

Member Forum

9 September 2025

Questions and replies



Procedural note:

Councillors are entitled to submit up to 2 written questions each.

- The questions submitted and written replies are enclosed.
- Councillors are also entitled to ask a maximum of 2 supplementary questions at the forum. A supplementary question must arise out of the original question or answer given.
- Via the group leaders / whips, questions have been submitted in priority order.
- At the forum, the asking of supplementary questions will be rotated between the political groups that have submitted questions, taken in priority order.



Question to the Vice Chair of Homes and Housing Delivery Committee

From Councillor Shona Jemphrey, Lawrence Hill ward

Subject: HMOs

HMO's are proliferating in the city to the benefit of landlords trying to squeeze as many people into houses as possible. This can lead to poor housing outcomes for tenants and a negative impact on the wider neighbourhood. Some residents report that even when existing HMOs are poorly managed, causing them distress and causing a nuisance, more are being approved and it is very hard for residents to challenge HMO applications.

1. What is being done to better tackle the rise of HMOs in the city and strengthen the council's current HMO policy?

Written response for publication:

1. Houses in multiple accommodation contribute to meeting housing needs by providing a form of shared accommodation but it is acknowledged that high concentrations in areas can cause harmful effects.

2. Larger HMOs require planning permission but smaller HMOs of 3 to 6 people have national permitted development rights. In Bristol there are several Article 4 directions in place which mean that planning permission for smaller HMOs is required in identified areas, giving greater control over new development. A report on extending those areas will be considered at the Economy and Skills Policy Committee in November this year.

3. Where planning permission is needed for HMOs they are considered in accordance with relevant national and local planning policies including the council's supplementary planning document 'Managing the development of houses in multiple occupation' which aims to avoid harmful impacts such as excess concentrations and 'sandwiching' of other homes between HMOs.



Question(s) to the Chair of the Public Health and Communities Committee**From Councillor Self, Southmead Ward****Subject: Lanercost Road**

An article published on 1 September regarding the unlawful vehicle dweller encampment on Lanercost Road states: "The BBC also spoke to people living on the site, who asked to remain anonymous. They told us they had previously been squatting in their vehicles, but had been told to come to the site by the city council under what they described as a "tolerated site" approach."

As a reminder: The council installed a gate in the days prior to the van dwellers moved there, despite not having planning permission; has refused to take enforcement action or investigate this; and is now only just taking legal action about the site, eight months after vehicle dwellers moved there.

The council's stance is essentially that the vehicle dwellers are lying, the council did not facilitate this illegal encampment, and vehicle dwellers moving from Lockleaze to a small patch of land in Southmead only a few days after a gate was installed is entirely coincidental.

Councillor Parsons, do you want to take this opportunity to correct the record and apologise to residents?

Written response for publication:

1. Access was installed at Lanercost Rd to enable Housing Delivery and The Gypsy Roma Traveller team to commence site options work, including intrusive surveys, to support decisions on meanwhile use and longer-term development of the site. This work is still anticipated to commence once vacant possession is obtained.
2. Lanercost Rd is being proposed as a meanwhile van dwellers site under the current corporate strategy to delivering 250 meanwhile vehicle dweller plots, as agreed at Homes and Housing Delivery PCCB on 4 August 2025.
3. When the group first arrived on site, they were informed that they were trespassing, served with a trespass notice and the process was started to gain possession of the land through the county court.



Question(s) to the Chair of Children and Young People Committee

From Councillor Andrew Varney, Brislington West

Subject: SEND spying scandal investigation

1. Recently, the Children and Young People's Policy Committee voted to finally hold an independent investigation into the SEND spying scandal three years after Full Council first called for one. However, many people are dismayed to learn that the cost of the investigation will likely come from the already stretched SEND budget, which could potentially have a negative impact on SEND families. What is the expected cost of the investigation, and is it possible to fund it from a different budget that will not affect the council's delivery of SEND services?

Written response for publication:

1. This is an investigation into SEND services and therefore it is correct that costs are allocated to the SEND service. However there will be no impact upon families - as we have a statutory duty to provide services where need has been assessed.
2. The full cost will depend on the Terms of Reference and the lead investigator.



Question(s) to the Leader / Chair of Strategy & Resources Committee

From Councillor Mark Weston (Henbury & Brentry)

Subject: PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

1. Does the Leader agree that the proposed reduction in Members' ability to refer planning applications to committee represents an erosion in their ability to adequately represent local residents' views on controversial developments?
2. Is the Leader confident that the Authority has sufficient capacity and the resources needed to manage the expected increase in volume of cases to be determined by delegated decision making?

Written response for publication

1. The Government is legislating on the approach to planning decisions and the involvement of committees so this council will have to abide by any new rules which are decided by parliament.
2. Delegation of most planning decisions to officers is proportionate and practical, especially for smaller impact proposals, as it helps to ensure an efficient system. But it is also important that planning committees can scrutinise the decisions they need to. In our response to a recent government consultation, we said that even for smaller proposals there may be cases, especially where officers recommend refusal, where elected members are able to weigh the planning considerations holistically in a way which may result in a different decision.



Question to the Chair of Children and Young People Committee

From Councillor Ellie Freeman, Bedminster Ward

Subject: Children services staff

What progress has been made on the recruitment of 36 FTE additional children services staff that were included in the budget that was passed earlier this year?

Written response for publication:

1. Following a successful recruitment campaign we have appointed practitioners into all 36 FTE posts. The posts include family help keyworkers, child in need keyworkers, social workers, domestic abuse practitioners and managers.
2. The additional posts were approved through the Families First Transformation programme.
3. More broadly, since February 2025, the social care teams have successfully led a major recruitment drive, beyond and including these posts, resulting in the following additions to our Safeguarding Teams:
 - 27 Child in Need Keyworkers
 - 3 Permanency Social Workers
 - 2 Senior Family Support Workers
 - 1 New Team in North Bristol: Team Manager, 3 Social Workers, 1 Family Support Worker, and 1 Children's Social Care Assistant
 - 3 Domestic Abuse Practitioners
4. This has resulted in reduced numbers of children allocated to practitioners which enables more intensive work to be undertaken with children and families.
5. In parallel, two new specialist teams, Safer Connections and Connecting Families, have been established. These teams focus on children at risk of harm outside the home and those facing family breakdown.
6. Over the past seven months, approximately **57 external candidates** have joined our service. The recruitment campaign has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of agency social work staff employed and we plan to reduce to no agency staff by the end of the year. It has also created significant opportunities for promotion and career progression.



