

AGENDA ITEM 1



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2015 AT 6.00 p.m.

- P The Lord Mayor - Councillor Campion-Smith
- P The Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Watson
- P The Mayor - George Ferguson
- P Councillor Abraham
- P Councillor Alexander
- P Councillor Bolton
- P Councillor Bradshaw
- P Councillor Brain
- P Councillor Breckels
- P Councillor Budd
- P Councillor Cheney
- P Councillor Clark
- P Councillor Clarke
- P Councillor Cook
- A Councillor Daniels
- P Councillor Davies
- P Councillor Denyer
- P Councillor Eddy
- P Councillor Fodor
- P Councillor Frost
- P Councillor Glazzard
- P Councillor Gollop
- P Councillor Goulandris
- P Councillor Greaves
- P Councillor Hance
- P Councillor Harvey
- P Councillor Hickman
- P Councillor Hiscott
- P Councillor Holland
- P Councillor Hopkins
- A Councillor Hoyt
- P Councillor Jackson
- A Councillor Jama
- P Councillor Joffe
- P Councillor Kent
- A Councillor Khan
- P Councillor Kirk
- P Councillor Langley

P Councillor Leaman
P Councillor Lovell
P Councillor Lucas
A Councillor Malnick
A Councillor McMullen
P Councillor Massey
P Councillor Mead
P Councillor Means
P Councillor Melias
P Councillor Milestone
P Councillor Mongon
P Councillor Morgan
A Councillor D Morris
P Councillor G Morris
P Councillor Negus
A Councillor Payne
P Councillor Pearce
P Councillor Phipps
P Councillor Quartley
P Councillor Radice
A Councillor Rylatt
P Councillor Shah
P Councillor Stafford-Townsend
P Jenny Smith
A Councillor Stone
P Rob Telford
P Councillor Thomas
P Councillor Threlfall
P Councillor Tincknell
P Councillor Weston
P Councillor Windows
P Councillor Wollacott
P Councillor Wright

Honorary aldermen and alderwomen in attendance:

N Barton, J McLaren, A Massey, C Smith, R Walker

59. MINUTES – FULL COUNCIL – 10 NOVEMBER 2015
(agenda item 1)

On the motion of the Lord Mayor, seconded by Councillor Eddy, it was

RESOLVED:

- **That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 10 November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.**

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(agenda item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

61. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(agenda item 3)

a. Corporate Parenting Plan and Pledge

The Lord Mayor advised that at the request of the Assistant Mayor for People, copies of the finalised Corporate Parenting Plan and Pledge had been circulated to councillors at this meeting.

b. Season's greetings

The Lord Mayor extended season's greetings to all present.

62. PETITIONS, STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(agenda item 4)

Public petitions:

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

<i>Petition ref.</i>		<i>Subject / petition organiser</i>
PP 01	-	Petition – Save Bristol North Baths Petition organiser – James Savage
PP 02	-	Petition – in support of Motion a. – Making Avon Pension fund a fossil-free fund Petition organiser – Lindsey Fassnidge

Statements:

The Full Council received and noted the following statements:

<i>Statement ref.</i>	<i>Person(s) submitting statement and subject</i>
PS 01 -	David Redgewell – Transport - taking control of the future
PS 02 -	Christina Biggs – Joint scrutiny
PS 03 -	Judy Mead – Bush centre
PS 04 -	Freja Gregory – Bush centre

- PS 05 - Lindsey Fassnidge – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 06 - Benoit Bennett – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 07 - Harry Wells – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 08 - Luke Mitchell – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 09 - Emma Burleigh – Motion a – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 10 - Lin Patterson – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 11 - Alison Wren – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 12 - Jenny Foster – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 13 - Gideon Thomas – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 14 - Martin Evans – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 15 - Barry Suart – Transport issues
- PS 16 - Caroline Wilson – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 17 - Laura MacDonald – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 18 - Cresten Boase – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 19 - Barry Cash – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 20 - Julia Wallond – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 21 - Sonia Adrissi – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 22 - Dawn Jones - Bush Centre

