

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 13th October, 2022

Present:- **Councillors** Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Jess David, Sally Davis, Mark Elliott, Michael Evans, Andrew Furse, Kevin Guy, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Michelle O'Doherty, Lisa O'Brien, Bharat Pankhania, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Ryan Wills and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Neil Butters, Paul Crossley, Tom Davies, Douglas Deacon, Winston Duguid, Alan Hale, Sarah Moore, June Player, Richard Samuel, Karen Walker, Chris Watt and David Wood

[It was noted that Councillors who have been unable to attend Council meetings due to a higher risk of serious illness from covid infection are still covered by a dispensation.]

30 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

32 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

As the Vice Chair, Councillor Sarah Moore, was unable to attend the re-convened meeting, arrangements were made for a Vice-Chair for this meeting only.

On a motion from Councillor Vic Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Kevin Guy, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Lisa O'Brien stands in as Vice Chair for this meeting only.

33 MINUTES - 21ST JULY 2022

On a motion from Councillor Eleanor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Grant Johnson, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the minutes of 21st July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair explained that this meeting had been postponed from 15th September 2022 due to the period of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

He explained, that since taking on the role of Council Chair, he had been endeavouring to visit as many Town and Parish Councils as possible. He had been impressed by the diversity of activities he had come across. He extended the invitation to any other local Councils and invited them to contact the Chairs office to arrange.

35 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

36 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Caroline Heaton made a statement relating to the renewable energy motion on the agenda. She drew attention to this summer as highlighting the climate crisis and outlined how renewables provided an affordable, sustainable and non-polluting solution. Councillor Guy asked Ms Heaton if she agreed that it was important to also stand against fracking, to which she replied that she did. Councillor Pritchard asked if Ms Heaton considered there were any circumstances where nuclear power might be appropriate, to which she responded that she did not, as the dangers of disposing of long life toxic waste made it extremely unviable. The Chair thanked Ms Heaton for her statement which would be considered during the later motion debate.

Guy Norfolk made a statement relating to the renewable energy motion on the agenda. He outlined the case against nuclear power and made the case that non-proliferation treaties for weapons needed to extend to energy too. He explained that renewable options were affordable, safe and environmentally sound. The Chair thanked Mr Norfolk for his statement which would be considered during the later motion debate.

Dave Andrews made a statement relating to the renewable energy motion on the agenda. The full statement is available attached to the minutes. He explained that he was a former expert Advisor to the European Commission on power generation and provided a google search reference if more technical and factual information was needed. Councillor Guy asked Mr Andrews if he considered fracking was a solution to the energy crisis, to which he replied that we it's not something we yet know so it's a gamble, whereas we do know that if investment is made in a wind farm, the power is available in 5 years. The Chair thanked Mr Andrews for his statement which would be considered during the later motion debate.

Charlotte Howell-Jones made a statement relating to the renewable energy motion on the agenda. A copy is available on the Minute book. She focussed on the world we were leaving for our children and called for a different energy strategy to swiftly lower our emissions. She also said that the benefit to the economy of renewable sources (up to 9 times cheaper) was frequently overlooked by Government. The

Chair thanked Ms Howell-Jones for her statement which would be considered during the later motion debate.

37 B&NES LOCAL PLAN PARTIAL UPDATE: MAIN MODIFICATIONS

The Chair announced that there would be no debate on this item. He explained that, following the postponement of the meeting and the need to agree the modifications for public consultation, this item had been handled under Constitutional rule 3.4.3 – Chief Officers action so no Council decision was now sought. <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1768>.

38 CORPORATE AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered the annual report of the Corporate Audit Committee.

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

1. To note the Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee; and
2. To approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Audit Committee.

39 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered the annual report of the Standards Committee.

On a motion from Councillor Duncan Hounsell, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to note the work of the Standards Committee, as set out in the Annual report.