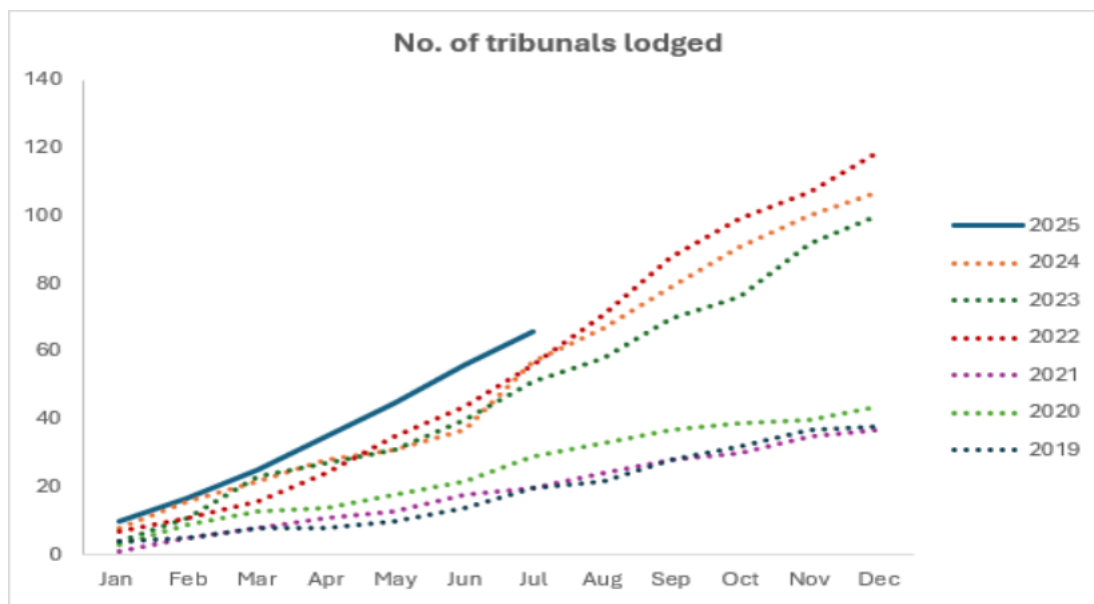
Question(s) to the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee**From Councillor Bailes, Hartcliffe and Withywood Ward****Subject: Tribunals**

How much did the council spend on legal fees and the costs of appealing EHCPs / taking cases to tribunal in the 2024/25 municipal year? Please include associated council officer time in the figures.

The People's Scrutiny Committee used to receive regular updates on the number of tribunal cases brought against the council, however, the Children and Young People's Committee does not. Please provide an update on the number of tribunal cases from May 2024 until today?

Written response for publication:

1. It is not possible to provide a figure for 2024/25, as legal fees and tribunal-related costs are not recorded in a way that allows for detailed breakdowns. Officer time is not systematically recorded in a way that enables accurate cost attribution per tribunal case. Each appeal varies significantly in complexity and duration, and current systems do not capture the time spent by individual officers across different stages of the process.
2. From May 2024 to August, the council has received 47 appeals.



Question(s) to the Chair of Public Health and Communities Committee

From Councillor Sarah Classick, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

Subject: Community Cohesion

1. Would the chair outline what steps the city is taking to ensure community cohesion across Bristol in the wake of recent demonstrations and raising of flags.

Written response for publication:

1. Following the riots and public disturbance in August 2024 the City Council commissioned a listening exercise with city and community partners to gain a deeper understanding community cohesion in Bristol. A report will be published this Autumn and the key findings are shaping the development of a strategic *One city, Many communities* approach to community cohesion in Bristol. Working with communities is at the core of this work.
2. The Leader has produced a blog about the flying of flags [Flying our nation's flag](#)
3. To prepare for protests and associated risks BCC has operational and strategic meetings and with Avon and Somerset Police and other relevant teams and services as required.



Question(s) to the Chair of Public Health & Communities Committee**From Councillor John Goulandris (Stoke Bishop)****Subject: MANAGING DURHAM DOWNS**

I'm sure that as chair of Public Health and Communities you are keen to promote use of the city's green spaces by residents and to ensure residents feel safe when using them. Our city's largest green space, the Downs, part of which is, of course, in your ward, has suffered considerable anti-social behaviour in recent times and the injunction order obtained by Parks Department is welcome. As part of his judgement, handed down on 25th July, District Judge Napier stated :

"An important area of land in the City is being disrupted, damaged, and misused when the residents of Bristol have been granted the legal right to use it for their recreation and enjoyment. It is clear from the evidence submitted from the Claimant from its extensive interactions with members of the public that there is widespread and genuine emotional upset about the use of the land in this way.

There is no attempt to conceal this behaviour: it occurs in plain sight and on a repeated basis without any consideration for the public, or for the laws which govern the use of the Downs. In particular, the Claimant must frequently spend time and resources, funded by the local taxpayers, remedying the damage to the land and mitigating the risks to the public."

1. Given the seriousness of the situation on the Downs what additional measures e.g. physical barriers / CCTV are you looking to introduce to improve public safety on the Downs?

The injunction order obtained by Parks Department covers all of the green spaces comprising the Downs and additionally includes an element of highway, Ladies Mile, included because of the adverse impact vehicle dwellers on Ladies Mile were having on this part of the Downs. As you will no doubt be aware from correspondence with your ward constituents, as indeed I am from mine, there is a strong view that the considerable number of vehicle dwellers still remaining on other roads on the Downs is deterring residents' use of the Downs.

2. Would you, therefore, welcome additional roads being added to the injunction order?

Written response for publication:

1. The council recognises that people living in vehicles on the city's highways is a symptom of a wider issue about the affordability and supply of accommodation. We are in the process of creating specific meanwhile sites where van dwellers can stay rather than living on the highway and drawing up a new policy to guide our enforcement approach.
2. The area included in the injunction on the Downs recognised that there is a need to reduce public nuisance and impact on recreation and enjoyment of the space whilst understanding this wider picture and the additional measures the council is taking.



3. The situation regarding enforcement is always under review and the council can act if the location and scale of van dwelling changes and public nuisance escalates as a result.



Question to the Chair of Public Health and Communities Committee

From Councillor Cara Lavan, St George Central ward

Subject: Mobile Overdose Prevention Centre

Bristol's Drug and Alcohol Strategy is due for renewal this year. Overdose prevention centres have proven around the world to save lives and improve health outcomes of injecting drug users.

1. Given that Bristol has been offered a mobile overdose prevention centre fully funded for one year and that [Bristol Drug Project has secured funding](#) to research local views on such a service, will the Chair of the Public Health and Communities be ensuring that suggestion will be given serious consideration in the forthcoming strategy and if not, why not?

Written response for publication:

1. The Bristol Combatting Drugs Partnership, a well-established multiagency group, is leading the local work to meet the needs of those affected by substance use. Priorities include prevention, improving access to treatment, recovery and harm reduction.
2. In England, the Police have confirmed they cannot support the development or delivery of an overdose prevention centre as the current legislation doesn't allow for it, and its operation would involve the commission of criminal offences that they would be required to act upon.



Question(s) to the Chair of Public Health and Communities Committee**From Councillor Dudd, Southmead Ward****Subject: Lanercost Road**

On Radio Bristol, you stated that the legal process to evict the vehicle dwellers from Lanercost Road has begun. Please can you provide the details of what steps relating to the eviction process have been made to date, including the dates of when each step was made, and when you approved / were informed of the decision to proceed with legal action?