- PS 23 - Samantha Viggers – Bush centre
- PS 24 - Jessica Bidmead – Bush centre
- PS 25 - Geoffrey Allen – Motion a. – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 26 - John Chant – Bush centre
- PS 27 - Jamie Darwen – FaithSpace building (Southville Methodist Church)
- PS 28 - Matthew Symonds – Southville Methodist Church and halls
- PS 29 - Tamsyn Carey – Bush centre
- PS 30 - Rita Lynch – Bush centre
- PS 31 - Ornella Saibene – Bush centre
- PS 32 - Paul Wheeler – Bus service for Callington Road hospital
- PS 33 - Helen Neale – Bush centre
- PS 34 - Joan Hillyer – Bush centre
- PS 35 - Edward Bowditch – Downs parking restrictions
- PS 36 - Mark Plummer – Motion A – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 37 - Tom Brook – Bristol North Baths
- PS 38 - Gillian Bird – Motion A – Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund
- PS 39 - Caroline Stevenson – Bush centre
- PS 40 - Fred Jerrome & Robert Massey – Faithspace (Southville Methodist Church)

Within the time available, statements were presented by individuals who were present at the meeting.

Questions:

The Full Council noted that the following questions had been submitted:

- PQ 01 - Question to the Mayor – Freedom of information requests
Question from Christian Martin

- PQ 02 - Question to the Mayor – Green Capital accounts
Question from Christian Martin
- PQ 03 - Question to the Mayor - Parking issues – Southmead hospital area
Question from Brian Wiltshire
- PQ 04 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking permits
Question from Miles Taylor
- PQ 05 - Question to the Mayor – Commuter rail access
Question from Michael Owen
- PQ 06 - Question to the Mayor – Single yellow lines
Question from Michael Owen
- PQ 07 - Question to the Mayor – Disposal of port land freehold
Question from Alderman Royston Griffey
- PQ 08 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues /residents parking
Question from Emma Cree
- PQ 09 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues – M32 speed limit/traffic
congestion
Question from Dawn Nielsen
- PQ 10 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking
Question from Keith Morgan
- PQ 11 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking
Question from Sarah Parr
- PQ 12 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/Prince Street bridge/M32
Question from Paul Collis
- PQ 13 - Question to the Mayor – Mayor’s plans
Question from Steve Nutland
- PQ 14 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking
Question from Rachel Roberts
- PQ 15 - Question to the Mayor – Single yellow lines
Question from Andrew Pink
- PQ 16 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues / residents parking
Question from John Bishop
- PQ 17 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues / residents parking
Question from Christine Muddiman
- PQ 18 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues / residents parking
Question from Ben McGinn

- PQ 19 - Question to the Mayor – 20 mph speed limits
Question from JJ Phillips
- PQ 20 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from John Welch
- PQ 21 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Marcelle Stevens
- PQ 22 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Catherine Downer
- PQ 23 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/20 mph speed limit/residents
parking
Question from Alistair Wardle
- PQ 24 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Colin Waite
- PQ 25 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Martyn Miller
- PQ 26 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Sam Hobday
- PQ 27 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Colin Julian
- PQ 28 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/20 mph speed limit/residents
parking
Question from Lynda Sanders
- PQ 29 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Sandra Jones
- PQ 30 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking figures
Question from James Lancashire
- PQ 31 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Andrew Thomas
- PQ 32 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking
Question from Martin Hunt
- PQ 33 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Des Baker
- PQ 34 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/Prince Street bridge
Question from Troy Finch
- PQ 35 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Renate Mader