40 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE USE OF THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) & INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (IPA) 2016

The Council considered the annual report on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 200 (RIPA) & Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) 2016.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Shaun Hughes, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

1. To note the use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (RIPA/IPA) by the Council (Appendix 1); and

2. To note the changes to the Council's Policy on Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and Investigatory Powers Act 2016 ("the Policy").

41 PROPORTIONALITY REVIEW

The Council considered a report following a change in political balance in the Council, in line with the requirements of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. A revised proportionality table had been circulated following the despatch of the agenda.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

1. To note that Councillor Pritchard has agreed that Councillor Kumar will remain on the Climate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel as a Conservative member;
2. To further note that, following the departure of Councillor May from the Conservatives, Councillor Pritchard has offered up a place on the Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel to the Liberal Democrat Group, which has been allocated to Councillor May; and
3. To approve the revised political proportionality table.

42 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY: A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL WORKERS

Councillor Moss explained that this motion was put forward some time ago (before the meeting was postponed) and pointed out that paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 refer to the work done by Council officers during the pandemic, for which they should rightly be applauded. He further added that it's also right that they deserve a proper pay increase, especially in the light of rising inflation rates, from a central Government pay settlement. However, the motion in its generality is now no longer relevant due to recent events, so he explained that they were withdrawing the motion from this agenda.

43 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - BUS CUTS

On a motion from Councillor Matt McCabe, seconded by Councillor Sarah Warren, it was

RESOLVED that

Council:

1. Notes with dismay the cuts to essential, local bus routes in B&NES, including First bus service numbers 11, 12, 20, 42, and 171, and the timetable and route changes affecting many other local bus services, including the 178.

2. Notes that some mitigations to cuts have been announced, including re-routing some services, the new 379 route, and new operators stepping in on some routes.
3. Notes that the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is the regional transport authority responsible for planning bus services, in cooperation with local bus operators.
4. Notes B&NES Council's Transport Levy contribution to WECA is £5,194,000 in 2022-23, of which £780,000 is a contribution to supported bus services.
5. Notes that bus operating companies have been affected by falling passenger journeys, rising costs and driver shortages, and notes government financial support to bus companies was recently extended to March 2023.
6. Welcomes the recently announced investment in bus stop facilities and reduced fares on many services. Notes however that reduced fares do not apply to all routes and have led to some popular ticketing options being discontinued and others increasing in price.
7. Notes with disappointment that communication and consultation by the West of England Combined Authority around the future of local bus services with local authorities (who know their local area best) has been inadequate and would welcome clarity in terms to the profitability or loss making of certain routes and the sharing of data to improve the general provision.
8. Believes that a reliable, comprehensive and affordable bus service is essential to all B&NES residents to access shops, services, leisure, employment and education, and to help tackle air pollution, congestion and the Climate Emergency.
9. Believes that bus service cuts will have an enormously negative impact on B&NES communities, particularly affecting rural and disadvantaged communities, residents who have no access to private transport, and anyone trying to reach key sites such as schools and the RUH.
10. Believes that any gap in service provision will drive residents away from public transport permanently.
11. Believes that the whole bus system is fundamentally broken and requires radical reform to make it fit for the future.

Council therefore:

12. Opposes cuts to essential bus services in B&NES.

13. Calls on the WECA Mayor to:

- a. Continue negotiations with bus providers to retain and reinstate as many routes as possible and to prevent a gap in service provision.

- b. Urgently bring forward new and innovative solutions, such as demand-responsive services, to supplement core routes.
- c. Develop a co-ordinated, imaginative, long-term approach to public transport in our area, through bus franchising or equivalent across the West of England area.

14. Calls on the government to:

- a. Overhaul public transport funding models and provide a sustainable, long-term funding deal to provide certainty and stability.
- b. Take action to address the driver shortage with a national effort to recruit and train more drivers and measures to improve retention.
- c. Restore transport authorities' ability to directly intervene in the public transport market and bring bus services back under public control.