Written response for publication:

1. The Legal process for taking possession of any piece of council owned land that is subject to an unauthorised encampment starts as soon as possible after officers have been made aware of its presence.
2. In the case of encampments of vehicles (including caravans) on council land, the Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) Team will attend the site as soon as they can after a report is received – usually the following working day – and speak with the group. The Team will try to work out the group's intentions and will conduct a welfare assessment to see if they have any immediate health or welfare needs and then issue a trespass notice.
3. Once a notice has been issued, the GRT Team prepare a witness statement confirming that the group are trespassing and the department responsible for the land submit a witness statement confirming ownership of the land.
4. All paperwork is passed to the Legal Dept who will then prepare a case to be heard in front of a District Judge within the County Court who will (hopefully) grant a Possession Order under Part 55 Civil Procedures Rules.
5. All of the above steps have been correctly followed in the case of the Lanercost Road encampment.



Question(s) to the Chair of Children and Young People Committee

From Councillor Tim Kent, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

Subject: School Organisation Strategy

1. Can the Chair outline what measures have been taken to highlight the consultation on the School Organisation Strategy to parents in the city?
2. The draft School Organisation Strategy recommends the closure of twelve primary schools across the city, including two in the area of Hengrove and Whitchurch Park. How has the development of new housing been factored in when planning for future school place capacity?

Written response for publication:

1. The BCC Place Planning team have sent details of the consultation to all schools, trusts and governors in Bristol as well as the Bristol Parent Carer forum and have for this to be shared with parents and carers. In addition, the consultation has been shared on social media platforms to encourage engagement.
2. The draft School Organisation Strategy does not recommend the closure of any primary schools in the city, rather it is clearly focused on a strategic reduction of places in schools to avoid closure of any one school as far as possible. In the Hengrove, Whitchurch Park, and Stockwood planning area, the strategy recommends a reduction of two forms of entry (not schools), equivalent to 60 places. This targeted adjustment will help align provision with projected demand, reduce financial pressures on schools, and maintain high-quality education across the area.
3. The forecasting in the strategy takes account of a 5-year housing trajectory based on confirmed planning permissions. Pupil yield from each dwelling type is calculated using a census 2021 primary yield factor for Bristol covering both primary and secondary years. Dwellings with planning permission 2024-2029 are assumed to be evenly distributed across the five-year time period.



Question(s) to the Chair of Transport & Connectivity Committee**From Councillor Jonathan Hucker (Stockwood)****Subject: STRATEGIC TRANSPORT CORRIDORS**

We have at last seen the redacted version of the Traffic Regulation Order consultation into the southern section of the Strategic Corridor proposals.

We are pleased to see the abolition of the suggestion to ban the right hand turn off Wells Road into West Town Lane. However, the installation of the bus lanes on the Wells Road will inevitably move parking to residential side streets and increase rat running.

1. Given that 98% of the responses were objections, what percentage of objections is required to cancel these ridiculous proposals?
2. As it looks like the plans will be proceeding will the Council now press forward with the plans to reduce speed and rat running on Mowbray Road, Beryl Grove, Hazelbury Road, Davids Road, Kinsale Road, Imperial Road, Warmington Road and Woodleigh Gardens?

Written response for publication:

1. The TRO Statutory Consultation for the Strategic Corridor Proposals – Southern Section is a legally required public consultation that enables residents, businesses and local interest groups the opportunity to provide their opinion and input to the decision making process. These comments are carefully reviewed by the council and a final decision is made, there is no percentage of objections that would cause cancellation or indeed approval of the proposals. The TRO is the underlying legal document that creates traffic rules, it is used to facilitate and enable the changes created by the construction element of the project.
2. The requests outlined in this question are not in the scope of this project. Another work package is looking to address local residents concerns on Sturminster Rd, Craydon Rd, Stockwood Lane, Lacey Rd, Ladman Rd and Holloway Rd. Further work will be carried out to identify mitigations needed to reduce any impact caused by the original proposal. This will include proactive local engagement and consultation to identify potential quick wins as well as feeding into longer term solutions. The timing of any delivery will be subject to the preferred option to be taken forward and will either be within CRSTS1, or a future delivery programme (e.g. potentially CRSTS2).



Question to the Chair of the Public Health and Communities Committee

From Ed Fraser, Eastville Ward

Subject: Library Lies

I've been very disappointed to see 'The Bristol Labour department of Fake News' has been delivering scaremongering flyers to residents claiming their local libraries are under threat, despite providing no credible evidence.

1. Would the Chair of the Public Health and Communities committee agree that in order to serve the many communities in our city, with prevention at the heart of everything we do, that we should not just protect the existing library service we have across our city by protecting their budget, but look in the upcoming Library Strategy to improve access and participation in our libraries, including extending opening hours in more parts of the city?

Written response for publication:

1. The cross-party Task and Finish Group on the draft Library Strategy has highlighted the value of libraries in our city and the amazing work they do and the need to consider ways to improve access and participation. We have also discussed how we market the services that are available such as the online digital resources that are accessible 24/7.
2. The Group is conscious of working within existing resources and are keen to involve the city's residents in a wider conversation about creative ways to extend opening hours when the report has been submitted to the November committee.
3. The engagement following committee will support the writing of the full strategy which we hope will be published in late Spring 2026.



Question(s) to the Leader of the Council**From Councillor Martin, Frome Vale ward****Subject: Fishponds Arson Attacks**

On 30th August there was another arson attack in Frome vale, which means we are well into double figures for arson attacks in fishponds area. The community are frightened and fed up. A car was set on fire which spread to a house right near Oldbury court estate, and the assailant is said to have escaped through the park. Due to the extreme situation we are now in, will the council implement CCTV at the park, and what other measures will it put in place to protect our residents?

Written response for publication:

1. The community safety team's role is to work with partners (including the Police) and stakeholders in corporation to create a problem-solving plan.
2. The Bristol Operations centre have replied in terms of CCTV. CCTV can be deployed as part of a range of measures to tackle issues, where there is sufficient infrastructure to deploy and where the issue, police data and use has met the requirements set out in the code of practice. Critically funding would also need to be available for CCTV provision and to support ongoing use, maintenance, and monitoring.
3. The police are investigating these incidents and need to guide the council as to the appropriate level of support needed from the local authority to help them with their inquiries.
4. We will also examine Fix My Street abandoned vehicle reports and expedite their removal if we find that they are abandoned.



Question(s) to the Chair of Economy and Skills Committee

From Councillor Jos Clark, Brislington West

Subject: Visitor levy

1. What progress has been made in completing a feasibility study on the introduction of a visitor levy, as agreed by Full Council following the Lib Dem amendment to this year's budget, and in lobbying the Government for the devolution of such powers?

Written response for publication:

1. The feasibility study on introducing a visitor levy is nearing completion and will shortly be shared with relevant policy committee chairs. Officers are also preparing to engage external partners on the draft findings.
2. The levy is part of broader discussions on fiscal devolution. Last week, the council wrote to the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP, specifically requesting powers to introduce a visitor levy.
3. Bristol has also joined Core Cities UK in calling for broader fiscal freedoms for local authorities, including the ability to raise revenue through levies and charges that support local services and economic development.



Question(s) to the Leader of Council

From Councillor Richard Eddy (Bishopsworth)

Subject: PRESERVATION OF CIVIC TREASURES

I am given to understand that, among the City Council's valuable collection of treasures, lots of silver platters and plates going back to the 17th century have been sent to a city jeweller to remove names and coats-of-arms of families allegedly (according to a left-wing researcher) linked in the historic slave trade.