- PQ 36 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking
Question from Caroline Clarke
- PQ 37 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking/Prince Street
bridge
Question from Jon Green
- PQ 38 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Josh Beard
- PQ 39 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues – Windmill Hill
Question from Rich Harryman
- PQ 40 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking – Southville/
20 mph speed limits
Question from Linda Steadman
- PQ 41 - Question to the Mayor – Wessex bus 505 service
Question from Sarah Spilsbury
- PQ 42 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking
Question from Paul Leonard
- PQ 43 - Question to the Mayor – Whitehall area of Bristol
Question from Richard Bond
- PQ 44 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking/the Downs
Question from Anthony Davis
- PQ 45 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking - accounts
Question from Andrew Carton-Kelly
- PQ 46 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues – 8 December
Question from Viv James
- PQ 47 - Question to the Mayor – Bush centre
Question from Caroline Stevenson
- PQ 48 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking/20 mph speed
limits
Question from Tony Cross
- PQ 49 - Question to the Mayor – Swimming pool facilities
Question from Ian Townsend
- PQ 50 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Andy Martin
- PQ 51 - Question to the Mayor – The Bush centre
Question from Ornella Saibene

- PQ 52 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Darren Worlock
- PQ 53 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues – 8 December
Question from Caroline Finch
- PQ 54 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking - Bedminster
Question from Roger Turner
- PQ 55 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Edward Bowditch
- PQ 56 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from John Henn
- PQ 57 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking/20 mph speed
limits
Question from Bob Lewis
- PQ 58 - Question to the Mayor – Bus services
Question from Martyn Hillier
- PQ 59 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Alan Graham
- PQ 60 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking - Southville
Question from Ryan Livingstone
- PQ 61 - Question to the Mayor – Montpelier RPS displacement
Question from Lynne Roberts
- PQ 62 - Question to the Mayor – School Coach Parking Bay - Fairlawn
School
Question from Lynne Roberts
- PQ 63 - Question to the Mayor – Feeder Road bridge
Question from Michael Dubin
- PQ 64 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Sara Haydon
- PQ 65 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking – Gloucester Road
Question from Sergio Romagnoli
- PQ 66 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking/dropped kerb issue
Question from John Morton
- PQ 67 - Question to the Mayor – Montpelier RPZ
Question from Kate Hodges

- PQ 68 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues - Cattle Market Road/
Whitby Road
Question from Jessica Calvey
- PQ 69 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Alice Gadsby
- PQ 70 - Question to the Mayor – Carriageworks/Westmoreland House site
Question from Jenny Grigg
- PQ 71 - Question to the Mayor – 20 mph speed limit, Gloucester Road
Question from Jenny Grigg
- PQ 72 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues/residents parking
Question from Lynn Ingleton
- PQ 73 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking zones
Question from Annette Jones
- PQ 74 - Question to the Mayor – Traffic issues
Question from Amanda Williams
- PQ 75 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Stephen Greaves
- PQ 76 - Question to the Mayor – Residents parking
Question from Nicole Krusysse
- PQ 77 - Question to the Mayor – Malcolm X centre funding
Question from Amirah Cole
- PQ 78 - Question to the Mayor – Gentrification of St Paul's
Question from Amirah Cole
- PQ 79 - Question to the Mayor – Funding for Malcolm X centre/St Paul's
Carnival/race equality issues
Question from Steve Stephenson
- PQ 80 - Question to the Mayor – Green Capital
Question from Barry Cash

Within the time available, the Mayor responded to the following questions (also responding to supplementary questions where asked): PQ 03, PQ 04, PQ 05, PQ 06, PQ 41, PQ 47, PQ 51, PQ 55, PQ 77 and PQ 78.

63. PETITIONS NOTIFIED BY COUNCILLORS
(agenda item 5)

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

<i>Petition ref.</i>	<i>Subject / councillor presenting petition</i>
CP 01	- Stibbs Hill allotments - presented by Councillor Breckels
CP 02	- Community transport - presented by Councillor Leaman

64. ADJOURNMENT

The Lord Mayor proposed that Full Council adjourn for 20 minutes for refreshments. It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Full Council adjourn for 20 minutes for refreshments and then reconvene.

65. PETITION DEBATE – THE BUSH CENTRE (agenda item 6)

The Full Council considered a report of the Service Director – Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of this petition, which had reached the threshold (3,500 signatures from people who live, work or study in Bristol) for a Full Council debate.

Dawn Jones (one of the petition organisers) was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council then debated the petition.