15. Asks the Leader to communicate Council's views to the WECA Mayor, government and local MPs.

[Notes:

1. *During debate, an amendment had been moved by Councillor Joanna Wright, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, to add a bullet point calling on the WECA Mayor to produce a bus network map. A copy of the amendment is attached to the record. This was lost on a vote of 7 Councillors in favour, 33 Councillors voting against and 5 abstentions.*
2. *A further amendment was moved during debate from Councillor Liz Hardman, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, to provide further detail to the motion. A copy of the amendment is attached to the record. This was lost on a vote of 8 Councillors voting in favour, 36 Councillors voting against and 1 abstention.*
3. *The above successful resolution was carried with 41 Councillors voting in favour and 5 abstentions.]*

44 MOTION FROM CLLR JOANNA WRIGHT - SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

The motion as set out in the agenda and copied below was moved by Councillor Joanna Wright, and seconded by Councillor Robin Moss;

Council Notes:

1. The arguments for nuclear energy appear to be contentious and therefore decisions to continue to invest in expensive, long term nuclear projects require further scrutiny.
2. New research suggests that the assumption that nuclear energy is necessary to form a baseload of energy provision is no longer valid; neither is it valid to pursue the development of nuclear energy purely on economic grounds.
3. Nuclear energy is not a clean and safe technology and still has the potential to cause considerable harm.
4. The current planning policy that governs renewable energy infrastructure, and onshore wind turbines in particular, needs to be amended to encourage investment in this area.

Council therefore:

1. Calls on the Government to review approvals given for Sizewell C and for investment into nuclear energy in general.
2. Calls on the Government to back investment in renewable energy and provide financing for this.
3. Calls on the government to change the National Planning Policy on Solar Panels and Wind Turbines.
4. Requests that the Leader write to the Secretary of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and local MPs to inform them of the council's position.

The eventual decision, on an amendment from Councillor Matt McCabe, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard was that;

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the following meeting, in order for recent related developments to be taken into account and incorporated if deemed appropriate. (The aspiration being for this to be a cross party motion).

[Notes;

1. *During debate, a proposed amendment from Councillor Alastair Singleton was moved introducing the subject of fracking and Oil & Gas exploration. A copy of the amendment has been attached to the record. This was challenged by Councillor Wright, under Constitutional rule 3.1.27 and following advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Chair deemed this proposed amendment to be invalid.*
2. *The above successful amendment to defer this item was, following further advice from the Monitoring Officer, deemed to be valid.*
3. *A proposal to move to the vote was moved by Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, and carried by a majority of Members standing.*
4. *The successful substantive was carried with 43 Councillors voting in favour, 1 Councillor voting against and 1 Councillor abstaining.]*

45 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS COUNCILLORS

There were no items from Councillors.

The meeting ended at 8.37 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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COUNCIL MEETING 13th OCTOBER 2022

STATEMENTS

Public statements (item 7)

- David Redgewell - Bus Service & Public Transport cuts (*attached*)
[Mr Redgewell did not attend the meeting.]
- Caroline Heaton - Renewable Energy
- Guy Norfolk - Renewable Energy
- Dave Andrews - Renewable Energy (*attached*)
- Charlotte Howell-Jones - Renewable Energy (*attached*)

David Redgewell statement

We are very concerned about the bus service cuts in the Greater Bristol and Bath city region from 9th October 2022.

We will see some of the deepest bus services cuts in South West England and in the country.

In Bath and North Somerset council area and south Bristol major bus links are to be lost.

178 Radstock ,Westfield, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Timbury, Marksbury, Keynsham, Brislington, Arnos vale, Bristol Temple meads station, Bristol bus and coach station.

This is major loss to the Somer valley. Left with no connection to from Somerset to Keynsham and Bristol city centre for education need get to work food shopping and leisure facilities.

Timsbury and Marksbury will be left without bus services to Keynsham, Brislington and Bristol city centre.

