

Wednesday, 10th November, 2021

Present:

Councillor Kevin Guy	Leader of the Council, Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing
Councillor Richard Samuel	Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources
Councillor Sarah Warren	Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel
Councillor David Wood	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Tom Davies	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Alison Born	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Manda Rigby	Cabinet Member for Transport

67 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Guy, welcomed everyone watching and participating at the virtual Cabinet meeting. The Chair made the following statement:

“Due to rise in Covid numbers, and to a desire to retain a level of social distancing at Council meetings, we are holding this ‘informal’ virtual Cabinet meeting to enable Cabinet, Councillors and members of the public to take part. This virtual meeting will be conducted in the normal manner but, as any decisions made will not be legally enforceable, they will be formally made at the physically reduced, quorate decision-making meeting tomorrow on 11th November 2021. We will review this approach for any future Cabinet meetings, in line with government and health guidance at that time.”

The Chair asked each of the Cabinet Members to introduce themselves.

The Chair thanked the Democratic Services Officer Jack Latkovic for his work with the Council.

68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

70 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

71 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 31 questions from Councillors and 2 questions from a member of the public.

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

72 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Graham Pristo made a statement regarding transport matters and the city's economy.

Martin Grixoni made a statement regarding Bath business challenges. *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes on the Council's website]*

Lynda Lloyd made a statement regarding Blue Badge access to the City Centre *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes on the Council's website]*

Bob Goodman made a statement regarding environmental issues *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes on the Council's website]*

David Redgewell made a statement regarding transport and planning *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes on the Council's website]*

Councillor Jackson made a statement regarding the SACRE syllabus *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes on the Council's website]*

Councillor Pritchard in a statement regarding access issues in the city centre.

Supplementary Information

73 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend the approval of the minutes of 9th September 2021 to Cabinet on 11th November 2021.

74 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

75 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none.

76 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Cabinet on 11th November 2021 note the report.

77 VIRGIN CARE CONTRACT EXTENSION - OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Councillor Alison Born introduced the report and made the following statement:

“This report sets out an options appraisal to help the Council and CCG, as joint commissioners, decide whether they wish to extend the Virgin Care contract for the delivery of integrated health care, social care and public health services in B&NES. By way of background, the contract for community health and Care services for Bath and North East Somerset was awarded to Virgin Care in 2016 at the end of a comprehensive engagement and commissioning process known as “Your Care Your Way”.

The contract was for an initial 7 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years. A decision regarding the extension must be made and communicated to Virgin Care by the end of March 2022. The decision to extend is a joint one with the CCG as it is a shared contract. The potential extension will take the term of the contract up to the end of March 2027.

A review of the services provided by Virgin Care has been undertaken and that information, together with an evaluation of the current health and social care landscape has informed the detailed options appraisal required for the Cabinet and the CCG Board to make an informed decision. The CCG is also meeting this week to consider the options paper.

The 3 options considered are:

Option 1 – To extend the contract with no changes

Option 2 – To not extend the contract

Option 3 – To extend the contract with the statutory functions of CHC and Adult Safeguarding returning to the CCG and the Council

Option 3 is recommended for the following reasons:

- Virgin Care has generally provided good services, more recently (in the context of the pandemic) in very challenging circumstances and has worked constructively with partners across health and social care.*
- It has also made some significant improvements to services since it took on the community contract in 2017, examples include the introduction of electronic care records, developments within stroke services and district nursing.*

- *This is a particularly challenging time for health and social care and services must focus on reform and recovery from the pandemic.*
- *NHS commissioning is currently transitioning to the new integrated care arrangements and further disruption within provider services would be destabilising at this time. It should be done if it is necessary, but it isn't. It is also unlikely that there will be other providers with the right experience able to take this work on within the timescale required.*
- *We must keep the needs of service users foremost in our minds and It makes most sense at this time to opt for stability and continuity by extending the contract for a further 3 years with the withdrawal of the statutory services and with the requirement that Virgin Care makes improvements in some areas such as waiting times, length of stay and in the provision of the reablement service.*

These 3 options have been considered and discussed by the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny panel, where option 3 received unanimous, cross - party support. The contract extension allows time for a very thorough process to determine the services that will be commissioned in 2027 and that work will begin once this decision is made”.

Councillor Alison Born moved the recommendations.

Councillor Richard Samuel seconded the motion and made the following points:

“The original contract signed in 2017/18 allowed for a contract extension of three years. Extension subject to satisfactory review on performance. Seven years expires in 2023/24 and the decision to extend or otherwise has to be made in sufficient time to allow for contract retendering were that to be the preferred option. That point is now as Virgin have, under the contract, to be given 24 months’ notice of that decision. My understanding is that performance has been satisfactory. In advancing the recommendation other factors are also relevant for the council although not strictly part of the decision. It will have escaped no-one’s notice that the council’s revenue budget is under considerable pressure due to covid and that there is a considerable cost to a retender. It is also the case that major changes in the arrangements for adult social care are in the pipeline. In these circumstances it is my view that a retender exercise would place additional demands on already stretched officer capacity and that given the acceptable performance on this contract it is more prudent to extend it than to embark on a costly tender process. I therefore second the recommendations in this report accordingly”.

Councillor Dine Romero stated that Virgin Care have been responsible for a wide range of services since 2017 including the school immunisation programme. They have stepped up to the plate during the pandemic. Councillor Romero added that she supported the motion and did not think it was the time to make extreme changes.

RESOLVED (unanimously) to recommend that the Cabinet on 11th November 2021:

- 1.1 Approve Option 3 - Extend the contract term for the 3 year period (until 31st March 2027) but with identified services removed from block contract and/or improvement trajectories for identified services and delegate to Suzanne Westhead, Director Adult Social Care (DASS) in consultation with Cllr Born, Member for Adult Services authority to serve notice to extend the contract once assured that the total price for the contract as varied is agreed and affordable.
- 1.2 Note that an extra-ordinary B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BSWCCG) Governing Body meeting has been convened for a decision to be taken on 11th November 2021, to ensure a joint decision is taken in public on the same day, for the recommendation of Option 3 - Extend the contract term for the 3 year period (until 31st March 2027) but with identified services removed from block contract and/or improvement trajectories for identified services.
- 1.3 Note the following risks:
- Contractual deadline of 31st March 2022 to inform Virgin Care of the decision to extend the contract for the 3 year term or not – limited time for slippage in the decision making process.
 - Consideration of the current contractual interdependencies between health care and social care commissioning and service delivery. The Council and CCG have a long history of integrated commissioning arrangements with a number of services which have jointly agreed service specifications to deliver integrated services, for example reablement.
 - As joint commissioners both B&NES Council and BSWCCG must agree on the option that is decided upon – if an agreement cannot be reached this will cause further delay in the decision making process.

