**Statement in Support of Budget Amendment for Public Toilets to be Discussed on March 2nd 2022.**

The Bristol Disability Equality Forum and Bristol Older People’s Forum support the budget amendment brought to the full council meeting on February 15th to provide more public toilets for Bristol.

We are calling on the Mayor and council to pass this amendment when it is brought again at the recalled budget meeting on March 2nd. This is an unmissable opportunity to increase the inclusivity and accessibility of Bristol for all its citizens.

Public toilets are essential for our basic dignity when at work, during leisure time or when travelling around our city. They are important for all citizens but essential for ensuring equality for Disabled people, older people, women, pregnant people, those with bowel and bladder conditions, and those without a home.

They are also essential for ensuring that people can support Bristol’s climate ambitions by enabling more people to use more public transport and active transport.

We hope that this budget will be used to ensure inclusive public toilets for all of Bristol’s citizens. Inclusive public toilet infrastructure is reliant on adequate provision of facilities across the city and the following features:

1. Changing Spaces across the city, in particular shopping centres and local High Streets;
2. Public toilets that are electric wheelchair/mobility scooter-accessible (rather than manual wheelchair accessible) in every public toilet area;
3. Toilets that are with well-lit inside, in their entrances, and on the route to the toilets;
4. Lightweight and self-closing doors;
5. Cubicle bins that are stored well away from the wheelchair transfer space;
6. A clearly printed telephone number in toilets to contact if users experience any problems, allowing them to talk to someone at the time the call is made.
7. Ideally, toilets should have Blue Badge parking nearby.

We welcome the amendments and are keen to work with the council to ensure a successful implementation and roll-out.

We look forward to the Mayor and council making this important step to make Bristol a fairer and more welcoming city.