Services 82 Radstock Westfield MidSomer Norton Paulton Town services.

Services 20 in South Bath circle .

Services 22 Twerton to Bath university Campus .

Services 11 Bath spa bus station to Bathampton service .

Service 12 Bath spa to Haycombe cemetery.

Part replacement by services 5 Bath bus and coach station to Twerton and Southdown.

Services 11 .

Does have a limited replacement services with services D1.

Bath spa bus and coach station to Bathampton main road Limpley stoke, Winsley, Bradford on Avon Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster for Salisbury.

Services 42 is withdrawn

Odd Down park and ride Twerton and the RUH Hospital.

Services 4 Odd Down park and ride to city centre Bath spa bus and coach station to Royal university Hospital.

Royal United hospital Trust will not fund this bus service. £65 000 a Year

Services are funded in Bristol by University Hospitals Bristol and Weston Trust

Gloucester and Cheltenham hospital link is funding by the Gloucestershire hospital Hospital Trust.

Services 3 Bath bus and coach station to Batheaston and Bathford is not serving the Elmhurst estate

Services 516 Whitchurch estate to Hengrove hospital and Knowle has been withdrawn with the failure of Hct group

515 Stockwood, Whitchurch, Hengrove Hospital, Imperial park

Services 55 Whitchurch, Hengrove, Dundry, Bristol Airport.

Services 54 Bristol Airport to Yatton station and Clevedon

53 Clevedon town service.

We also have the loss of the important Transport link. Wells bus and coach station to Cheddar, Axbridge, Winscombe, Banwell, Locking Weston bus and coach station

Services 36 Bristol city centre to St Anne's park, Brislington, Knowle, Hengrove hospital are used by Banes residents accessing South Bristol hospital.

Services D2 Bath spa bus and coach station, Midford Norton st Phillips, Rode and Beckington.

Evening service is withdrawn.

Living village without an evening bus services

This is Somerset County Council and West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority service.

Sunday services is continuing with bus operators recovery grant.

Passengers will have to use the train from Frome station to Bath spa bus and coach station so through tickets need to be promoted.

Plus bus for bus rail ticketing need promotion.

As is the Avon rider ,Bath rider Weston super mare rider and Bristol rider .

Family disabled families young people 2 people and Disabled rail cards and coach cards

On Bus and coach stations

Bristol bus and coach station has all it realtime information systems not working

Bath spa bus and coach station.

Need to realtime information systems for bus coach and rail services repaired

The pigeons are attracting the system

We need the pigeons nets repaired and the travel centre reopened as A Tourist information offices.

The loss of bus services across the West of England Mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvements plan area will leave many communities without public transport.

We would ask for special meeting of the West of England Mayoral combined Authority committee and West of England joint committee and scrutiny commission.

We have loss major services in South Gloucestershire council and Great Bristol area.

505 Long Ashton park and ride, Clifton, Cotham Southmead hospital bus station

506 Bristol city centre, Lawrence hill Easton Eastville Horfield.

Bristol Southmead hospital.

52 South Bristol to Bristol city centre.

Y3, y4 Bristol bus and coach station to yate via Eastville park , Stapleton Frenchay, Hambroke, Winterbourne, Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heath and Yate bus station.

We need to make sure all these first group plc bus route and former Hct group buses services should be tendered by West of England Mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council

This is why a special West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and North Somerset joint committee should be called urgently. And discussion with smaller bus operators to gap fill the services.

Faresaver buses Abus, Berkeley coaches CTC coaches, Applegate coaches centurion coaches ,coachstyle coaches

These smaller companies with A Peter may be able to replace some bus services.

If we cannot get Network coverage in Greater Bristol and Bath city region and North Somerset council area, we may need to ask the Mayor Dan Norris of the West of England Mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

Which with the LEP needs to be a full member of the West of England Mayoral combined transport Authority.