78 COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME

Councillor Tom Davies introduced the report and made the following statement:

“In 2019 we all made a commitment to the residents of Bath & North East Somerset - a commitment that we as a LibDem administration would build the first general needs Council Houses in our area for a generation.

Tonight, we as a Cabinet are here to deliver on this commitment as we approve the first phase of this new Council House building programme and I am delighted to be here proposing this paper.

And as we sit here tonight considering this item, never has the need for new Council Houses been so great. As an area with some of the least affordable housing in the country, thousands of our local residents are currently on our social housing waiting list, hundreds of them in the categories of highest need.

As the paper in front of us shows - the Council has and will continue to play a key role in enabling new social and affordable housing to be built and delivered in our area by developers including our local housing association partners. With the Council playing this enabling role, nearly 2,000 affordable homes have been delivered in our area over the last ten years. Furthermore the Council is already working to deliver a programme of around 50 units of accommodation including supported housing and shared-ownership housing.

But the scale of the need means that it is vital that the Council now plays a new role and takes on a new responsibility - a role in which it utilises some of its own assets and becomes responsible for directly delivering and owning new general needs Council Houses for social rent for our residents. This is what we are here tonight as a Cabinet to approve.

And people listening tonight should be under no illusion as to the scale of this LibDem administration's ambition for the role the Council can play in this area.

Tonight we consider the first 58 general needs homes across eight sites, but over the coming months we will be developing plans for the delivery of hundreds of additional Council Houses in our area over the coming years.

Under the Liberal Democrats, this Council will become a leading provider of social housing in our area - housing of which we are proud - housing of high quality and which, in its design, construction and on-going maintenance, meets our obligations under the ecological and climate emergency declarations which we have made.

And I would also like to stress that whilst we have been advised that due to aspects of commercial confidentiality we have had to keep the specific details of the sites being considered out of the public papers for tonight's Cabinet, any Councillor who wishes to see the list of proposed sites, need only contact the Head of Housing and he will happily arrange to meet with them to share this information. Furthermore, I would stress that any site development will of course be subject to the full planning application process and associated public engagement.

Believe me - we are proud of our commitment to deliver Council houses and have nothing to hide.

Finally, I would like to extend a particular thank you to the officers and my cabinet colleagues who have worked tirelessly to bring us to this stage where we are about to approve this first phase of general needs Council Houses.

Specifically I would like to say thank you to Graham Sabourn, Nick Plumley, Simon Martin and Sophie Broadfield and to my Cabinet colleagues, a particular thank you goes to Cllr Ball who started this work and to Cllr Samuel who has supported me throughout the development of this programme and who is seconding this paper.

And so, on that note, I would like to move this paper and call upon my colleagues to agree to the recommendations as we, together, deliver the first Council Houses in our area for a generation".

Councillor Tom Davies moved the recommendations.

Councillor Richard Samuel seconded the motion and made the following points:

"The Conservatives broke the long-standing cross-party consensus on building council housing in the 1980s when they introduced increasingly more punitive

finance regimes that militated against councils holding their own stock and introduced the right to buy. This ideological policy was born from political desires to downgrade the role of local government in the provision of low-cost social housing for rent. This harsh finance regime led to well over a hundred councils transferring their stock to housing associations where more benign finance arrangements applied. This council was one of the many that made that decision in the 1990s. In the years that have followed we have seen a steady but inexorable decline in the building of truly affordable homes by social landlords as both labour and conservative governments progressively eroded the ability of councils to return to the building of new council housing. Even today the financial arrangements make it very hard to build new council housing.

So, it is against this background that Liberal Democrats set out in 2019 to chart a different course and begin to build new council housing against for the first time in a generation. This has been an exceptionally difficult path to navigate because hardly any stock transfer councils have done this. New ground is being broken. In the past two and half years delays due to covid and the market turbulence caused by Brexit has seriously impacted on the work programme.

But today we are at a new dawn when this council starts to provide new homes directly itself for the most needy in society. It is to be hoped that other council groups get behind this policy in the coming years as the stock grows.

I will be making provision for this new programme in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 capital budgets to ensure that once again this council becomes the proud provider of social homes for local residents at rents they can afford and with the security that they deserve.

Chair I am proud to second this report, and I commend all those who have worked with my colleague Councillor Davies to make it a reality”.

Councillor Tim Ball stated that the Council and the administration should be proud to see this coming forwards as rented accommodation in the area is expensive. Councillor Davies has worked hard on this.

Councillor Kevin Guy stated that this was an amazing achievement.

RESOLVED (unanimously) to recommend that the Cabinet on 11th November 2021 agree:

- 1.4 The eight sites identified in Appendix 1 are progressed as 100% affordable housing sites, including 117 Newbridge Hill, and in accordance with the delivery route detailed in the report;
- 1.5 Fully approve £413K from Provisional Affordable Housing Budget in 2021/22 to immediately progress scheme development work on five sites with funding coming from earmarked Right to Buy Receipts
- 1.6 The balance of funding of £11.73m identified in Appendix 2, will be incorporated into 2022/23 budget setting with approval subject to a full business case and confirmation of grant awards.
- 1.7 Individual scheme business cases will be authorised through the existing capital processes and in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

79 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report and made the following statement:

“This is the regular report received by cabinet that covers the quarter to the end of September for noting by the cabinet. However, I would draw the cabinet’s attention to the ESG funds now placed following the review of the opportunities posed in the market. This confirms the council’s strong desire to move away from investments linked to fossil fuel depletion. In that regard I noted that the media reported over the weekend that these investments where held could become worthless in the next two decades”.

Councillor Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Sarah Warren seconded the motion

RESOLVED (unanimously) to recommend that the Cabinet on 11th November 2021 agree:

1.8 The Treasury Management Report to 30th September 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted.

1.9 The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2021 are noted.

80 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2021

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report and made the following statement:

“In 2019 I set the overriding objective that the council’s revenue budget was to balance year on year and at the same time be closely monitored in public. This was to ensure that our residents could be confident that this Liberal Democrat administration was managing public funds prudently and transparently. Persistent overspending and waste accrued from the previous administration had, in my view, undermined the bond of trust that should exist between council and taxpayers. Recently I have seen former councillors unwisely comment on the former Visit Bath arrangements, conveniently forgetting that that administration allowed well over £500k of bad debts to accrue which it was necessary to write off. That is the sort of sloppy governance that I am determined to avoid. Before I introduce the report, I must reiterate the context we are still operating in. Significant reductions in income from Heritage Services because of the need to manage down visitor numbers are still present. Although the government seems to think that the pandemic has gone away B&NES is currently the 7th highest outbreak

incidence in the UK. At the same time downward pressure on income from the council's commercial estate remains a concern – reflecting the understandable pressures on our tenants imposed by the government's restrictions. In social services we have seen huge increases in demand for Children's services whilst at the same time we are seeing reductions in demand for Adult services. This turbulence is a constant current feature of our management of the council's finances, and we are using covid contingency funding to smooth matters. Given these factors we are expecting the revenue budget to remain on balance for the 11th successive quarter and to balance at year end without the need to draw from the general contingency reserve. This is a considerable achievement by the cabinet members and their officers which I thank and commend. On capital there is some slippage against the programme mainly associated with Bath Western Riverside, but the project is underway and re-phasing will take place into 22/23. Members will also note the major works scheme due to commence on Orange Grove to improve and repair the envelope to this important terrace".