1. Can the Leader of Council confirm whether or not there is any basis to this assertion?
2. Bearing in mind the pressing financial challenges to our statutory and non-statutory services, can the Leader of Council tell me whether he feels this is a good use of Bristolian taxpayers' money and, if true, who authorised this act of vandalism?

Written response for publication:

1. Thank you for your question. I can confirm this information is incorrect and no items have been sent to a jeweller to be altered.
2. As above.



Question to the Chair of Public Health and Communities Committee

Question from Cllr Serena Ralston (Green), Clifton Down:

Subject: Disposable BBQs

Disposable BBQs are deadly. Last month, disposable BBQs caused a devastating fire at Stoke Park - an accident waiting to happen during what was one of the driest and hottest summers on record.

The Downs on the edge of my ward was like a tinderbox in August and it would have only taken one spark from a BBQ for a similarly devastating fire to take hold. Ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend, I contacted supermarkets in my ward to ask them to stop selling disposable BBQs during that very dry period. Several were very open to the idea and took them off sale.

The previous Government refused to ban disposable BBQs despite the dangers. Local authorities have powers to restrict the use of disposable BBQs using a Public Spaces Protection Order made under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Please can the council step up by 1) banning disposable BBQs in all the city's parks and green spaces; 2) asking Government to ban them nationally, 3) and asking all stores in the city to stop selling them.

The threat posed by disposable BBQs will only grow as climate change worsens, bringing drier, hotter summers. Apart from the fire risk, disposable BBQs create non-recyclable litter, have a very high carbon footprint, and a negative impact on wildlife and nature.

1. Will the council call on the Government to ban disposable BBQs and ban them in all our city parks and green spaces, and will the council also ask shops to stop selling them too?

Written response for publication:

1. Although there have been fires in relation to barbecues, these are very rare in relation to their widespread use, and for people who don't have access to gardens the city's parks provide an important space in which to have a barbecue and socialise.
2. The Council has online instructions in relation to its Parks Byelaws that state barbecues must be on legs but can be shop-bought. Barbecues are permitted in all parks with two exceptions, but these exceptions can be added to if needed. Byelaws can be enforced by the council and police, but we will consider any further advantages of using a PSPO approach.
3. Mostly the Council relies on providing public information through social media messaging to discourage the use of barbecues when weather conditions are unfavourable. Other agencies such as Avon Fire and Rescue are also proactive in this regard.
4. In its management of green spaces for nature, commonly resulting in areas of longer grass, the potential fire hazard is already being considered in terms of location and the use of mown fire breaks.





Question(s) to the Vice Chair of the Homes and Housing Delivery Committee**From Councillor Peat, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston****Subject: Private Renter Support and Affordable Housing Delivery**

What actions have you taken to improve the support available for private renters since your appointment as Chair of the Homes and Housing Delivery Committee?

Councillor Parsons recently asked for affordable housing delivery to be removed from the Corporate Risk report, despite Bristol's lack of it being one of the most serious risks facing the city. I have also heard that there is no reference to housing in the refreshed One City Plan's proposed key priorities. Keeping in mind that over half the new affordable housing starts in Bristol last year were council housing and that you scrapped plans for over 2,000 new council homes, are you worried that social housing completions in Bristol will fall off a cliff in a few years' time, and is this why you're worried about scrutiny?

Written response for publication:**Support for Private Renters**

1. In August last year, the Council introduced new licensing schemes covering most rented properties in the wards of Bishopston and Ashley Down, Cotham and Easton, as well as a scheme covering all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) across the city. These schemes build on the success of previous licensing schemes and aim to improve the property conditions and management of more than 12,000 rented properties.
2. The Private Housing Service supports tenants in a number of ways, including through its tenant engagement and tenancy relations team, as well as providing a service to respond to complaints about housing conditions in the PRS and taking enforcement action where necessary. New communications have also been developed this year in relation to renters' rights when facing eviction. This can be found [here](#).
3. The Renters' Rights Bill is likely to become law in September, and will bring a number of changes/benefits for tenants that will mean they are better protected, including the abolition of Section 21 'no fault' evictions. A private rented sector strategy for the city will be going to Homes and Housing Policy Committee in 2026.

Affordable Housing Delivery:

4. Discussions are underway to remove CRR48 from the Corporate Risk Register as affordable housing delivery is monitored, reviewed and reported through Corporate KPIs and reported directly to Housing EDM, Homes and Housing Delivery PCCB and now also Homes and Housing Delivery Committee. There are also routes to reporting and reviewing delivery through the Corporate Strategy Action Plan. This is a proposal to use officer time more effectively whilst not taking away oversight or scrutiny around all



routes to affordable housing delivery.

5. In order for the One City Plan to be delivered we have identified Critical Enablers / Foundations that underpin delivery of the one city plan, these include;
Homes
Connectivity
Culture
Safe communities
Tackling health inequalities
Inward investment and inclusive economic growth
6. The Bristol One City Approach is rooted in the collective efforts of partners across the city spanning the public, private, VCSE and education sectors. The One City Plan is not owned by Bristol City Council. The plan is currently being refreshed by a collective of partners, led by the City Office, and is moving towards a mission-led approach to delivering on the 2050 City Vision of a Bristol that is fair, healthy and sustainable where everyone can share in its success.

The One City Homes and Communities Board is there to help provide additionality, and support, to statutory and provider partner services and activities. The role of affordable homes as a critical enabler to the 2050 Vision, and the work of the One City Homes and Communities Board, continue to feature prominently in the One City Plan. The One City Plan and work of the Board complement the Council's Corporate Strategy, which now actually includes affordable housing delivery as one of the key priorities: 'Creating safe, healthy neighbourhoods and affordable, safe and good quality homes'. The Strategy is underpinned by the Council's Homes for Bristol Plan Affordable Housing Delivery Plan.

7. There is a healthy pipeline of affordable homes in the City with (1,785) homes actively in delivery and a further 1,900 homes in a firm pipeline. Our priority as a council is to protect and grow this pipeline of homes across all routes to delivery through the innovative use of BCC land, our planning powers, our Enabling Service, our Direct Delivery and Goram Homes; and by valuing all affordable housing delivery partners who are looking to invest in Bristol.



Question(s) to the Chair of Transport and Connectivity Committee

From Councillor Andrew Brown, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

Subject: E-scooter parking bays

1. Bristol has seen e-scooters and e-bikes be available for hire for some time. Other authorities have officially designated parking bays for these, either with simple paint markings to denote the area, or with physical docks for charging the equipment too. Are there any plans to bring in official e-scooter and e-bike parking bays to clearly denote the bays, increase visibility of the scheme, and to keep our pavements clear for other users?

Written response for publication:

1. We have recently begun installing painted parking bays in priority areas using funding provided by the MCA. Bays are also being designed into many of the forthcoming sustainable transport schemes due to be delivered across the city. We will carefully monitor the impact of the parking programme and expand it as further funding becomes available.