David Redgewell South west transport Network and Railfuture Severnside.

Ian Beckey Gloucestershire catch the bus service campaign.

Somerset catch the bus service campaign

Dave Andrews statement

It is now an indisputable fact that renewables are:

- a) perfectly capable of providing continuous and reliable heat and power even during winter periods of zero wind and low solar (renewable droughts) by using already known and proven, inexpensive storage and backup techniques. This can be for weeks-long winter periods of low wind and dark days that can occur in winter.
- b) that the total cost is cheaper than either fossil fuel or nuclear energy even before the recent dramatic price rises.
- c) renewables can be built far more quickly than nuclear energy and are more reliable.

<https://claverton-energy.com/baseload-power-generators-such-as-nuclear-power-plant-are-not-needed-in-an-all-renewable-future-and-their-use-would-simply-increase-costs.html>

The evidence is now clear that we are in a global heating catastrophe, such as heatwaves, floods, storms, rising sea levels, people simply dying of heat stroke etc, first predicted by the last great polymath Alexander von Humboldt in 1799; the first scientific quantification put forward by Joseph Fourier, a French mathematician and physicist in 1824, and with greater refinement occurring as the years passed. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2337002-were-on-course-to-hit-six-climate-tipping-points-in-the-2030s/>

Convincing scientific evidence was put forward in the 1970s – The famous MIT study “The Limits To Growth” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Limits_to_Growth predicted the climate crisis starting in the 1990s. The oil company’s private research also in the 1970s confirmed the dire MIT predictions about the fossil fuel-induced climate crisis, but they suppressed they not only suppressed the evidence but ever since have funded £Billions to climate disinformation groups and lobbying groups, delaying both the acceptance of climate change, the introduction of renewables and insulating our houses properly, the worst in Europe all of which would reduce fossil fuel usage.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/exxon-knew-about-climate-change-almost-40-years-ago/>

The fact is that renewable electricity is was significantly cheaper than fossil fuel or nuclear electricity, even before the present crisis, and can be built much more quickly: – 10 – 20 years for nuclear, 5 years for a wind farm, and this is the transition we must make at breakneck speed if we are to avoid worldwide the collapse of food production, starvation, flooding of low-lying inhabited land and the resulting migrations this will cause. A thousand a day across the Channel will be nothing as to what could happen.

We must ignore the blocks to renewable energy politically created by fossil fuel companies and their lobbyists and get on building wind and solar, improving insulation, and other infrastructure as fast as possible, and this will not cost us anything in the long run, as the return on investment is far greater than the actual costs avoided.

Finally, to repeat, renewables, wind, and solar are perfectly capable of providing reliable power for weeks when there is no wind or now solar. This is done using known, proven, and inexpensive storage and backup generation techniques to cover periods of low wind and solar. <https://claverton-energy.com/baseload-power-generators-such-as-nuclear-power-plant-are-not-needed-in-an-all-renewable-future-and-their-use-would-simply-increase-costs.html>

Charlotte Howell-Jones statement

RE: Motion to Full council - Support Renewable Energy vs Nuclear

Statement summary

The answers to the cost of living / energy crisis and the climate crisis go hand in hand. We require significant investment in clean, home grown renewable energy, which is now x9 cheaper than other non renewable energy options, and much faster to get to market.

I would like to speak as a worried Mum, but also as a concerned citizen for the thousands of families across the country who will be making difficult decisions this winter, as they struggle to pay their astronomical energy bills; and for the families across the globe already facing the dire impacts of climate change.

The energy bills have now been capped, but at a level many families will not be able to pay. And those on a meter will be impacted the greatest.

It is important we fix the broken energy system in the UK fast, but it's imperative we get this right, with people and the planet at the heart of every new strategy. And that means home-grown renewable energy. Not Nuclear. And certainly not fracking and 140 new oil and gas fields....

POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY TABLE – REVISED OCTOBER 2022

| Compulsory cumulative proportionality | Number on Committee | Liberal Democrat (36) 61% | Conservative (10) 17% | Independent (6) 10% | Labour (5) 8% | Green (1) 2% | Ind (no party PM) (1) 2% | Chair Allocation | Vice Chair Allocation | Co-opted members |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Corporate PD&S | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | CON | LD | |
| Climate Emergency & Sustainability PD&S | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | IND | LD | |
| Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing PD&S | 9 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | CON | LD | 4 |
| Planning Committee | 10 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | LD | | |
| Corporate Audit Committee | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1* | LD | | 1 |
| Avon Pension Fund Committee | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1* | 1 | 0 | 0 | LD | LD | 12 voting, 3 non voting |
| Employment Committee | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | LD | | |
| Standards Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | LD | | 6 non voting |
| TOTALS | 55 | 34 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | |

* Cllr Myers has offered his Corporate Audit Cttee place to Conservative group (so Cllr Brian Simmons can retain his seat)

* Independent Group have agreed that Cllr May (as new LD Member) can continue to fill their Ind group place on Avon Pension Fund Committee

| Compulsory individual proportionality | No. on Cttee | LD | Cons | Ind | Lab | Green | Ind (no party PM) 2% | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Licensing Sub-Committee | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | LD | | |
| Optional proportionality | | | | | | | | | | |
| Licensing Committee | 11 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | LD | | |
| Fixed memberships | | | | | | | | | | |
| WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| WECA Audit Committee | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Public Health & Wellbeing Board | 2 | 2 (appropriate Cabinet Members) | 1 (observer) | 1 (observer) | 1 (observer) | | | Shared between CM & CCG Chair | | |
| Pensions Investment panel | 3 (Chair & Vice of APF) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 4 |
| Restructuring Implementation Committee | 4 | Group Leader | Group Leader | Group Leader | Group Leader | | | | | |
| Charitable Trust Board * | 5 | 1 Cab Mem + 2 | 1* | | | | 1* | | | |
| Alice Park Trust * | 5 | 3 | 1* | | | | 1* (Ward member) | | | 2 |

- CTB - 5 councillors (to include Cabinet member responsible for Community Services) plus at least 1 Councillor who is not a member of controlling group but appointed by controlling group, plus 3 others). *LD Group (June 2021) have offered that Cllr Wright can keep her CTB & APT places, and Cllr Davis keep hers.
- APT – 3 Councillors from the membership of the Charitable Trust Board (*excluding the Cab Member*) + the 2 Ward members for Lambridge as voting members + 2 co-opted non-voting members.

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting 13 October 2022

Liberal Democrat Motion on Bus Service Cuts

Amendment from Cllr Joanna Wright

Council:

1. Notes with dismay the cuts to essential, local bus routes in B&NES, including First bus service numbers 11, 12, 20, 42, and 171, and the timetable and route changes affecting many other local bus services, including the 178.
2. Notes that some mitigations to cuts have been announced, including re-routing some services, the new 379 route, and new operators stepping in on some routes.
3. Notes that the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is the regional transport authority responsible for planning bus services, in cooperation with local bus operators.
4. Notes B&NES Council's Transport Levy contribution to WECA is £5,194,000 in 2022-23, of which £780,000 is a contribution to supported bus services.
5. Notes that bus operating companies have been affected by falling passenger journeys, rising costs and driver shortages, and notes government financial support to bus companies was recently extended to March 2023.
6. Welcomes the recently announced investment in bus stop facilities and reduced fares on many services. Notes however that reduced fares do not apply to all routes and have led to some popular ticketing options being discontinued and others increasing in price.
7. Notes with disappointment that communication and consultation by the West of England Combined Authority around the future of local bus services with local authorities (who know their local area best) has been inadequate and would welcome clarity in terms to the profitability or loss making of certain routes and the sharing of data to improve the general provision.
8. Believes that a reliable, comprehensive and affordable bus service is essential to all B&NES residents to access shops, services, leisure, employment and education, and to help tackle air pollution, congestion and the Climate Emergency.
9. Believes that bus service cuts will have an enormously negative impact on B&NES communities, particularly affecting rural and disadvantaged communities, residents who have no access to private transport, and anyone trying to reach key sites such as schools and the RUH.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

10. Believes that any gap in service provision will drive residents away from public transport permanently.
11. Believes that the whole bus system is fundamentally broken and requires radical reform to make it fit for the future.