Following the debate, it was:

RESOLVED:

- **That the petition be noted and referred to the Mayor for his consideration and response, taking into account the debate at this meeting.**

66. PETITION DEBATE – PETITION ENTITLED “OPEN EMPTY BUILDINGS FOR THE HOMELESS THIS WINTER” (agenda item 7)

The Full Council considered a report of the Service Director – Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of this petition, which had reached the threshold (3,500 signatures from people who live, work or study in Bristol) for a Full Council debate.

Elisha Hindley-Cupper (one of the petition organisers) was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council then debated the petition.

Following the debate, it was:

RESOLVED:

- **That the petition be noted and referred to the Mayor for his consideration and response, taking into account the debate at this meeting.**

67. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2015-16
(agenda item 8)

The Full Council considered the treasury management mid-year report 2015-16.

Cllr Gollop moved the report and the recommendation set out therein.

The Mayor seconded the motion.

Following debate, it was

RESOLVED:

- **That the report be noted.**

68. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2016/17 WITH DELEGATION OF CHANGES REQUIRED AND DELEGATION OF BUSINESS RATE ESTIMATE 2016/17
(agenda item 9)

The Full Council considered a report seeking approval of the council tax base for 2016/17.

Cllr Gollop moved the report and the recommendations set out therein.

The Mayor seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED (53 members voting in favour, 6 against, with 2 abstentions) and it was

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the council tax base for 2016/17 be agreed as 120,946 based on data to November 2015**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation**

with the executive portfolio holder for finance, to determine the business rates tax base for 2016/17.

69. “MORE THAN A ROOF” – BRISTOL’S HOUSING STRATEGY
(agenda item 10)

The Full Council considered a report on the new housing strategy.

The Mayor moved the report and the recommendation set out therein.

Cllr Radice seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED:

- **That the housing strategy document “More than a roof” be noted and that the actions detailed in the document be supported.**

70. MOTIONS
(agenda item 11)

The Full Council considered the following motions:

a. Making Avon Pension Fund a fossil-free fund

Councillor Fodor moved the following motion:

This Council notes:

1. That there is increasing recognition that fossil fuel assets and investments are likely to become ‘stranded assets’ with 75% having to be kept in the ground to prevent runaway climate change (*ref1*).
2. Many international experts and investors are warning of the risks of fossil fuel investments, and at the same time the increasing attractiveness of renewable energy technologies, with wind power being the cheapest form of onshore generation now (*ref2*). Other funds and Universities are increasingly divesting (*ref3*).
3. The city and its sub region are an area of international expertise in renewable energy technologies. Locally we are also an area with a very strong track record of community sustainable energy initiatives, typified by the work of Bristol Energy Network members, the Bristol Community Strategy for Energy, and the projects supported by Bristol 2015.
4. Bristol Unison branch passed a motion in July for the LGPS to divest from fossil fuels and then wrote to the chair of the Avon pension fund committee conveying that decision in July. Pension fund boards have now been established and UNISON has a seat on the board.

This Council recognises that:

1. The past industrial and economic base of the Bristol and Avon area was based on coal and fossil fuels.
2. The future industrial and economic base of Bristol and surrounding authorities will be based on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
3. The interests of our pensioners will increasingly be served by forward-looking investments in renewable energy technologies and areas like energy storage and low carbon solutions, including energy efficiency.
4. With many other pension funds divesting and switching to renewables it is time for Avon Pension Fund to follow suit. The experience of the award winning Environment Agency PF (a local authority scheme) and other public sector funds are positive lessons we can draw on (ref4) (ref 5).

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To ask the Mayor to write to the Avon Pension Fund calling for it to draw up a strategy to reduce to zero its investments in fossil fuels over the next 5 years, starting with plans to diversify into renewables, energy efficiency and storage technologies.
2. To work with other local authorities served by the Avon Pension Fund to work together on divestment and diversification.
3. To work with trades union representatives and the workforce to involve them in plans for divestment and diversification.