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Kevin Guy stated Councillor Samuel has balanced the books in the difficult time and thanked him. Councillor Guy seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously) to recommend that the Cabinet on 11th November 2021:

- 1.10 Note the 2021/22 revenue budget position (as at the end of September 2021).
- 1.11 Note the revenue virements listed for information only in Appendix 3(i).
- 1.12 Note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.25 of this report;
- 1.13 Note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i).

The meeting ended at 19:33

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

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CABINET MEETING 10th/11th November 2021

STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

1. Graham Pisto - Transport matters and the city's economy
2. Martin Grixoni - Bath business challenges
3. Lynda Lloyd – Blue Badge access to the City Centre
4. Bob Goodman – Environmental Issues
5. David Redgewell – Transport and Planning
6. Cllr Eleanor Jackson – SACRE Syllabus
7. Cllr Vic Pritchard - Access issues in the city centre

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M	01	Question from:	Councillor Karen Walker
Can you confirm how many hours per week the Leader and each Cabinet Members are working for B&NES, and on which days of the week? Also, how many days per week was the Leader of the Council working in the Guildhall before this latest 2 week break?			
Answer from:			Councillor Kevin Guy
<i>As Councillors, Cabinet Members are not employees of the Council and have no scheduled working hours. It is not possible to provide specific hours and days worked each week as these vary depending on the work commitments of each role in any given week. All Cabinet members work the hours required to fulfil their responsibilities.</i>			
Supplementary Question:			
Transparency & openness is the Liberal Democrats key message to the public & Councillors. Your answer to my question is not clear and far from being transparent. All I am asking is what days & hours do the cabinet members work? I don't feel it is to unreasonable that all councillors and the public should know.			
Answer from: Councillor Kevin Guy			
<i>Refer you to my original answer.</i>			
M	02	Question from:	Councillor Colin Blackburn

Can you tell me if the Council has completed the purchase of the 2 properties on the Sladebrook development that we were advised that the Council was buying?

If yes, did the Cabinet Member get an independent professional survey of the properties done before purchasing? If not why not?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

No, the Council has not purchased these units though will do so in due course. The properties will be supplied with a 10-year Local Authority Building Control (LABC) backed warranty. This is a highly regarded warranty that covers both defects and structural integrity. As such a further survey is not considered an effective use of resources.

M 03

Question from:

Councillor Colin Blackburn

I understand that work is being carried out at Grosvenor Place using money received from a Central Government Grant (approx. £1 million project). Was the contract for this work put out to formal tender? If not, why not?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

Yes, the building contract work was tendered using an OJEU compliant procurement framework.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Karen Walker

Why has the Council House Building Programme that is being presented to Cabinet tonight, NOT been through any Scrutiny Panel?

Answer from:

Councillor Tom Davies

This cabinet report allows officers to initiate development work on these eight sites and is in line with the paper taken to the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel in September 2019. However, as the report notes no decision has yet been made on how the housing management functions will be provided. This will be subject to a separate report following meaningful cross-party engagement.

M	05	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
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In answer to a previous question about the Cleveland Bridge repair works, you said the following: “The Council had worked continually with neighbouring Authorities since 2019 to agree suitable diversion routes. This included using the A350 through Wiltshire. However, in April 2021 Wiltshire Council communicated that they would not now give consent for the A350 to be used as a diversion route due to the detrimental impact on their highway network.”

In April 2021 we were more than 12 months into the COVID-19 pandemic. For a whole year, traffic levels on Bath’s roads were greatly reduced due to people working from home. Please explain why, if initial communications with neighbouring authorities had taken place in 2019, the Cleveland Bridge repair work was not carried out during the COVID-19 lockdown periods to ensure disruption could be kept to a minimum?

Answer from:	Councillor Manda Rigby
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Despite the Covid pandemic the project team managed to progress the scheme. The DfT funding for the bridge works were awarded in March 2020, Listed Building Consent was granted in October 2020 and the conditions discharged leading up to the start of the works in 2021.

M	06	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
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In December last year, Cabinet agreed to transfer responsibility for running the world-famous Bath Christmas Market from Visit Bath to the Council. In light of the recent decision first to extend the market and then to cancel it, do you accept that the initial decision to transfer responsibility for running the market to the Council was a mistake and will you commit to reinstate the

destination management company Visit Bath to ensure the market can be held in future?			
Answer from:		Councillor Kevin Guy	
<i>In December 2020, the decision was taken to close Visit Bath due to financial cost of supporting the Destination Management Organisation which was losing significant amounts of money and as such could no longer be supported. There are no plans to revert back to a loss making model and all destination management for the region is now delivered through a partnership with Visit West.</i> <i>The staff who previously delivered the Christmas Market for Visit Bath transferred to the Council and have continued to develop the proposals in place for the Bath at Christmas event using their event management experience, skills and knowledge .</i>			
M	07	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
Approximately 403,000 people visited the Bath Christmas Market in 2019, which brought more than £30m to the local economy. How many people is the Council expecting will visit the city for this year's scaled back 'Bath at Christmas' offer and how much money does the Council expect the event will add to the local economy this year?			
Answer from:		Councillor Kevin Guy	
<i>The Bath at Christmas event is designed to be attractive to the local market to help support local businesses during the festive period. We are showcasing, along with our partners such as the BID and Visit West, the myriad of attractions and activities offered across the city and wider area as a whole to appeal to residents and visitors alike. As this is a new approach to celebrating all the region has to offer at Christmas we have no data on potential numbers of visitors. However, plans are in place to ensure the events are promoted and marketed appropriately and managed safely. Footfall and traffic data will be collected and collated to ensure that we understand the success of the event to help inform plans.</i>			