Council therefore:

12. Opposes cuts to essential bus services in B&NES.
13. Calls on the WECA Mayor to:
 - a. Continue negotiations with bus providers to retain and reinstate as many routes as possible and to prevent a gap in service provision.
 - b. Urgently bring forward new and innovative solutions, such as demand-responsive services, to supplement core routes.
 - c. Develop a co-ordinated, imaginative, long-term approach to public transport in our area, through bus franchising or equivalent across the West of England area.
 - d. Produce a detailed strategic bus network map for the west of England, in consultation with unitary authorities, this bus network map will allow unitary authorities within the region to implement this network map in their Local Plans and bid for appropriate funding
14. Calls on the government to:
 - a. Overhaul public transport funding models and provide a sustainable, long-term funding deal to provide certainty and stability.
 - b. Take action to address the driver shortage with a national effort to recruit and train more drivers and measures to improve retention.
 - c. Restore transport authorities' ability to directly intervene in the public transport market and bring bus services back under public control.
15. Asks the Leader to communicate Council's views to the WECA Mayor, government and local MPs.

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Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting **13 October 2022**

Labour adts to LD bus motion 13 Oct 22 1736 Liz Hardman; R Moss

Yellow adts – LD morning

Lab in Green and italics – inc crossings out.

Liberal Democrat Motion on Bus Service Cuts

To be proposed by Councillor Matt McCabe

Council:

1. Notes with dismay the ~~forthcoming~~ cuts to essential, local bus routes in B&NES, including First bus service numbers 11, 12, 20, ~~22~~, 42, ~~82~~, and 171 ~~and 178~~, and the timetable and route changes affecting many other local bus services, ~~including the 178~~.
2. Notes that some mitigations to ~~these~~ cuts have been ~~announced proposed~~, including re-routing some services, ~~the new 379 route and a proposed new service operating between Bristol and Bath via Pensford, Clutton, Paulton, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Peasedown, and new operators stepping in on some routes~~.
3. Notes that the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is the regional transport authority responsible for planning bus services, in cooperation with local bus operators.
4. Notes B&NES Council's Transport Levy contribution to WECA is £5,194,000 in 2022-23, of which £780,000 is a contribution to supported bus services. ~~and notes that this makes up a total £20.49 per passenger of transport levy compared to £67.58 in Greater Manchester~~.
5. Notes that bus operating companies have been affected by falling passenger ~~journeys numbers~~, rising costs and driver shortages, and notes government financial support to bus companies was recently extended to March 2023.
6. ~~Welcomes the recently announced investment in bus stop facilities and reduced fares on many services. Notes however that reduced fares do not apply to all *privately-run* routes and have led to some popular ticketing options being discontinued and others increasing in price.~~
7. ~~DELETE ALL 7; Notes that the Metro Mayor engaged in a series of public meetings on buses across the whole region~~. Notes with disappointment that communication and consultation ~~by the West of England Combined Authority around the future of local bus services with local authorities (who know their local area best)~~ has been inadequate and would welcome clarity in terms to

~~the profitability or loss making of certain routes and the sharing of data to improve the general provision.~~

8. Believes that a reliable, comprehensive and affordable bus service is essential to all B&NES residents to access shops, services, leisure, employment and education, and to help tackle air pollution, congestion and the Climate Emergency.
9. Believes that bus service cuts will have an enormously negative impact on B&NES communities, particularly affecting rural and disadvantaged communities, residents who have no access to private transport, and anyone trying to reach key sites such as schools and the RUH.
10. Believes that any gap in service provision **will could** drive residents away from public transport permanently.
11. Believes that the ***whole bus system is fundamentally crucial to ending rural isolation should be made*** fit for the future.