Question(s) to the Chair Economy & Skills Committee**From Councillor Graham Morris (Stockwood)****Subject: STOCKWOOD SHOPS AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

After being delayed for many years, work on the Stockwood Shops Area Improvement Project finally started at the end of March 2025 with completion due by the end of June 2025. However, the work has still not been finished. For long periods after commencement no work appeared to be taking place at all. Lack of progress has caused considerable difficulties for business owners and inconvenience for residents and the organisers of Stockwood Market. There has been little or no communication with councillors and residents, and councillors have had to chase officers to get any information.

1. What lessons have been learnt from the unsatisfactory execution of this project?
2. Will the contractors be subject to a penalty for their inadequate performance?

Written response for publication:

1. The primary factors affecting the project have been the condition of the underlying tree roots and the existing retaining wall. This caused a delay and a requirement to change the works information resulting in a period of demobilisation and re-mobilisation. For future projects, more extensive ground investigations around the base of the trees and the base of the retaining wall could lessen the impact on these types of projects. In addition, the contractor lost some key staff at the start of the project and have experienced resourcing issues which has also combined with the above to contribute to some of the delays.
2. The delays associated with the issues faced and subsequent changes to the works information mean that the contractor is due an extension of time under the contract. However, the contractors performance will be reviewed upon completion and the relevant contractual mechanisms applied if appropriate.
3. As you will know, there is a High Streets Task and Finish Group currently looking at how the Council best supports and enhances its High Streets. This has heard from Officers and external evaluators on the performance of the existing programme, and as chair I am also going to contact all Councillors – like yourself – who have had projects within their wards for their own feedback.



Question to the Vice Chair of Homes and Housing Delivery Committee

From Councillor Christine Townsend, Southville ward

Subject: Council tenants - fences and gates

Council tenants are responsible for fixing fences and gates, with one reservation expressed on the website as, 'there may be a few exceptions if the fence borders public land or you're disabled'.

1. Can the 'few exceptions' be clearly outlined and can you provide what evidence is required to demonstrate that policy compliant thresholds are met?

Written response for publication:

1. There is currently no formal policy in place regarding fencing repairs. However, Bristol City Council operates within its obligations as a landlord as stipulated in the tenancy agreement.
2. Where a resident provides sufficient evidence—for example, demonstrating that a fence is a health and safety issue or re-establish a boundary.
3. If the resident is registered as disabled, we may ask for medical or benefit related evidence if we do not have a record of the residents disability on our Housing Management system.



Question(s) to the Chair of the Public Health and Communities Committee**From Councillor Blake, Hillfields Ward****Subject: Vehicle Dwellers**

Hillfields has two unlawful vehicle dweller encampments, Duncombe Lane and Goodneston road. Duncombe Lane encampment has been there for a number of years now and has had multiple police visits and negative interactions with the local school and its pupils. What's the difference between what's going on with Duncombe Lane and the situation in Eastville, and why have you not acted to remove the caravans in Duncombe lanes when you did in Eastville?

You recently wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister to call for 'Extending powers to local government that make it easier to remove vehicles from our land' Considering the council removed an encampment from Eastville, it seems to me the powers are already extensive – they just aren't being used. What specific power do you want and how and when do you plan to use it?

Written response for publication:

1. The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team have limited capacity but recently acted against high impact vehicle dwelling encampments on Carlton Park, Tramways, and New Stadium Road. Our capacity issues dictate that we must prioritise where we take enforcement action.
2. NET received complaints about the encampment on Duncombe Lane from the police in December 2024 and June 2025 and visited the encampment on several occasions. The complaints shared by the police include safeguarding concerns raised with them by the school about interactions between the vehicle dwellers and Bristol Brunel Academy School pupils.
3. We shared with the police that they had responsibilities to tackle crime and had powers to act against unauthorised encampments under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, and the officer said they would investigate if they could use their powers.
4. If the police provided evidence of crime, ASB, and verified safeguarding concerns, then, alongside waste related issues we would classify the encampment as high impact.
5. The police have powers to remove trespassers on land quickly as introduced in section 61 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and amended in the [2022 Act], and we would like these powers to be extended to the local authority. The power allows the police to act quickly against two or more people trespassing on land with the purpose of living there after reasonable efforts have been made to ask them to leave, if:
 - Any of the trespassers has caused, damage, disruption, or distress or



- The trespassers have between them six or more vehicles on the land.
- 6. We asked the government to make a change to the definition of 'land' in the criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 which will help local authorities manage unauthorised encampments and ensure roads are not obstructed.
- 7. We would also like the government to introduce a new legal requirement for caravans to have a registration of ownership so traffic enforcement officers can act against parked caravans.



Question(s) to the Leader

From Councillor Jos Clark, Brislington West

Subject: Support for affording everyday essentials

1. Given the ongoing rises in the cost of food, energy, and housing, can the Leader outline which projects the Council runs or supports to help residents who are struggling to afford everyday essentials?

Written response for publication:

1. Bristol City Council provides a range of services and supports work led by the community and voluntary sector including:
 - Employment support
 - Financial support such as council tax credit
 - Access to food
 - Advice about money, bills, energy, housing and benefits
1. A comprehensive list of support is available on the council website; which includes where to get help, support with paying bills, information on benefits, financial help, managing debt, mental health, homelessness and more.

[Cost of living support](#)

2. The One City Cost of Living and Anti-Poverty Group is supported by Bristol City Council. The group is about ensuring we have a shared understanding of the pressures and how we can coordinate support.



Question(s) to the Chair Transport & Connectivity Committee**From Councillor Bador Uddin (Henbury & Brentry)****Subject: EAST BRISTOL LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEME**

The East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood Scheme has proved to be hugely controversial and has divided communities. It has resulted in issues such as refuse not being collected for four months. The misfortunes it has caused were entirely predictable.

1. Please provide a breakdown of the total cost of implementing this deeply flawed scheme. This should include both direct and indirect costs such as the recharge of salaries and overheads.
2. Was the cost of the scheme capitalised or expensed?

Written response for publication:

1. It is assumed that you are referring to the trial scheme works. It would not be possible to fully isolate indirect costs, but we can confirm that the following direct costs have been incurred (as of 31/08/2025):

ETM trial scheme works	£702,608.23
Other trial scheme costs (e.g. planting)	£99,702.97
Cultural programme costs (street art, cultural activations)	£68,786.52
Enforcement camera costs	£121,179.63
Total	£992,277.35

2. The project is funded by CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement) which is a capital programme.



Question to the Chair of Environment and Sustainability Committee

From Councillor David Wilcox, Lockleaze ward

Subject: Litter Lotto

The Litter Lotto project looks like an ideal way to help people clear out streets and parks of litter in addition to the work that Bristol Waste does.

1. Will Bristol City Council be participating in the Litter Lotto project?

Written response for publication:

1. In 2023 when Bristol Binning campaign was delivered, focussing on reducing litter, McDonalds funded a litter lotto in the city centre. QR codes were placed on the bins and residents can still use this to participate. McDonalds confirmed that only a small number of users were engaged.
2. The Council does not proactively fund or sponsor Litter Lotto due to its Statement of Gambling Policy.