M	08	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
Has a financial impact assessment been undertaken by the Council to assess the potential negative effects on the local economy, and the Council's finances, that may arise from the decision to cancel this year's Bath Christmas Market? If so, can we see it?			
Answer from:			Councillor Kevin Guy
<i>No financial impact assessment has been conducted. The decision to scale back the market was dictated by market conditions and the inability to procure through statutory processes the necessary levels of support staff to run the market safely. Public safety is the key factor when considering the delivery of any event and as such the decision is based on this in the first instance.</i>			
M	09	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
I note that Pedal Progression have been awarded the contract to deliver cycling provision at Entry Hill. Earlier this year, an online consultation was undertaken by Lemon Gazelle for Entry Hill, the results of which indicated strong support for cycling provision on the site. Of the 1,762 respondents with a Bath and North East Somerset postcode, 962 (54.5%) came specifically from residents with a BA2 postcode. Please publish in full the responses to the consultation from residents with a BA2 postcode.			
Answer from:			Councillor Kevin Guy
<p><i>The total number of respondents was 1,919. From these there was 1,762 usable postcodes. The full report was published as part of the Cabinet Decision.</i></p> <p><i>https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=1418</i></p> <p><i>https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s61952/Entry%20Hill%20Consultation%20Report%20Appendix%201.pdf</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How many people who live specifically in the BA2 postcode area responded to the survey,</i> 			

*An addendum report to main Consultation Report showed that 962 (54.5%) respondents came from the postcodes BA2 1** to BA2 5** and the using this constituency demographic, the preferences reflected the global result.*

The addendum report was published as part of the cabinet decision.

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s61953/Entry%20Hill%20Consultation%20Addendum%20Appendix%201a.pdf>

- *Publish responses from BA2 postcode respondents.*

These were published as part of the full report.

The BA2 responses from the Future of Entry Hill Consultation are detailed in the report. If you add 'Strongly Support' and 'Support' together then 'Trails for walking and Running' was the most popular option (73%) with the 'Family Cycle Centre' second at 68%.

A 'Park with a Café' scored 64%. All of these elements are included in the proposals for the bike park. 'Do not support' for golf was 55% which created the biggest reaction of all the options followed by allotments (49%)

M 10

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

Taxi firms in Bath have complained that the Council is currently not accepting new applications for taxi licenses. This is reportedly having a negative impact on business as taxi firms cannot recruit new drivers. Please confirm if this is the case and, if so, explain why new licenses are not currently being accepted, outlining the Council's plan to ensure the service can resume as quickly as possible?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

Since the first lockdown, the Licensing Team have been migrating all of the taxi licensing functions to an online delivery method. The licensing renewal functions for existing licensees were prioritised first to ensure business continuity for existing drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators. Online processes for licence applications relating to new vehicles, operators and drivers are

<p>now complete and are available online https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/business/taxis/driver-vehicle-and-operator-licences/how-do-i-apply-drivers-licence</p>		
M	11	<p>Question from:</p> <p>Councillor Karen Warrington</p>
<p>The country roads in North East Somerset are badly in need of repair, with potholes making large parts of the road network difficult to drive on. Please provide details of the Council's upcoming programme of road maintenance work to reassure residents living in the rural villages that potholes in these areas are being fixed?</p>		
<p>Answer from:</p>		<p>Councillor David Wood</p>
<p><i>Each year the council publishes its' Highway Maintenance programme, please see the link to the 21/22 programme:</i></p> <p>https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s64630/08z%20Annex%205%20ii%20-%20Highways%20Maintenance%20Capital%20Programme%202021-22.pdf</p> <p><i>In addition, Highway Inspectors undertake proactive inspections of the network and respond to reports of pot holes, making arrangements to repair if necessary.</i></p>		
<p>Supplementary Question</p>		
<p>In the up coming budget, can the administration confirm that some rural roads will be put on the programme for repair for next year.</p>		
<p>Answer from: Councillor Dave Wood</p>		
<p>Yes.</p>		

M	12	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
When the Council disposed of its housing stock to a private charity, currently Curo, it had a formal agreement. Does that agreement prevent the Council re-establishing itself as a council housing authority again?			
Answer from:			Councillor Tom Davies
<i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i>			
M	13	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
When the decision to dispose of 117 Newbridge Hill was called-in earlier this year, the Council stated it was stated that it was to provide low-cost housing opportunities for NHS staff at Bath RUH. This now appears not to be the case. If it is to be social housing, can you please re-address the original calculations for scrutiny by councillors? The funding decision was justified for not testing the competitive market by giving the works to ADL at a low valuation. With the power of hindsight, does this represent good value for money, and will the whole costs be scrutinised by committee? Also, will the social housing be provided by Curo ?			
Answer from:			Councillor Richard Samuel
<p><i>Given the high demand for affordable housing in the district tonight's report recommends reconfiguring the scheme to provide seven social rented homes. This does not fundamentally change the business model, merely how the scheme is financed. Instead of the properties being sold on the open market they will be purchased by the Council using a combination of Government funding, borrowing supported by rents and Council subsidy.</i></p> <p><i>The properties will be owned by the Council. However, who provides the housing management functions, such as maintenance, rent collection etc. will be subject to a future decision following meaningful cross-party engagement.</i></p>			

M	14	Question from: Councillor Paul May
Bristol City Council has closed roads just over the border adjacent to Whitchurch Village. It has caused chaos and the parish council is upset that it was not told beforehand. This is the second time in a year that this has happened. Last time we asked for cross-border communications to be reviewed. Buses have now been diverted onto unsuitable roads. Were you aware of these issues beforehand?		
Answer from:		Councillor Manda Rigby
<i>The road closures and signed diversion for these works are entirely within Bristol City Council's boundary. However, highway authorities should usually advise each other of any potentially disruptive works near boundaries. It didn't happen in this case but we have since been in contact with Bristol City Council and put in place measures to improve cross-boundary communications. With regards to the bus route, the operator is responsible for identifying suitable alternatives to maintain their service and they do not require the highway authority's approval. They have advised us that they checked the route and deemed it was suitable for buses.</i>		
M	15	Question from: Councillor Paul May
The Local Plan Partial Update consultation has now closed. The Council agreed any last-minute changes could be delegated to you and your officers. Are you proposing any changes which might delay the whole process?		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<i>As this was a formal consultation, the comments received are primarily intended for the Inspector's consideration at the</i>		

forthcoming public exam. The need for any minor amendments is currently being considered but no delay to the programme is currently anticipated.

Supplementary Question:

Councillor Ball you have led the cross party engagement in the LPPU and this has been excellent. Of course, the major worry my communities have is the impending SDS carried out by WECA. Are you prepared to fight for meeting BANES housing needs set by government as opposed to taking unreasonable city expansion needs from Bristol to meet their needs.

Answer from: Councillor Tim Ball

Thank you for the acknowledgement regarding the LPPU. Regarding the impending SDS carried out by WECA, the figures are being worked up and yes, we will fight for BANES housing needs and ensure there is proper consultation on housing

M	16	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
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Is the current Adults and Children's Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee effective in terms of cabinet members, officers, elected members and advisors time and costs?