Ref 1 Leading experts, including Sir Nicholas Stern, have warned that if we are to stay below a 2°C increase in global temperatures, approximately 75% of the current fossil fuel reserves have to stay in the ground

Ref 2 At the same time reports from UBS and CitiBank last year highlight that the price of producing renewable energy is falling so fast, that it is set to compete at market rates with energy produced from fossil fuels by 2020. In fact onshore wind energy has become cheaper than energy from any other source in the UK (research by Bloomberg New Energy Finance). Within the next 5 years therefore, prudent investors need to consider both the stability of investments in fossil fuels, and the opportunities offered by the rapid growth in renewable energy. As costs fall for renewable energy, investment returns have steadily improved over the last few years and are expected to achieve grid parity while many fuel reserves likely to become unexploitable 'stranded assets'. Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England recently highlighted that "financing the decarbonisation of our economy" was a major opportunity for long-term investors".

Ref 3 Other major funds include Bloomberg, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Council of Churches.

Ref 4 Other council (LA) pension funds and public sector funds that have made divestment commitments include: the Swedish city of Uppsala, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund, Lund University, SOAS University, and Oxford University. As well as Avon PF, there are campaigns for divestment in many local authority pension funds, including Oxfordshire, Greater Manchester, Southwark, Merseyside, West Midlands, Somerset, Cambridge, West Yorkshire, and Norfolk.

Local government funds have increasingly sought ethical and useful investments such as affordable housing (Greater Manchester PF); community solar (Lancashire County PF); community renewables (Strathclyde PF); and Croydon Council's entire pension fund is in ethical investments now.

Ref 5: The EAPF (Environment Agency), which is also a Local Authority PF due to the legacy of waste regulation authorities' ex staff, has won awards for its growing ethical segment and shows it can work well, being an LAPF finalist award this year for responsible investment. Climate risk is seen as an opportunity for the fund. 25% of the fund is due to be in sustainable and green economy by this year (still to be reported; was 24 last year). It is moving 90% out of coal stocks and 50% out of oil and gas. It has performed above benchmarks.

Councillor Denyer seconded the motion.

Councillor Hopkins then moved the following amendment:

'That the motion be amended to read as follows:

"This Council notes:

- 1. That there is increasing recognition that fossil fuel assets and investments are likely to become 'stranded assets' with 75% having to be kept in the ground to prevent runaway climate change (ref1).*
- 2. Many international experts and investors are warning of the risks of fossil fuel investments, and at the same time the increasing attractiveness of renewable energy technologies, with wind power both on and offshore, tidal lagoon technology and wave and solar being areas that Bristol can benefit from.*
- 3. The city and its sub region are an area of international expertise in renewable energy technologies. Locally we are also an area with a very strong track record of community sustainable energy initiatives, typified by the work of Bristol Energy Network members, the Bristol Community Strategy for Energy, and the projects supported by Bristol 2015.*
- 4. Bristol Unison branch passed a motion in July for the LGPS to divest from fossil fuels and then wrote to the chair of the Avon pension fund committee conveying that decision in July. Pension fund boards have now been established and UNISON has a seat on the board. We also note various union support for investment in social housing.*

This Council recognises that:

- 1. The past industrial and economic base of the Bristol and Avon area was based on coal and fossil fuels.*
- 2. The future industrial and economic base of Bristol and surrounding authorities will be based on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.*
- 3. The interests of our pensioners will increasingly be served by forward-looking investments in renewable energy technologies and areas like energy storage and low carbon solutions, including energy efficiency.*
- 4. The experience of the award winning Environment Agency PF (a local authority scheme) and other public sector funds are positive lessons we can draw on (ref4) (ref Avon pension fund is already more lightly invested in*

fossil fuels than the national average and supports this position and the direction of travel. Trustees have a duty to perform on behalf of the members but it is now widely recognised that socially responsible investments can provide very good returns as the policy does tend to direct investment towards companies and sectors of the future rather than the past.

