

NEWS RELEASE

From the Labour Councillors on Bristol City Council



for immediate release 21st July, 2011

“Not One Blade of Grass Need Be Sold” - Labour to Present a Parks’ Investment Solution

Not one blade of grass will have to be sold if the council supports Labour’s plan to fund a 20 year investment in Bristol’s parks.

None of the city’s green spaces will have to be sold off.

Cllr Ron Stone (Labour, St. George West) a champion of the city’s parks and green spaces for years, has taken a close look at the new Community Infrastructure Levy income which Bristol City Council will receive every year from developers – funds used by councils to soften the impact that new buildings cause to an area.

Here’s the plan:

- Currently 27% of the developer income from the soon to be phased out Section 106 monies is spent on parks.
- The new Community Infrastructure Levy (which replaces section 106 monies) will produce between £3.5m pa (in a bad year) and £13m pa from developer contributions. Although property development is currently restrained by the recession this won’t be the case over the next 20 years.
- Starting with the lowest estimate of income of £3.5m for two years (using an income figure at about half of the most optimistic figure at present day values) the CIL would generate an income of £72.65m over 20 years - if the parks’ share of the developer income was raised to just 35%. (see chart for detail)

“Any funding stream, apart from selling Bristol’s green spaces, was completely dismissed by the Lib Dems before the last election as leaving a massive, black-hole funding gap. But even with a difficult economic forecast the plan looks pretty healthy to me, to the council officers I’ve run it past and several councillors of all parties I’ve discussed this with. It will work!

“As well as providing a great deal of money to invest in our parks, the funding makes it totally unnecessary to sell any of the city’s much-loved green spaces.

“There was mass opposition to the green space sell-off plan before the last election – this definitely contributed to the Lib Dems losing seats – I hope they’ll listen this time. I think the other parties and more importantly the Bristol public will welcome the new funding scheme,” says Cllr Ron Stone.

Labour – creating a fairer Bristol

NEWS RELEASE



From the Labour Councillors on Bristol City Council

Cllr Stone who is chair of the all party working group wants the new funding plan debated at Full Council.

“A full debate at Council is essential to allow the people of Bristol a say on the proposed solution,” he said.

Cllr Peter Hammond said:

“Ron Stone has done the people of Bristol a great service in devising this solution to create investment in or Parks and Open Spaces without selling a single blade of grass. It is a shame that the council’s administration have been so blinkered and intransigent in their approach insisting on selling off valued community assets.”

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Note to Editors:

The new funding stream has been made possible because new legislation will cut the red-tape restrictions that tied up money received from developers, which councils used to soften the impact of new developments on the local area. Complicated regulations tied up the money and often left millions unspent by councils. But the new Community Infrastructure Levy will allow councils to invest the same developer income in a much freer way.

Years	CIL income per year	at 35% per year	Total CIL Fund
1 and 2	at £3.5m	1,225,000 x2yrs	2,450,000
3 to 5	at £5m	1,750,000 x3yrs	5,250,000
5 to 10	at £5m	1,750,000 x5yrs	8,750,000
10 to 15	at £6m	2,100,000 x5yrs	10,500,000
15 to 20	at £7m	2,450,000 x5yrs	12,250,000
	figures supplied by officers		39,200,000

Additional Funding	figures supplied by officers
Section 106 monies in the Bank	4,200,000
Sect 106 potential over 2 years as it's phased out	6,000,000
Outside Grants funding over 20 years (estimated with a 60% cut)	21,000,000
Parks Spend - Core Budget over 20 years	2,000,000
CIL Fund (as in above chart)	39,200,000
	72,400,000

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