Answer from:	Councillor Kevin Guy
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The delivery and effectiveness of Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee functions are not Cabinet functions

Supplementary Question:

Leader as you have experience as the former Cabinet Member for Children's Services I am sure you appreciate that the current joint committee for children and adults is just not working effectively to allow proper scrutiny of over 80% of the councils

expenditure?

If this has to be a council decision at the annual meeting is there any reason why the committee request for the council to consider the principle of two single committees to improve democracy is being withheld?

Answer from: Councillor Kevin Guy

I fully support you. Members put in hours of hard work. We will take this question away and make sure it happens.

M	17	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
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The World Health Organisation (WHO) have now set new guidance on air pollution levels due to the well-researched data of the harmful impacts of air pollution on all sections of society including gestating babies. The new WHO limits for air pollution levels should be lowered by 37% to 25 µg/m³. How are B&NES Council going to respond to the new WHO guidelines?

Answer from:	Councillor Sarah Warren
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The World Health Organisation (WHO) have issued new Global Air Quality Guidelines relating to nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter for both indoor and outdoor environments. These guidelines, which are not enforceable until adopted by the UK government, suggest that the objective levels for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter should be lowered, underlining the detrimental impact these pollutants can have on public health. Going forward, the Council will be mindful of these guidelines in its messaging around air quality and will participate in the anticipated public consultation lead by DEFRA in early 2022 on how these guidelines will be enshrined into UK legislation.

M	18	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
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In the Liveable Neighbourhoods strategy document signed off by Cabinet a year ago, it was agreed that in all proposals a relevant circulation plan for vehicles would be agreed. Please can you let residents know when officers will be making public the agreed circulation plans?		
Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i>		
M	19	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
The Local cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) agreed at sign off to put in place a strategic cycle network. When will this strategic cycle network be put in the public domain and added to the LCWIP?		
Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<i>The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is working on a regional Walking and Cycling investment strategy to guide investment decisions over the next five years, with funding available via the unprecedented £540m allocated to the region through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. This will include the development of a strategic cycle network</i>		
M	20	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
The Active Travel Fund 2 Upper Bristol Road design was publicly consulted on 23rd June 2021. The signed off design introduced 6 car parking spaces reducing the width of the pavement and narrowing the cycle lane. Who asked for this change and who approved it?		

Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i>		
M	21	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
On 20 Sept 21 an “E-Cargo Bike Proposal” was submitted to Ashley Beighton and Chris Major by Cllr Wright, In conjunction with ThreeBags Full, Transition Bath and 3SG. To-date no response has been received. Could the Cabinet please confirm that the proposal has been/is being considered by the relevant parties and advise when a response will be made?		
Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<p><i>Yes, the proposal has been fully considered and has been helpful. A number of aspects of the proposal were already within the scope of the e-cargo bike project as originally proposed (cargo bike infrastructure to pick up and deliver goods across the city, pick-up and drop-off hubs, and engagement on the proposals), other aspects of the proposal have, where possible, now been incorporated within the project (bringing residents, charities, social enterprises and community organisations within scope).</i></p> <p><i>However not all aspects of the proposal can be taken on board as the funding has been provided by central government as mitigation for the impact of the Clean Air Zone primarily on those vehicles affected by charges, which excludes private cars.</i></p> <p><i>We are also committed to exploring the opportunity to amend and improve our existing (free to use) e-cargo bike loan scheme so as to make this more accessible to those businesses, charities, residents and community groups keen to move goods around Bath in different ways themselves.</i></p>		
M	22	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright

At a Zoom meeting on 17 Sept 21 attended by Ashley Beighton, Paul Thompson, Cathryn Brown, Cllr Wright and Stephen Paul, the Council Officers indicated that they favoured allocating the £700k grant from government for an 'only mile' e-cargo bike scheme by means of what they called a 'delivery subsidy scheme'. Please advise the latest status of the proposed 'delivery subsidy scheme'?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

The current proposal being developed is to pilot a delivery subsidy scheme. If this pilot proves successful, then the scheme may be extended. In preparation for this pilot, which is scheduled to commence at the end of January 2022, the following activities have recently been undertaken:

- *The CAZ behaviour change team has met with Bath's commercial e-cargo delivery service operators and their existing customers to understand what the key drivers were for them in switching to this method of delivery. We will then start contacting other potential 'early adopters' to highlight how this service could support their development. The learning gathered during these discussions will help to further inform and refine our proposals ahead of broader engagement with all other stakeholders.*
- *Developed a comprehensive communications strategy for the project to be rolled out as appropriate.*
- *Developed a comprehensive framework of operator acceptance criteria to ensure that the proposed service is effective and efficient, with high customer satisfaction and providing good employment opportunities during the pilot and beyond.*
- *Working with a eCommerce delivery company to investigate the potential for smart lockers to be installed around the CAZ to help decarbonise deliveries whilst providing free and flexible mini-distribution hubs for city centre businesses, organisations, and residents.*

We know that WECA proposes an Urban Freight Programme, which complements our scheme. It intends to begin a trial in the new year of e-cargo bikes on campus sites across the city, with a second tranche of support measures following on later in the year which will include a scheme for shared/community use of e-cargo bikes, encouraging more tradespeople to use e-cargo bikes when carrying out maintenance and servicing, and examining at how e-cargo bikes can be used for parcel returns etc. We will be liaising with all the stakeholders regularly to ensure a sustainable and enduring legacy for e-cargo bikes in Bath.

M	23	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>In February 2020, the Prime Minister announced the bus services across the country would be transformed with simpler fares, thousands of new buses, improved routes and higher frequencies. As Cabinet Lead on Transport and as B&NES is the Highway Authority how will you be leading on the real need for “improved bus routes” that would allow the many buses stuck in congested traffic on B&NES’s highways to make quicker more efficient journeys?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Manda Rigby
<p><i>The Government published its National Bus Strategy (NBS) under the title of Bus Back Better in March 2021 and gave a commitment to spend £3 billion over the lifetime of this parliament to support buses. In response, the West of England Combined Authority and North Somerset Council published a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) on 28 October 2021. That sets out what needs to be done to bring bus services up to the standard aspired to in the NBS. It includes targets to improve bus journey times and punctuality. Alongside it, a bid was submitted to Government for funding to deliver the improvements.</i></p> <p><i>In the recent Budget, it was announced that the West of England CA would receive £540 million capital funding for transport schemes over the next 5 years. Full details have not been provided yet but it is anticipated that a good proportion will be for bus-related schemes.</i></p> <p><i>B&NES has worked with the West of England CA to identify the key locations for investment in bus priority measures in its area, and to plan a programme of implementation – subject to funding. The outline programme is shown in the BSIP, which can be viewed at https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/bus/</i></p>		
M	24	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright

What is the level of CO2 emissions generated by surface transport in the B&NES per year? Knowing this number please can you confirm the percentage B&NES will have to reduce surface transport by, to hit its 2030 Climate Emergency target?