Question(s) to the Chair of Transport Committee**From Councillor Breckels, St George Troopers Hill Ward****Subject: East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood**

I was concerned to hear that members of the public stated that the Liveable Neighbourhood infrastructure was causing delays with the fire service's response to incidents, but relieved Avon Fire and Rescue clarified that their vehicles arrived within the standard eight-minute response time. What discussions have you had with Avon Fire and Rescue regarding the East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood?

Please can you provide a summary of the issues Avon Fire and Rescue service have experienced responding to incidents in the East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood area?

Written response for publication:

1. Avon Fire service are a statutory consultee for any road changes and we have engaged with them during design, implementation and through the trial period.
2. The Fire Service is adjusting to the new road layout. There are some destinations that now require a slightly different route, some destinations require bollards to be dropped, and some can be accessed via bus gates where they benefit from special access and lower traffic levels. They have also reported that some experienced some inconsiderate parking can slow down crews particularly traversing narrow junctions, which happens right across the city.
3. We will be working with the Fire Service and other key stakeholders to adjust the scheme as necessary should it be made permanent to respond to any concerns raised



Question(s) to the Leader

From Councillor Andrew Brown, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

Subject: Student Exemption from Council Tax

1. How much does the Council estimate that the Student Exemption from Council Tax will cost the council for the 25/26 year, in both gross terms and net, of any compensatory amount included within the funding settlement?

Written response for publication:

1. There are two exemptions set out in legislation; Class M (Hall of Residence) and Class N (properties wholly occupied by students).
2. The sums currently expected to be awarded in respect of these exemptions during 2025/6 are:
 - a. Class M: £7.6m
 - b. Class N: £17.6m
3. The current Local Government Finance settlement does not explicitly compensate Councils for Class M and Class N exemptions. The outcome of the Local Government Finance settlement for 2025-26 remains uncertain, however there has been no indication of change to this aspect. Therefore, whilst the Settlement will consider the relative needs and resources for Council's, there remains no specific mechanism to offset lost Council Tax from these exemptions.



Question to the Chair of Economy and Skills Policy Committee

From Councillor Shona Jemphrey, Lawrence Hill ward

Subject: St Nicks Market

Many of the traders at St Nicks Market are very concerned about the proposed licence fee increases for their stalls. They report that they do not feel these are sustainable and that they will threaten the survival of many small, independent businesses, and could lead to the collapse of our unique and historic market, which is so loved and brings the public into a wonderful historic building.

1. How have these traders been approached about the licence fee increases, and what further can be done to take their views into account and to make any increases sustainable for them?

Written response for publication:

1. The Council has undertaken two phases (10 March to 30 March 2025 and 23 June to 21 July 2025) of formal consultation with the St Nicholas Market indoor traders to receive their feedback on proposals to increase licence fees through a new fee model at the market. During both consultations traders were kept regularly informed via email and offered one-to-one meetings to discuss the proposals and ask any questions. The Council has also undertaken informal meetings with the St Nicholas Market branch of the National Markets Traders Federation (which represents around 80% of traders).
2. Consultation feedback has been fully analysed and taken into consideration in developing the new licence fee model. The consultation feedback is included in the report due to be considered by the Economy & Skills Committee on 22 September.
3. After the first stage of consultation, the Council acknowledged that the proposed favoured approach – of implementing a “percentage of turnover” model for businesses in the Glass Arcade – did not command support of traders, It therefore devised an alternate model ahead of the second stage of consultation, and included the proposal that this be phased in, specifically to allow traders time to adjust and despite this meaning that the service will continue to fall short of income targets during this phasing period.
4. As Chair, I am committed to keeping the situation under review, and to supporting Officers in finding other income streams to support the service. I am also liaising with other Chairs, and Officers, on the importance of bringing the rest of the Corn Exchange building into use, although much of that falls outside the immediate remit of the Market’s team.



Question(s) to the Chair of the Economy and Skills Committee**From Councillor Martin, Frome Vale****Subject: Planning Enforcement**

A gym opened in mid-July and remains open in fishponds despite the council refusing it planning permission for four distinct reasons. One of these was concerns about noise levels, and sure enough we have had many complaints from local residents about loud thumping music heard in their homes starting as early as 6am, and going on until past 9pm. What action will be taken and when?

Written response for publication:

Planning Enforcement case 25/30315/COU was registered on 21.7.2025. The potential planning breaches raised are being investigated by enforcement and pollution control officers. As this is a live case no further information can be publicly provided. Updates on the case have been provided to those individuals who are registered as interested parties on the case. Information in relation to live investigations can be sensitive and/or confidential. Publicly releasing such information could impede the progress of enforcement action and create additional legal challenges.

A fresh planning application for this site was also submitted on 21.8.2025 (25/13663/F).



Question(s) to the Chair of Transport and Connectivity Committee

From Councillor Stephen Williams, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze

Subject: Ashley Down station

1. What assessment has been made of the number of passenger journeys and the number of destinations chosen from Ashley Down station in the first six months of operation (or latest figures available)?

Written response for publication:

1. In the first six months since the station opened the cumulative total of passengers is 66,000.
2. The cumulative total of all passengers since opening is 95,000.
3. The top 5 destinations for passengers travelling from Ashley Down Station are Bristol Temple Meads, Bath Spa, Cardiff Central, Filton Abbeywood and Lawrence Hill.



Question to the Vice Chair of Homes and Housing Delivery Committee

From Councillor Christine Townsend, Southville ward

Subject: Warden Road waste collection project

Warden Road BS3 resident waste collection project is a local CIL funded project that remains unfinished by the HRA officer who was tasked with project management as the land is HRA owned.

It has now been over two years since this started, it remains unfinished, inadequate by design and therefore ineffective in combating that for which the project was started in the first place.

Area CIL is the only element of development funding that can be resident directed and if this city is going to develop the housing and infrastructure needed then CIL projects must be completed in a timely manner.

1. When will the residents of Warden Rd finally see their waste storage unit completed to a satisfactory standard fulfilling the actual purpose for which it was funded and built in the first place?

Written response for publication:

1. The project has been completed as per the original specification and has been signed off as complete by a surveyor. Any further works will require additional funding as they did not form part of the original specification and would be a new project.
2. The Housing Revenue Account contributed land and approximately £20,000 towards the project via a Neighbourhood Improvement Bid as the funding from CIL was insufficient.
3. There are five Bristol City Council tenants who live on Warden Road and can use the store. The rest of the road are made up of privately owned properties.



Question(s) to the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee**From Councillor Hornchen, Brislington East Ward****Subject: Short Breaks**

The Green-led council has recently implemented a 10% cut in provision for short breaks for SEND carers. We all know how important this service is - in the long 6 weeks school holiday, even a 2 hour play session can help break up an intense time for families.

In June 2025, the children and young people's committee was informed that the 10% cuts could result in a 14% reduction in service and a significant increase in EHCP applications. This is in part due to the nature of relying small charities and volunteer groups to provide short breaks, which are very sensitive to changes in funding.

Now that the summer holidays are over and schools have returned, please can you provide an update on how the short breaks service was over the summer - was there enough provision for everyone who needed it?