5. *It has to be recognised that Bristol has a very small voice on the Avon pension fund.*
6. *It has also to be recognised that government plans suggest that the Avon pension fund is likely to be subsumed within a much larger fund within a 5 year timescale. This would inevitably lead to further loss of local influence.*

This Council therefore resolves:

1. *To ask the Mayor to write to the Avon Pension Fund calling for it to draw up a strategy to review its investment assets to determine whether or not it is desirable to reduce to zero its investments in fossil fuels over the next 5 years and diversify starting with plans to diversify into renewables, energy efficiency and storage technologies. This plan should also examine the merit of increasing holdings in the building of social housing which currently represents an attractive option for short to medium term returns.*
2. *To work with other local authorities and other bodies served by the Avon Pension Fund to work together on divestment and diversification.*
3. *To work with trades union representatives and the workforce to involve them in plans for divestment and diversification.*
4. *That if the ability to significantly influence the direction of investment is lost that Bristol City Council should work with local partners to explore the options for providing an alternative for staff that focuses on forward thinking, socially responsible investment strategy that could invest in our booming local economy.” ’*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Wright

Following debate, upon being to the vote, the amendment was LOST (9 members voting in favour, 48 against, with 2 abstentions).

Councillor Pearce then moved the following amendment:

‘That the motion be amended to read as follows:

“This Council notes:

1. *That there is increasing recognition that fossil fuel assets and investments are likely to become ‘stranded assets’ with 75% having to be kept in the ground to prevent runaway climate change (ref1).*
2. *Many international experts and investors are warning of the risks of fossil fuel investments, and at the same time the increasing attractiveness of renewable energy technologies, with wind power being the cheapest form of onshore generation now (ref2). Other funds and Universities are increasingly divesting (ref3).*
3. *The city and its sub region are an area of international expertise in renewable energy technologies. Locally we are also an area with a very strong track record of community sustainable energy initiatives, typified by*

the work of Bristol Energy Network members, the Bristol Community Strategy for Energy, and the projects supported by Bristol 2015.

- 4. Bristol Unison branch passed a motion in July for the LGPS to divest from fossil fuels and then wrote to the chair of the Avon pension fund committee conveying that decision in July. Pension fund boards have now been established and UNISON has a seat on the board.*

This Council recognises that:

- 1. The past industrial and economic base of the Bristol and Avon area was in part based on coal and fossil fuels.*
- 2. The future industrial and economic base of Bristol and surrounding authorities will in part be based on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.*
- 3. The interests of the pension fund and its pensioners both present and future will increasingly be served by investments that reflect the nature of the fund's liabilities, having particular regard to potential future interest rates and inflation.*
- 4. With many other pension funds divesting and switching to renewables it may be time for Avon Pension Fund to consider following suit if doing so is in the best interests of the scheme and its members. The experience of the award winning Environment Agency PF (a local authority scheme) and other public sector funds are positive lessons we can draw on (ref4) (ref 5).*

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Mayor to write to the Avon Pension Fund calling for it to:

- 1. Request a position statement on the potential impact divesting from fossil fuel assets will have on the Avon Pension Fund and to asked the Avon Pension Fund to report on the scale of its investments in fossil fuels, giving reference to level and scale of the such investments and the impact divesting will have on the future liability profile of the fund.*
- 2. Work with the Council's representative on the Avon Pension Fund to maintain a strong position against further investment in fossil fuels and to provide an annual report evaluating of the viability and risk of investing in any extractive industry, including metal and mineral mining, as well as fossil fuels.*
- 3. Work with Trade Union representatives and the workforce to involve them in divestment and diversification plans and to provide them with a full comprehensive assessment of the impact of divesting from fossil fuel assets could have on their pensions." '*

Councillor Brain seconded the amendment.

Following debate, upon being to the vote, the amendment was CARRIED (39 members voting in favour, 15 against, with 5 abstentions).

