

## COUNCIL MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

### COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS

#### **Councillor statement (item 13)**

- Cllr Dr Kumar (statement attached)  
Re: Building Communities, Shared Dreams

#### **Councillor questions (item 13)**

##### Question M01 from Councillor Joanna Wright to Councillor Kevin Guy:

On the 17th November 2021, Cllr Joanna Wright of the Green Party proposed the Carbon Tax motion. At this Council meeting it was made clear that the Liberal Democrats would not support this simple and effective method to hold large corporations to account for profits made from emissions. This is particularly relevant with regards to profits made by BP when many are having to choose between heating and eating. The Liberal Democrats, instead changed the motion to Carbon Pricing, with an apparent preference for an emission trading scheme, which climate assemblies and leading economists are repeatedly calling to be scrapped because they have singularly failed. The one area that the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party can agree, is that this Council would write to our Leaders, including Boris Johnson and Alok Sharma in his role as President of COP26 asking for support to make emission changes. Has the Leader of Council written to the Government and if so has a response been sent and all Councillors been alerted to this exchange of letters?

##### Response from Councillor Kevin Guy

*Yes, I sent letters to the Prime Minister, the President of COP 26, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and both our MPs on 2 December 2021, calling for a comprehensive and effective UK carbon pricing framework by the end of 2025, which could cover either a carbon tax or an enhanced emissions trading scheme, and, very importantly, including a mechanism to ensure social justice and a fair transition to a cleaner economy.*

*These letters and the replies from our local MPs and the Cabinet Office are attached as Annex 1 to this document.*

##### Question M02 from Councillor Joanna Wright to Councillor Kevin Guy:

The promise to protect Bath Central Library as a Library by the Liberal Democrats was clear in their 2019 manifesto promises. The Liberal Democrats made a promise outside

of elected office, that should they be in charge of the council's budgets, that the Liberal Democrats would protect Bath Central Library at all costs. It is not clear to the general public what actions you are about to take with regard to the change of use in Bath Central Library. In the recent 2017 public consultation that asked residents their views on the use of this facility it was made clear that between 73% and 83 % of respondents did not want the Library to become a one stop shop or be a space for other council services. Can you confirm that Bath Central Library will only stay as a library without any service cuts or changes in function?

Response from Councillor Kevin Guy

*We are wholly committed to a flourishing library service and to a thriving Bath Central Library which is a key enabler for improving the lives of our residents.*

*While the council's budget proposals include a reduction in customer services spending of £126,000 over the next two years, we'll deliver this through vacancy management efficiencies and this will not have a negative impact on library provision at Bath Central Library. In fact, we're improving the library. We've already refreshed the paintwork, installed new ceiling tiles, new lighting and laid new carpet. In addition, a fuller refurbishment will take place in 2022/23.*

*We are considering offering some additional services to residents using the library to enhance their experience, where this makes sense and complements the core library provision. The advice we've received indicates that the proposals are not a material change to library use and would therefore not require planning consent. We want to work with our users and Friends of Bath Library on ongoing improvements and will be undertaking a user survey soon to find out people's views.*

**Building Communities, Shared Dreams**

I have been suffering from bullying, discrimination, and manipulative lies for more than 3 years.

And I continue to suffer.

And my family with a teenage son who proudly represents our country and county in Chess and Maths suffers.

When I raised these issues, rather than any concern, I was muzzled, deselected and a false police complaint of “being aggressive’ was made against me.

This charge of aggression was I contend solely based on a single email that I sent to the then leader of the Libdem group, almost 2 years ago.

I talked about Karma and questioned why perhaps God has chosen me to eradicate rotten apples in our garden.

That was it! NO aggression, NO violence, NO threats.

And there was no action or complaint at the time!

But, when the Lib Dems learned last Christmas that I intended to leave the party, in what I regard as a pre-emptive attack, they approached the police in an attempt to rubbish my GOOD name.

There are several additional instances of me being insulted, maligned, and slandered by senior members of this council sitting before us today.

They know who they are.

I am very sorry to say that I believe the roots of some of these attacks are based in racism.

(The Chair interjects here)

Exactly madam Chair.

Councillor colleague and friends; we have a code of conduct that we must adhere to.

It states we must:

- 👉 Act with integrity and honesty
- 👉 Treat all persons fairly and with respect

And

👉 Lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

Friends, the leadership of the local Libdems have made public statements that I am the perpetrator and not a victim.

Let us get to the truth.

I today beseech you to support me in my call for a full investigation into what has occurred to me to be conducted by the Standards Committee, or any other panel containing independent voices that seek the truth.

I ask the Monitoring Officer to make this happen.

Lessons need to be learned. Communities need to be built, Dreams do not need to be shattered.

And those guilty people need to understand that they can't expect to remain in public office when they fail to meet the standards expected and instead continuously make some people and their family's lives and miserable and indulge in discriminatory behaviour.

Thank you