Written response for publication:

1. A funding reduction of 10% was applied from April 2025, although was made to the budget in April 2024, with the first year mitigated through an under-spend from the pooled budget. Consultation had taken place to determine how to apply the reduction, and the least unpopular view was to apply across all of the community based short breaks, with many providers then reducing their weekend sessions.
2. Additional funding was provided over the summer break to enable 6 Saturday sessions to be provided by WECIL who held a significant waiting list. These sessions went a long way to supporting families over the holiday period and, combined with the Holiday Activity Fund which provides sessions Monday to Friday, allowed many families to access support.
3. Summer take-up and feed-back is still being collated from all providers and will be used to inform a view of our sufficiency. This will be taken to our Joint Commissioning Group comprised of SEND system membership, and proposals will be worked up for next steps which include a review of the ICB contribution towards this crucial service.
4. It is likely that with current demand and budget, there will need to be a full review of Short Breaks delivery in Bristol.



Question(s) to the Chair of Transport and Connectivity Committee

From Councillor Stephen Williams, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze

Subject: Resident Parking Schemes

1. Are there any updates on the progression of new Resident Parking Schemes for Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze and surrounding areas?

Written response for publication:

1. A paper will be coming to Transport and Connectivity Committee in October to set out the current and future plans for residents parking schemes. This will cover the potential for RPS around Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze



Question to the Chair of the Transport and Connectivity Committee

From Councillor Izzy Russell, Ashley ward

Subject: Insurance Claims

Does the council collect data on the causes of accidents on its land that result in insurance claims, including highways and pavements, and please can you break down what these causes are?

Written response for publication:

1. The council has recently launched a new claims Power BI reporting dashboard that provides a useful insight into the volume, nature and cause of claims. The data held is from January 2020 and indicates the council has handled and managed nearly 5056 claims in that time.

2. The main causes for these claims are as follows:

- 50% are claims linked to damage resulting from mainly motor vehicle incidents/accidents, damage to utilities and highways / pathways;
- 18% are claims resulting from potholes / road and pathway defects;
- 11% are claims resulting from personal injury;
- 8% are claims resulting from an injury related to a person's employment with the council;
- 2% are claims relating to tree damage; and
- 11% - miscellaneous, incl fire damage, escape of water, subsidence, data breach, marine etc

3. The council's insurance team working with its main insurer and through its strategic engagement with relevant operational service managers, is using the data analysis and insight to identify opportunities to help prevent and where appropriate repudiate the number and cost of claims against the council.



Question(s) to the Leader**From Councillor Self, Southmead Ward****Subject: Age Friendly City**

Adult Social Care has as one of its responsibilities to be an Age Friendly City. I have recently had two cases in Southmead where elderly people have had issues relating to council tax.

In one instance, the lady was at end of life and is now deceased. Her surviving child (who lived with her) has had to deal with the trauma of losing their mother and the council chasing unpaid tax. This included a threat to send the bailiffs in to collect money allegedly owed.

In the other case, a lady of 101 years of age who has recently moved into a care home is being overcharged for council tax on her old property. Her former property was unfurnished and empty for a number of months. She successfully filled in a web form to try and recover overpaid council tax based on her property being eligible for an 'Empty and Unfurnished' reduction. It seems grossly unfair that this lady is having to wait for overcharged council tax to be repaid.

Does the Chair of Adult Social Care think it's fair for the council to treat the elderly and their families in such a despicable way?

Written response for publication:

1. I'm sorry to hear of the distress caused in a case where a constituent is now deceased. In general terms, where the Executor or Personal Representative confirms there are no funds in a deceased estate and the Council are notified as such, any sums due in respect of council tax will be written off.
2. The Revenues service is currently experiencing a peak in demand from the wider customer base due to the number of changes which occur at the start and end of each academic year. We have brought in additional permanent staff, with those colleagues working through training plans and further temporary resource has also been brought in to supplement the existing cohort of permanent staff. Unfortunately, we have a backlog of work across all areas at present and are working very hard to bring those numbers down to more acceptable levels. This does mean of course that some customers are not receiving responses as quickly as we would like and for that I can only apologise.
3. If the Councillor would like to supply specific information relating to the two persons in question I will arrange for each case to be reviewed, the appropriate action taken and a response issued.



Question(s) to the Leader

From Councillor Nicholas Coombes, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze

Subject: Freedom of Information Requests

1. Does the Leader think it was correct to appeal the enforcement notice of the Information Commissioners Office relating to Freedom of Information Requests?
2. Will the Leader commit the council to greater openness and transparency, including implementing the ICO's Practice Recommendation and publishing the answers to Fol requests?

Written response for publication:

1. Thank you for your question.

This was an officer decision. I understand that the view was that there were reasonable grounds for appealing the enforcement notice (and very minimal cost implications)). It's important that we respect the professional views of officers.

In light of the judgement, which went against the Council, clearly there will be differing opinions about whether this was the correct course of action.

2. Yes, I fully support improving openness and transparency.

The practice recommendation was effectively replaced by the enforcement notice. As referenced above, the Council was working towards compliance with the enforcement notice throughout the proceedings. Having been briefed by officers, I understand work continues to ensure that the Council complies with the notice.

We have continued to work on improving response rates to FOIs and this will enable us to meet the requirements set out in the ICO's Practice Recommendation.



Question(s) to the Leader of the Council**From Councillor King, Hillfields Ward****Subject: Carbon Budget**

The Bristol Green Party promised to introduce a carbon budget process alongside the annual financial budgeting process from 2025. Can we expect to see that this year?

Written response for publication:

1. The Bristol Green Party Manifesto for the 2024 election set out an ambition for the council to be able to better plan the reduction of carbon emissions from our activities and use decision making processes better to reduce emissions.
2. To help us plan the long term emissions reductions of the city we are using a digital tool called ClimateView and we used this to develop the One City Climate Action Plan which was approved by Environment and Sustainability Committee in September 2024. This tool allows us to assess the impact of say increasing the percentage of people walking or cycling or the effects of major home insulation programme.
3. We also want to design out carbon emissions, and other environmental impacts from our activities, such as our capital programme where we are investing millions in improving the city. We have introduced a system whereby all the council's new major construction projects, from the start of the project development, will predict and assess the carbon emissions associated with their delivery. This will help minimise emissions and decide whether the benefits justify the carbon cost. As this system is applied to more and more projects we will be able to predict carbon emissions from the capital programme, lending itself to the creation of a carbon budget, which progress can then be measured against.
4. All Key Decisions are accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment and this will undertake a more qualitative assessment of the impacts on carbon emissions, nature and resilience.
5. This gives us a comprehensive approach to strategy, major capital projects and all decisions which allow us to consider and more importantly reduce emissions.



Question(s) to the Chair of Transport and Connectivity Committee

From Councillor Caroline Gooch, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze

Subject: In-house road maintenance

1. It took five months to complete white lining of zebra crossings and the centreline on the A4018 after resurfacing at Westbury Hill. Painting white and yellow lines is one of the simpler road maintenance jobs, yet it seems framework contractors are unwilling to take this on, resulting in maintenance backlogs across Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze. Would the Council do this work in house to reduce costs and improve reliability?

