately this is a nationwide issue which requires a national solution. The new cabinet member for children's services has already written to the Secretary of State for Education asking him to urgently consider what further steps he can take to press for additional resources both for schools and the local authority and offering to meet with him to provide further evidence of these pressures. We would encourage the Conservative group to reinforce those messages and use any influence you might have with national government to ensure that appropriate priority is given to addressing the multiple financial pressures on local councils, including demand for children's services, SEND, and adult care as well as pressing for a long overdue overhaul of local government funding more generally to enable us to better meet the needs of our residents and deliver our wide-ranging statutory responsibilities.

The Council's budget report for 2019/20 did not commit the Council to this funding and outlined the following:-

For 2019-20 the DFE have consulted with Local Authorities and issued guidance on the recording of pressures and balances in the DSG grant regime. In line with this guidance the accounting treatment of the support to the High Needs Budget will be changed. For 2019-20 the £2.3m will now be placed in a contingency reserve that may be utilised to fund any overspends at year end once all other options including underspends within other DSG Blocks and the contribution from schools have been utilised. The Council can therefore plan over time to reduce the contribution from its General Fund.

As part of the plan to limit the draw on the council funding for the pressures on the high needs block efficiencies from other elements of the DSG are being considered. In particular the introduction of a new banding process for pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) which will ensure that pupils entering the SEND system are assessed appropriately to ensure correct resources are allocated to schools and settings. In addition to this capital projects are planned to increase local provision to limit the funding that is paid to expensive independent providers and reduce the cost and travel time for children.

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Neill Young - Statement to cabinet / council on issues on Junction Road and environs

Brief Intro:

I live on Junction Rd and represent MOCA (Moorland and Oldfield Clean Air)

Safety issues:

Junction Road is a busy, narrow residential street in Oldfield Park that is classified as the B3111. As such, it attracts a high volume of traffic cutting through Bath from South to West. It is also home to the Heart of Bath surgery with 30,000 registered patients as well as Norland College and Oldfield Road nursery is located nearby. Being narrow with several sharp corners, Junction Road is unsuitable for the volume of traffic using it which includes very large articulated HGVs. Traffic regularly has to mount the pavement to pass other vehicles. This creates safety issues for residents whether walking or driving and has resulted in a large number of altercations with increasingly aggressive driving.

Parking issues:

Junction Road is also the first road outside of established RPZs, and it just outside the new Bear Flat RPZ. Therefore there is a very high volume of commuter parking, with parking for residents very scarce. Circling traffic looking for parking exacerbates safety issues, with dangerous parking commonplace. Roads inside the nearby RPZs, including Upper Oldfield Park and Bloomfield Avenue are under utilised, with many empty parking spaces. Houses on both these streets have private driveways meaning a resident parking is not widely used.

Residents of Junction Road and the environs would like to see:

- ** Declassification of the B3111 to reduce traffic volumes
- ** Measures to prevent driving on pavements
- ** Weight limit introduced to prevent large HGV's cutting through
- ** Residents Parking Zone introduced to stop commuter parking or restrictions on nearby zones lifted.

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There are areas which need further work especially as we have no coach strategy whereas coaches are an important part of the local tourism economy (Bristol is the Gateway to the South West and Bath its major tourism destination). More needs to be done on integrating buses, coaches, taxis, ferries and trains – there need to be well designed interchanges that are properly funded, accessible to all and provided with essential passenger facilities such as public toilets – a view shared by the transport Trade Unions. We also support more taxi ranks in Bath City Centre and want them to be accessible for the benefit of all but particularly the disabled.

On ticketing we are very pleased with the Freedom Ticket – it is valid on all operators and all bus and train services across the Greater Bristol travel to work area.

On Transport security there is still much more to be done and the WECA authorities, the Police and British Transport Police should ensure that we have a safe and secure public transport system where anti-social behaviour is quickly dealt with.

On rail we have already raised issues on Temple Meads station in particular but there is more to be done especially with disruptive drunken passengers passing through major stations including Temple Meads and Bath Spa. We need high quality public transport interchanges like at Bristol Parkway as it is a gateway for people travelling around North Bristol, going to Cheltenham Racecourse, Cardiff Millenium Stadium and eventually the Bristol Filton Arena.

The MetroWest schemes are now funded and we look forward to seeing progress on the suburban rail network. Work must be completed on Stapleton Road, Lawrence Hill and Parson Street stations to make them fully accessible and we ask Network Rail to engage and deliver on these projects together with a reopened Saltford station. We also believe that all suburban Rail stations should have CCTV to add an extra layer of security and safety. Finally we must see the completion of the electrification of the suburban rail network to allow more faster, better and cleaner trains all helping to improve air quality and attracting more people out of their cars.

The 14 HST sets stored at Long Marston should be reinstated for use on the GWR network to reduce overcrowding on both the Bristol - Weymouth and Cardiff Central - Portsmouth Harbour services in particular but also for sporting and other major events around the region including the Bridgwater Carnival and Bristol Harbour Festival.

Looking ahead we want to see the development of the light rail rapid transit corridors to Bristol Airport, Cribbs Causeway, the Midland Railway line to Bath via Mangotsfield and tram-trains on the rail line from Frome to Radstock and Shepton Mallet.

We would also welcome North Somerset Council joining WECA so there is a strong region wide voice – in fact the whole South West Region needs one body at a sub national level to make the case to government.