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion (i.e. the motion as amended) was CARRIED (41 members voting in favour, 16 against, with 1 abstention), and it was

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

- 1. That there is increasing recognition that fossil fuel assets and investments are likely to become 'stranded assets' with 75% having to be kept in the ground to prevent runaway climate change (ref1).**
- 2. Many international experts and investors are warning of the risks of fossil fuel investments, and at the same time the increasing attractiveness of renewable energy technologies, with wind power being the cheapest form of onshore generation now (ref2). Other funds and Universities are increasingly divesting (ref3).**
- 3. The city and its sub region are an area of international expertise in renewable energy technologies. Locally we are also an area with a very strong track record of community sustainable energy initiatives, typified by the work of Bristol Energy Network members, the Bristol Community Strategy for Energy, and the projects supported by Bristol 2015.**
- 4. Bristol Unison branch passed a motion in July for the LGPS to divest from fossil fuels and then wrote to the chair of the Avon pension fund committee conveying that decision in July. Pension fund boards have now been established and UNISON has a seat on the board.**

This Council recognises that:

- 1. The past industrial and economic base of the Bristol and Avon area was in part based on coal and fossil fuels.**
- 2. The future industrial and economic base of Bristol and surrounding authorities will in part be based on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.**
- 3. The interests of the pension fund and its pensioners both present and future will increasingly be served by investments that reflect the nature of the fund's liabilities, having particular regard to potential future interest rates and inflation.**
- 4. With many other pension funds divesting and switching to renewables it may be time for Avon Pension Fund to consider following suit if doing so is in the best interests of the scheme and its members. The experience of the award winning Environment Agency PF (a local authority scheme) and other public sector funds are positive lessons we can draw on (ref4) (ref 5).**

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Mayor to write to the Avon Pension Fund calling for it to:

- 1. Request a position statement on the potential impact divesting from fossil fuel assets will have on the Avon Pension Fund and to asked the Avon Pension Fund to report on the scale of its investments in fossil fuels, giving reference to level and scale of the such investments and the impact divesting will have on the future liability profile of the fund.**
- 2. Work with the Council's representative on the Avon Pension Fund to maintain a strong position against further investment in fossil fuels and to provide an annual report evaluating of the viability and risk of investing in any extractive industry, including metal and mineral mining, as well as fossil fuels.**

- 3. Work with Trade Union representatives and the workforce to involve them in divestment and diversification plans and to provide them with a full comprehensive assessment of the impact of divesting from fossil fuel assets could have on their pensions.**

b. Ashton/Ashton Gate new rail station and Parson Street station upgrade

With the consent of the Full Council, Councillor Eddy moved the following altered motion:

“Council welcomes the Assistant Mayor’s recent commitment to work with Bristol Sport, Network Rail, First Great Western and other interested parties to try to deliver a new Ashton/Ashton Gate railway station.

Whilst the Authority is still evaluating all of its options for new stations in Bristol, Council requests that the Mayor do all within his power to try to expedite the reopening of this station as well as delivering the long promised Portway Park and Ride platform.

In addition, Council understands that electrification of the Great Western Railway is scheduled to reach Bristol in 2017 but this is due to terminate at Bath Road Bridge near Temple Meads Station.

As part of these plans to upgrade our urban rail network, Council asks that the potential electrification of the lines around Parson Street junction should also be included in any future development work.

The enhancement of passenger services available from Parson Street station would demonstrate this Authority’s sincerity in reviving local rail and tap into a potentially huge number of people who would like to use this form of travel more regularly or as part of their daily commute.”

Councillor Weston seconded the altered motion.

Following debate, upon being to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

It was then

RESOLVED:

Council welcomes the Assistant Mayor’s recent commitment to work with Bristol Sport, Network Rail, First Great Western and other interested parties to try to deliver a new Ashton/Ashton Gate railway station.

Whilst the Authority is still evaluating all of its options for new stations in Bristol, Council requests that the Mayor do all within his power to try to expedite the reopening of this station as well as delivering the long promised Portway Park and Ride platform.

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at Bath Road Bridge near Temple Meads Station.

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The enhancement of passenger services available from Parson Street station would demonstrate this Authority's sincerity in reviving local rail and tap into a potentially huge number of people who would like to use this form of travel more regularly or as part of their daily commute.

(The meeting finished at 9.41 p.m.)

LORD MAYOR