Written response for publication:

1. In order to ensure that road markings are reinstated in a timely manner following surfacing work, surfacing contractors will be responsible for the reinstatement themselves, rather than a road marking contractor which is procured separately. That will happen from 1st October 2025 as part of the newly procured Highways Maintenance framework contract.



Question(s) to the Chair of the Transport Committee

From Councillor Rippington, Brislington East Ward

WITHDRAWN



Question(s) to the Chair of the Public Health and Communities Committee**From Councillor Dudd, Southmead Ward****Subject: Sports Investment**

I'm pleased to see the council is bringing forward strategies to improve sports pitches, facilities, and leisure centres across Bristol. Do you agree these are key strategic community assets for our city and therefore, will the strategies' ambitions be backed up with funding including Strategic CIL and borrowing where there's a business case - bearing in mind match-funding from sporting bodies is often available?

Written response for publication:

1. Our sports facilities and pitches are indeed valuable assets which play a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities.
2. To deliver future projects in a financially constrained environment, we'll need to work closely with key partners and explore both internal and external funding sources, of which Strategic CIL is one. Any investment decisions will always need backing by a robust business case and made in the context of competing priorities. Until specific projects are identified, it remains speculative to confirm whether funding, internal or external will be available to support them
3. I am however pleased to share that our upcoming sports strategies will strengthen the evidence base, supporting the case for any future investment.



Question(s) to the Chair of the Transport Committee**From Councillor Hornchen, Brislington East ward****Subject: Brislington Meadows**

In April 2022, the Planning Inspectorate approved Outline Planning Permission for a development of up to 260 new residential units at land off Broomhill Road, better known as Brislington Meadows.

The traffic assessment for the application is dated April 2022. However, I have been informed that the survey for the traffic assessment was carried out in 2021, during the pandemic - possibly during lockdown.

Since I was first elected as a councillor, the traffic on Broomhill Road has certainly increased and I am getting continuous complaints about volume and speed of the traffic. I have even brought a petition to the council about traffic on a road that has a junction with Broomhill Road. However, I was informed by Keepmoat, the developers of the site, that this was the only survey that would be undertaken.

Please can you assure my local residents that an up-to-date traffic impact will done?

Written response for publication:

- Within the planning system traffic surveys are valid within a 3 year window of the decision. The developer Keepmoat is not expected to provide further data within the planning system.
- The developer will have to discharge pre-commencement conditions before the development proceeds, and this will include signing the S278 agreement which will provide the opportunity to address road safety issues in the vicinity of the site.



Question(s) to the Leader of the Council**From Councillor Al-Maghrabi, Frome Vale ward****Subject: Forwards Festival Emails**

I, and other councillors, received hundreds of nearly identical emails urging me to push the council to lobby Forwards Festival for it to have 'non-political content policy' and 'political neutrality', with enforceable terms for breaching this. The email also claimed the Keffiyah, commonly worn in the middle east since at least 7th century AD, with roots going back 3000 years, is a 'PLO terrorist symbol'. As a Palestinian, I find this claim as outrageous as it is offensive.

Councillor Dyer, did you respond to these emails on behalf of the council and if so, can you share a copy of your response?

Written response for publication:

1. Thank you for your question. The Council received thousands of identical emails on this topic all from the same person and in accordance with our ICT security policies I made IT aware and did not reply. At one point the emails were being received at the rate of dozens per minute, therefore given that we had identified that the emails were potentially spam from an autobot, I felt that it would not be useful to waste council resources on responding to fake email addresses.

I am however, conscious that the content of the emails was designed to be both insulting and upsetting to those who received them. I would also like to confirm that the Forwards Festival was fully compliant with all applicable legislation.



Question(s) to the Leader of the Council**From Councillor King, Hillfields Ward****Subject: Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**

the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) is an initiative the council had strong engagement with under the previous administration on collaborative consensus on reaching 'the common goal of sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban food systems'. Will the current administration be continuing to engage with their programmes and continuing partnership working?

Written response for publication:

1. Yes, we are continuing to be part of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. Our engagement is focused on knowledge sharing with the network.
2. We supported Bristol Food Network in submitting two initiatives to the annual MUFPP awards this year:
 - Governance category – work on a disaster risk plan for food
 - Food production category – Bristol Food Growing Strategy and supporting work



Question(s) to the Leader of the Council

From Councillor Renhard, Horfield Ward

Subject: Catering Contract

The council's new catering contract charges £20 for meetings to be provided with tap water – even the council's own meetings. How many council meetings are there a year and if charged £20 a meeting for tap water, how much would the council pay the catering company?

Written response for publication:

1. There are 156 Democratic Services meetings and 80 Policy Committee meetings each year. At £20 per meeting, this is a total cost of £4,720 per year, to supply water for committee meetings.



Question(s) to the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee**From Councillor Renhard, Horfield Ward****Subject: Black Bin Collections**

It has been almost six months since the consultation on a move to three or four-weekly bin collection closed, where the vast majority of Bristolians indicated they did not want the Green-led administration to proceed with these changes. Labour and Conservative councillors have all indicated they are not willing to support a change to less frequent bin collections or smaller black bins. Have the Green Party made up their minds about whether they are going to introduce three-weekly black bin collections and if not, what is taking so long?

Written response for publication:

1. As you may be aware the Environment and Sustainability Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to review the different options available to Bristol to increase recycling, reduce and reduce carbon emissions associated the waste produced.
2. There has been three Task and Finish group meetings, and another has been scheduled. Following this, the group will make recommendations back to the Committee.
3. This a cross-party working group and all options should be considered.
4. The information below highlights the waste and recycling priorities as reflected in the recent consultation:
 - a. 90% want cleaner streets (very high or high importance)
 - b. 72% reduce waste (very high or high)
 - c. 68% recycle more (very high or high)



Question(s) to the Chair of the Transport Committee**From Councillor Kollar, Bishopsworth Ward****Subject: King George's Road**

Residents have been raising a very noticeable dip in the road on King George's Road, around half way down it. When heavy lorries drive down the road, the vibration is so strong it can be felt and heard in the nearby the nearby homes. I have been raising this with the transport team but they have said they won't fix it as it's not an immediate safety issue.

Can you commit to looking at remediating this as soon as is feasible, or at least looking at the site in more detail to see what a significant problem it is for residents?

Written response for publication:

1. Highways investigated the complaint in April 2025 and identified a historic utility trench that has partially sunken. At the time the sunken trench did not meet the criteria of being a safety critical defect warranting a repair.
2. In response to this enquiry Highways will reassess the trench, and surrounding road and consider a repair with concerns about vibration and sound in mind. An assessment will be undertaken in September.



Question(s) to the Leader of the Council

From Councillor Rippington, Brislington East Ward

Subject: Bottleyard Studios

How much money, including payment in kind through officer time, did the council spend to date on the failed attempt to privatise the Bottleyard Studios?

Written response for publication:

The project to review the future of the studios has been within the council's transformation programme since 2023 (when this approach was agreed by the previous administration) and has an approved project budget. The costs associated with the project are as follows and within budget:

1. Total project spend to date (since Jan 23) = £430K
2. Officer time is accounted for within the overall project resource includes project management, legal, finance and HR.
3. Other officer time is unaccounted for as, it is considered to be within their roles.