Council therefore:

12. Opposes cuts to essential bus services in B&NES.
13. ***Recognises that it is the role of the*** WECA Mayor to:
 - a. Continue negotiations with bus providers to **retain and reinstate save** as many routes as possible and to prevent a gap in service provision.
 - b. Urgently bring forward new and innovative solutions, such as demand-responsive services, to supplement core routes.
 - c. Develop a co-ordinated, imaginative, long-term approach to public transport in our area, through bus franchising or equivalent across the West of England area.
14. ***Calls on the Leader of this Council to positively engage in constructive leadership to support the Combined Authority to deliver the above.***
15. Calls on the government to:
 - a. Overhaul public transport funding models and provide a sustainable, long-term funding deal to provide certainty and stability.
 - b. Take action to address the driver shortage with a national effort to recruit and train more drivers and measures to improve retention.
 - c. Restore transport authorities' ability to directly intervene in the public transport market and bring bus services back under public control.
16. Asks the Leader to communicate Council's views to the WECA Mayor, government and local MPs.

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting 13 October 2022

Liberal Democrat Amendment to Renewable Energy motion

To be proposed by Cllr Alastair Singleton

Green Party Motion on the negative environmental and fiscal impacts on the impact of increasing taxation on the inhabitants of B&NES as a result of the Government's decision to raise the moratorium on fracking in England, to expedite exploitation of remaining oil and gas reserves in the North Sea and its continued support and funding of nuclear power in preference to cleaner, cheaper and more quickly available renewable energy generation.

Council Notes:

1. The Government's stated intention to lift the moratorium on shale gas exploration – 'fracking' – in direct contravention of the Conservative Party's manifesto for the 2019 General Election. The arguments for nuclear energy appear to be contentious and therefore decisions to continue to invest in expensive, long term nuclear projects require further scrutiny.
2. The Government's further announced intention to intensify efforts to explore for new and exploit existing oil and gas resources in the North Sea, which defies advice from the Government's Climate Change Committee and puts at risk its legal obligation to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
3. The Government's stated commitment to fund new nuclear power stations, starting with Sizewell C, at significant cost to the taxpayer, and with many years of delay before any electricity can be produced.
4. That new research suggests that the assumption that nuclear energy is necessary to form a baseload of energy provision is no longer valid, that the arguments in favour of nuclear energy are contentious and that a compelling economic case has yet to be made for further nuclear energy development. neither is it valid to pursue the development of nuclear energy purely on economic grounds.
5. That research further indicates that renewable energy capacity, including solar, wind, geothermal and tidal, is now cheaper and faster to deliver than either hydrocarbon or nuclear derived energy. Nuclear energy is not a clean and safe technology and still has the potential to cause considerable harm.
6. The current planning policy that governs renewable energy infrastructure, and onshore wind turbines in particular, needs to be amended to encourage investment in this area.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

Council therefore:

1. Restates its 2018 position that it opposes fracking within B&NES and neighbouring areas, as both unnecessary and potentially highly injurious to the local environment, including Bath's unique and protected hot springs.
2. Calls on the Government to reconsider its policies on both shale gas exploitation and oil and gas exploration.
3. Calls on the Government to review approvals given for Sizewell C and for investment into nuclear energy in general.
4. Calls on the Government to back investment in renewable energy and provide financing directly for this.
5. Calls on the government to change the National Planning Policy on Solar Panels and onshore Wind Turbines to facilitate their development where there is popular support.
6. Requests that the Leader write to the Secretary of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and local MPs to inform them of the council's position.

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