Answer from:

Councillor Manda Rigby

“Of the 766,876 tonnes of CO₂ emitted within the district each year 29% are as a result of transport. This equates to 216,110 t/CO₂e/yr. The Synthesis of Evidence that accompanied the Climate Emergency Outline Plan shows the deployment scale for the main measures to reduce energy demand on the Stretch pathway. This indicates that the scale of action required to become carbon neutral in transport terms equates to a 25% reduction in car use kilometres per person per year or a modal shift creating a 7% reduction in car travel. The numbers serve to indicate the scale of action needed and are likely to change as local information is gathered.”

Source: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s58689/Appendix%20-%20Synthesis%20of%20Evidence.pdf> (2019)

M 25

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

At the recent B&NES Standards Committee meeting dated 12th October 2021, I asked that the committee support me in putting in place a new code of conduct that asked that all Cllrs declare all property owned inside and outside of B&NES. The Liberal Democrat led Standards committee did not agree to move forward on Councillors declaring second homes as they claimed, “it would breach their human rights”. Do you agree that it is a breach of your human right to declare if you have a second home outside of B&NES?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The Standards Committee made a decision based upon a detailed officers report, informed discussion and debate. The draft minutes record that the Monitoring Officer explained that councillors had rights as individuals and that your proposal could impinge on their human right to a private and family life. I am prepared to accept the Monitoring Officers advice and the

<i>Standards Committee decision.</i>		
M	26	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
Please can you confirm the amount paid to Virgin Care for the contract with the school nurse service to run the Covid vaccination programmes in schools? Can you give full information on how this Virgin Care contract was overridden so that parents can use the National Booking Service to arrange Covid-19 vaccinations for under 16s?		
Answer from:		Councillor Dine Romero
<i>The work to deliver COVID vaccinations to 12-15 year olds within schools is not part of the community services contract commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset Council and NHS BSW CCG. It is commissioned by NHS England and is delivered by the immunisations team from our children's community services contract (not by school's nurses). We are delivering the vaccination programme within schools as per our contract arrangement and in line with other service providers across the country. The offer from the national booking service runs alongside the school's vaccination programme as an additional option for any parents who may wish to get their child vaccinated outside of the school setting or at a time outside of school hours.</i>		
M	27	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
Trees play a vital role in addressing the climate emergency as they remove emissions from the air around us. Trees and woodlands absorb CO2, provide oxygen, cool urban areas, provide habitats for wildlife and give people opportunities to engage with nature. The recent donation of trees for local residents from the Parks Dept is a great success and a much boost to the Ecological Emergency. Please can you confirm how many trees will be needed to be planted to offset the CO2 emissions from the carbon output of surface transport in B&NES and what percentage of B&NES will be needed to plant that many trees?		

Answer from:		Councillor David Wood
<p>Tree planting is a priority for the Council and is one of the many methods the Council is using to tackle the climate emergency. The amount of carbon trees store varies over time, as do transport emissions, so an exact comparison would not be accurate. Transport emissions make up approximately 29% of the district's carbon footprint. Further detail we've previously published on this can be found here: : https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s58689/Appendix%20-%20Synthesis%20of%20Evidence.pdf</p> <p>Planting trees in a specified proportion of the district would not equate to a linear quantity of carbon sequestration. The right tree needs to be planted in the right place to ensure that there is a net positive benefit to sequestering carbon by planting trees on that specific piece of land. It is unfortunately too simplistic for us to say that planting a certain number of trees would offset a certain proportion of transport emissions as there are so many dependencies.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of our tree planting initiatives as one of our climate emergency actions. We will be announcing more in due course.</p>		
M	28	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>Plans are being finalised for the design of a mountain bike park on the current site of Entry Hill Golf Course. One of the key documents supporting any planning permission for the project will be the Transport Study.</p> <p>What assumptions are being made for the distance travelled by visitors and modes of travel to the proposed mountain bike park within the Transport Study, and what evidence are these assumptions based on?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Wood
<p><i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i></p>		

M	29	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
As the design and location of the Entry Hill Golf Course amenity is unique, and no equivalent or relevant historical data exists, will the council agree to commission a specific survey of potential users within an agreed 'cyclable' radius, i.e. 5 miles, to gather data to compare with assumptions made in the Transport Study?			
Answer from:			Councillor David Wood
<i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i>			
M	30	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>B&NES councillors unanimously declared an Ecological Emergency in 2020 and committed to prevent further damage to our natural environment and the ecosystems that exist within it from human activity.</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources outline how he intends to ensure that the removal of trees in any development is not at the discretion of the Developer but follows agreed Council guidelines that ensures the right diagnosis is in place for any felled trees and that any newly agreed planted trees are suitable to restore the urban tree canopy cover within an agreed timeline?</p> <p>In particular can the council ensure that trees which are diagnosed with disease by developer's consultants are inspected by the Tree Officer to ensure that the diagnosis is correct and the felling absolutely necessary and that the replanting is correctly put in place?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor Richard Samuel
<i>Any planning applications for land are governed by the council's policies in place at the time of application including those relating to tree removal or replacement.</i>			

M	31	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>Sir David Attenborough recently stated “Is this how our story is due to end? A tale of the smartest species doomed by that all too realistic human characteristic of failing to see the bigger picture in pursuit of short-term goals?”.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader for Economic Development and Resources recently gave free parking on Saturdays in council-owned car parks in Keynsham High Street, so that residents can shop-local. How do the Deputy Leaders make sense of this short-term goal, when the Council has declared a climate emergency and is calling for a reduction in fossil fuel surface transport?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillors Richard Samuel and Sarah Warren
<p><i>Free parking has been offered due to the exceptional circumstances presented by the public realm improvements presently under way in Keynsham High Street. This is not a long term solution but a short term measure over three Saturdays in December to support businesses who have been hard hit by Covid-19 and the construction works in the high street. While the council encourages active travel, walking and cycling, it hopes that the free parking encourages visits to Keynsham town centre and increased footfall on the high street during the Christmas period. By encouraging residents to shop local we can help sustain our local centres and high streets in the long term.</i></p>		

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	David Redgewell
What progress is the Leader of the Council (Councillor Kevin Guy) making with Mayor Malvin Rees of Bristol City Council, Councillor Toby Savage (Leader of South Gloucestershire Council) and Councillor Dan Davis (Leader of North Somerset Council) in arranging a joint committee's meeting of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority with Mayor Dan Norris?		
	Answer from:	Councillor Kevin Guy
<i>I have met with Mayor Dan Norris to explore ways forward. We anticipate meetings will be held in December, although final arrangements are still to be confirmed.</i>		
P 02	Question from:	David Redgewell
What progress is being made by Bath and North Somerset Council with Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council in setting up a governance review at the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority with Mayor Dan Norris to look at setting up a full integrated transport authority and for North Somerset Council to join the combined authority?		
	Answer from:	Councillor Kevin Guy
<i>I have had positive discussions with Mayor Norris as well as the UAs. I'm confident progress will be made to address the questions raised.</i>		

Talk to Cabinet 10 Nov 2021 by Martin Grixoni

Good evening,

Before I start I would like to thank Cllr Guy for his support in offering a property in Walcot Street for the Legion and their Poppy appeal. As we have both been in the Naval Service, on this approach at least I sense we can have broad agreement!

