

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BRISTOL CITY FOOTBALL CLUB, BRISTOL CITY WOMEN FOOTBALL CLUB AND BRISTOL CITY SUPPORTERS CLUB & TRUST**

Parties

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) are:

1. **Bristol City Supporters Society (also known as Bristol City Supporters Club & Trust)**, a community benefit society registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) with number 30009R whose registered address is BC SCT, PO Box, Bristol, BS3 9HD (“the trust”).

2. **Bristol City Football Club Limited**, a company registered in England & Wales under number 0323871.

**Bristol City Women Football Club Limited**, a company registered in England & Wales under number 11460716.

Both parties’ registered address is Ashton Gate, Bristol, BS3 2EJ (collectively “the club”).

### **Background**

a) As part of the Government Expert Working Group on Football Supporter Ownership and Engagement from the start of the 2016/17 season it is a requirement for all EPL and EFL clubs to meet structured dialogue commitments, with the National League due to follow a similar path for 2017/18.

b) The minimum level of commitment is for senior Club representatives (owners, directors, senior executive management) to meet with a representative group of supporters, that must include the Supporters Trust, at least twice a year.

c) The matters for discussion will often be of a strategic nature and may relate to the management and day to day running of the club

d) Where meetings are not open to all supporters wishing to attend, the supporter representatives must be elected, selected or invited in line with basic democratic principles; and individuals cannot be excluded by the Club without good reason (the Club acting reasonably).

### **Women’s Game Background**

In order to develop professional women’s game in England, adoption of an MOU would be seen as best practice for FA WSL and Women’s Championship clubs. Parameters B to D above should apply to any meetings held.

### **General**

This is not a legally binding document or contract, but it is a statement of the principles that the trust and the club subscribe to, to create an effective, mutually beneficial, structured communication channel.

### **The trust will:**

1) Be properly incorporated and constituted with a democratic ‘one member one vote’ democratic governance structure, filing annual returns with the FCA, and offering an open and affordable membership to any supporter of the club

2) Consult with its membership regularly on issues of importance and topics of discussion particularly ahead of structured dialogue meetings with the club, respecting other existing communication structures that exist between supporters and the club.

3) Send suitable non-conflicted people who understand their role as representatives for supporters, not just to voice their own views

4) Promote engagement with Bristol City Women to its membership (For example - organising public supporter events in collaboration with Bristol City Women which is of mutual benefit).

**The club will:**

1) Provide a suitable level of financial information split into appropriate categories and with a level of detail that builds trust and understanding of how the club is being run

2) Use the structured dialogue format to consult about significant decisions such as any permanent ground move, change of club badge or substantial change to club colours.

3) Use the meetings to discuss wider league/national matters that will affect supporters and commit to taking support feedback into discussions.

4) Take the opportunity to discuss any potential ownership changes including future opportunity for supporters to invest in the club

5) Not exclude individuals without good reason

**Both parties will:**

1) Agree agenda items in a timely manner, circulating sufficient supporting information to be read ahead of the meeting.

2) Respect that some items may be sensitive and deemed confidential, with an agreed protocol about how they should be reported

3) Publish minutes and actions agreed by both parties in a timely coordinated manner on websites

4) Share key contact information including roles and decision-making powers

5) Ensure the meeting is 'structured' so that any topics that either party wants to discuss can be done so in an appropriate environment.

6) Commit to collaboratively arranging two Fans Forums (or similar events) per year with the aim that this will help build the future fanbase.

**This agreement is to be reviewed after a full season of running, circa June/July 2022.**

Each party hereby confirms its agreement to the terms contained in this memorandum of understanding.