

# Stepping Up matter

As the context is important, below is my understanding of the Stepping Up Matter.

I have made this as a hand-out to avoid a conflict with the Chair.

- \* A deputy mayor and her crypto-currency scheme business partner used their pressure to breach several procurement rules.

- \* Senior officers worked to 'regularise' the arrangements, rather than reporting them as they should have done.

- \* Public money was probably wasted. For example, for the 'learning material' that BCC paid for, the IP rights were retained by the contractor, which is a basic contract mistake.

- \* Somehow Bristol Waste got involved with making a loan to the company involved, as well as "back office" support. ㄟ(ˉ\_ˉ)ㄟ

- \* A member of the public who had submitted FOI requests about the "Stepping Up" funding was abused by the Deputy Mayor.

- \* The complaints process was shown to be a shambles. The Monitoring Officer decided that an apology would be a suitable way to resolve the complaint, but then he failed to make sure that the apology happened, and that it was suitably contrite.

- \* One complaint was not progressed for the best part of a year, and then was dismissed on the grounds of political motivation as the complainant contacted councillors about the complaint not being progressed.

At every step of the way, the mechanisms that are meant to prevent abuse of power failed, and the public were gaslighted by the M.O.