I have spoken here a number of times, and on this occasion I should declare that I am intending to stand for the Conservative party as a Councillor in the Weston ward at the next local elections.

I have been heartened to do that by an increasing level of support amongst those that are not happy with the direction that this administration is taking.

To the extent that I now appear here alongside Cllr Pritchard as a slightly more than 'concerned citizen';

My theme tonight covers what I estimate is a too high-handed approach to push through an agenda that is increasingly not wanted, especially as we move beyond a once in a Century pandemic.

I offer you some local feedback:

This is not the earlier quoted accusation by Cllr Guy of a default moaning position, but a genuine plea from our voters:

Quote:

I'm embarrassed by them all - all I want is to get the problem solved because it is bigger than petty point scoring. We ALL need to pay attention to this.

As far as Weston is concerned:

Sort the buses to align with RUH shifts

Use our library (as saved by Cllr Karen Warrington!)

and our wonderful local shops, or we'll lose them!

And a general quote:

I'd like to see a simple, easy-to understand list of all the problems contributing. Once you've got that you can untangle the problem.

Indeed can we not please agree we need an Eastern Park and Ride, better use of the railway and some old stations re-opened Better school buses, And lastly (in my personal view) an A46/36 link road.

Here are some other local views:

*I can't be alone in thinking I am being forced to make a choice between expensive inconvenience to shop in the city or if I won't do this, swerve it entirely. I'm a swerver, the traffic & parking issues have p***** me off so much I don't come in unless I have to, so shop online or anywhere but the city centre.*

School transport: Quote:

*you'd think kids would & should catch a bus or use a designated service - but they don't as the cost & reliability of ordinary bus to school is so S****

Make them affordable & run on-time & they would.

In my belief the 'School run' takes up a third of our traffic at those times –there surely must be a better way!

Quote:

Don't give us a pile of LTN's in a city full of hills with a Trunk road going through the centre.

Closing off North Road to give a cycle route is really just not clever.

As to the recent jams that have bought so much disruption:

Quote:

*Lack of forethought have made the air quality so much worse. They couldn't have made it worse if they ran a steam train round Queen Square in time with those b***** helicopter rides. Clean air zones? My a***.*

In my view we should be concentrating on listening to our constituents, getting the Cities businesses back on their feet, making transport in, around and out of here easier – not giving our Tourist Office for Bristol to run.

And the last quote – heard increasingly in my experience:

Ashamed I voted LibDem –

and this is what democracy is about – Like or dislike us -we think we've got better plans and are just more competent at implementing them.

Sixteen months to go!

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STILL NO ACCESS TO BATH CITY CENTRE FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

The dictionary definition of equality

the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.

Please can the council explain to me and other Blue Badge Holders how this applies to the continued exclusion of the city centre to Blue Badge Holders, a situation not scheduled to change until January next year.

It needs to be recognised that the current restrictions in the city centre..namely no access for vehicles between the hours of 10 am and 6pm (except for convoluted prior arrangements) are not because of security issues but were brought in for social distancing during the pandemic. The security arrangements are NOT yet in place as the TRO consultation process IS STILL ONGOING.

Why then are the barriers still there? Its because THIS council decided to use discretionary powers to extend the regulation on social distance for a further 6 months. This is laughable given that all restrictions on mask wearing/social distancing etc were legally abandoned months ago. Its laughable when I can attend the theatre where people are sitting 4 heads to a square metre...I don't need a Covid pass either! People are requested to wear masks in the theatre and some shops and hospitality venues ..but they don't and mask wearing has all but been abandoned by most people.

Who, therefore, are the council seeking to protect by the extension of social distancing regulations?

The answer, of course , is no-one. The continued closure of Cheap Street/Westgate Street/Upper Borough Walls is not for social distancing but the anti-car agenda and wanting to let cafes and pubs put tables out on the streets at the expense of people with mobility issues.

This group of people, residents and tourists alike, have been denied access to the attractions and shops of the city centre during the lovely summer weather and are now to be denied access to the Christmas events which are being much hailed by the council and Bath BID. Why? How can this be EQUAL in either rights or opportunity? We would all like to "*Rediscover the Magic*" ..and why can't we?...because Blue Badge Holders are not to be let into the centre until JANUARY..when the weather is cold and Icy and many disabled people do not venture far from home. What is equal about the Council's approach here?

So, what is to happen? I hope, in the spirit of Christmas goodwill that the council will remove the barriers during the daytime to allow access to less mobile people to do their Christmas shopping in person supporting local traders as we are being urged to do, visit the Abbey Quarter artisan stalls and experience Christmas shopping in daylight rather than having to wait until it is dark and cold.

The current consultation on access for Blue Badge holders and the methods of allowing access is for when the Anti terrorist TROs are in place..which currently they are not. Its simple to lift those barriers..please do it and let's ALL share in the Christmas spirit .

Please, please...listen to this appeal. Do the decent thing and lift the barriers TOMORROW...you have the power.

Lynda Lloyd

7th November 2021 for Cabinet meeting 10/11/21

Statement from Bob Goodman to Cabinet Meeting 10th November 2021 (virtual)

I would like to start by commending this Administration for considering building, as they put it, Council Houses but by using their failed Development Company to deliver them, with their senior staff receiving huge salaries has put the whole project into disrepute.

However, I will leave that for another day.

To provide the Council House Programme Cabinet Report and refusing to name the sites is pure Cowardice... WHAT are you hiding?

Many think one of the sites is TUFA FIELD - yes that's the one the New Leader in his maiden speech led residents to believe was not going to be developed. But then there was another U Turn and now Officers are known to be still looking to develop this special Ecological site.

Perhaps You, Cllr Guy, can now say it will never be Developed?

I wonder how many of you have heard the phrase " Putting biodiversity on a path to recovering is a defining Challenge of the decade". We, as a country and indeed a 'Planet', have failed to address the issue of Biodiversity loss and if You, Cllr Guy, allow the Loss-of Tufa Field you will knowingly have contributed to that loss...SHAMEFUL.

There have been similar concerns on the Development on the Western Slopes in Bristol- Please Cllr Guy don't be like Mayor Rees and for once put the Environment first.

This Council, as they should, apparently support the Climate Emergency. How concerning, yet again, that they say one thing and yet do exactly the opposite when it really makes a difference.

I can see you may look surprised at that statement when you see the important part of the Design and Access Statement on the Riverside Development in Keynsham which reads "The Development will be in accordance with the BANES

Core Strategy to contribute to achieve the Councils target to renewable electricity and heat generation.”

This was to be achieved by providing a substantial amount of P. V.’s on the roof of the Development and it’s no surprise this has not been provided. What a Monumental Failure this is. I wonder if this is anything to do with the Councils Development Company, it seems there is one rule for them, and another for everyone else - Shameful.

I ask that the Council release all the papers so we can see why this important renewable Energy has been ignored. So much for the empty words of the Deputy Leader on Climate Emergency and COP 26.

WHAT is it Greta Turnberg says... oh yes it’s BLAH BLAH BLAH. IF YOU CANNOT DELIVER A SIMPLE PROJECT THERE IS NO HOPE FOR US.

I want to finish by expressing my concern on how the contract for the Entry Hill Golf course has been Awarded.

Even though, as far as I can see, no Planning Permission has been given for the Mountain Bike Park but, Pedal Progression, seem to have spent money on the Cafe and I wonder what will happen if Planning is refused, or have they been given the go-ahead?

I have followed the consultation without commenting-so far-having already seen my involvement as a Trustee of Avon Wildlife Trust curtailed by the action of various Cabinet Members just because I was prepared to stand-up for the Environment against what this Council was actually doing-so much for ‘Free Speech’.

It is becoming increasingly clear to many that this Consultation is flawed with Pedal Progression allowed to take huge sums of public money at the whim of officers and Cabinet Members.

I, for one, is not convinced that the Mountain Bike Centre is the right solution for this site, and I fear more damage will be done to the Ecology of the area by this blinkered solution .

Bob Goodman

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Statement on Transport and planning – David Redgewell – Cabinet 10th November 2021

Whilst we welcome the sustainable transport chapter connectivity and the role of the west of England mayoral combined authority and North Somerset council.

We are very very concerned about the lack of west of England mayoral combined authority and North Somerset council joint committees meeting in the Diary for November and December 2021

The secretary of state for transport Grant Shapps has made it clear along with Michael Gove the secretary of state for the Nations and Regions for the United Kingdom.

In the Transport settlements for the city regions that region without accountable metro mayors to receive large sum of money

The North east combined Authority had no major transport settlements.

The North of the Tyne and wear mayor does not cover south of the Tyne i.e. the city of Newcastle upon Tyne and Durham.

The secretary of state made no large transport settlement.

So it is very important that we get the Regional planning and transport authority holding joint committees meeting and scrutiny commission meeting and Audit commission meetings functioning happening.

That we carry out a governance review

Of the west of England mayoral combined authority and North Somerset council.

Transfer staff to set up an Integrated transport authority with a Railway executive similar to Liverpool city region mayor Steve Rotherham, West Midlands mayor Andy Street's and Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham.

At present west of England mayoral combined authority mayor Dan Norris. Is like Greater Manchester with Salford and Stockport councils.

without North Somerset council as a full member of the Greater Bristol and Bath city region.

We mayor Dan Norris to move forward of the city region bus, coach, rail, ferry, light rail services along with the development of a light rail system.

We also need to make the western gateway transport board and partnership on the west county side of the Bristol channel have the same boundaries with Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch, Dorset and Swindon being members of Both the new unitary Somerset council being a member.

To get Government funding we need strong regional government that the city and county of Bristol is a strong member.

Of concern also is south Gloucestershire council widening of capacity with Roundabout on the Bristol ring road with no Bus lanes or cycling and walking improvements and a new roundabout junction at Hick gate Banes . On the Bristol bus and coach station Temple meads station Arnos vale Brislington,Keynsham,Brislington, saltford Newbridge Weston and Bath spa bus and coach station.

It would be unacceptable to try to Build a Brislington bypass up the North Somerset Railway line. As part of a bus service improvements plan.

The North Somerset Railway corridor could be used as a public transport corridor and for walking and cycling.

Between st Phillips causeway and Callington road. a future light rail corridor. Or bus lane.

We are also very very concerned about a petition durring cop 26 climate change emergency to remove bus lanes in the Henbury cribbs causeway area on the showcase red Route A37 Whitchurch Banes ,Hengrove ,Knowle ,Totterdown Bristol Temple meads station Bristol bus and coach station, Broadmead park street closure to through traffic.

Leaving local access for residents and shopping Clifton down station Westbury on trym,Henbury,cribbs causeway bus station.

With access to Henbury station anda park and ride site .

This is a key bus corridor for first group west of England bus service no 1 2 and 3 .

I hope the metro mayor Dan Norris and Bristol city council mayor Malvin rees and Banes and south Gloucestershire council will carry out full public consultation with residents and bus and coach passengers about any local councillor plans to remove bus lanes by a petition in Greater Bristol during cop 26 .

Boris Johnson the prime minister who loves buses has turned green buses are top of bus back better the National bus strategy. and the west of England mayoral combined authority and North Somerset council bus service improvements plan.

Adoption of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education's recommendations concerning the Syllabus

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is perhaps one of the more obscure council committees, but like the Planning Committee, it is a statutory body required by law, and its functions are regulated by government. It is not quorate without the presence of council representatives, one of which I have had the privilege of being since 2015, when the Syllabus was last revised. At that time I brought the report to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel for their attention but I am very pleased that this time it is coming to Cabinet. I have always argued that RE is too important for it to be left to officers to 'sign off' in a small office on the top floor of the Guildhall. I want the Council to own the syllabus. SACRE members, especially the Secretary, have worked hard on it, introducing a few minor alterations and improvements as a result of feedback from RE teachers since 2015, and getting new resource materials written. The syllabus must by law reflect the spirituality of the local population. Unfortunately we have not succeeded in introducing a module on black religious experience, which would build on school visits to Fairfield House and the legacy of Haile Selassie, and on the experience of black-led churches in Bath and Bristol. With that caveat, I commend the syllabus to cabinet.

Some members here may have had very negative experiences of RE in schools. The syllabus is an important tool in raising standards, but I hope there will be sufficient money in the Budget to allow SACRE to continue offering training to RE teachers - for example as we did on how to teach the Holocaust, or on Islamophobia, to get training ourselves at national and regional conferences, and to monitor our local schools. One issue noted in our Annual Report just published is schools failing to advertise the right of parents since 1944 to withdraw their children from RE and school assemblies. We monitor this, and school websites generally. Please don't withdraw yourselves. With rising intolerance, tribalism and extremism we need RE so that children value diversity, explore their own beliefs and appreciate the underlying values which hold society together.

Dr Eleanor Jackson

10 November 2021

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