

# Communities Scrutiny Commission Agenda



**Date:** Tuesday, 27 February 2024

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** The Bordeaux Room - City Hall, College Green,  
Bristol, BS1 5TR

## **Distribution:**

**Councillors:** Martin Fodor (Chair), James Scott (Vice-Chair), Amal Ali, Kerry Bailes, Amirah Cole, Tessa Fitzjohn, Gary Hopkins, Barry Parsons and Henry Michallat

**Issued by:** Ian Hird, Scrutiny Advisor

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**Date:** 19 February 2024



# Agenda

## 1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

## 2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

## 3. Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest from councillors. They are asked to indicate the relevant agenda item, the nature of the interest and in particular whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Any declaration of interest made at the meeting which is not on the register of interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion.

## 4. Minutes of previous meeting

Pages 8 - 16

## 5. Chair's Business

## 6. Public Forum

Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

Any member of the public or councillor may participate in Public Forum. The detailed arrangements for so doing are set out in the Public Information Sheet at the back of this agenda. Public Forum items should be emailed to [scrutiny@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@bristol.gov.uk) and please note that the following deadlines will apply in relation to this meeting:

**Questions** - Written questions must be received at least 3 clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that your question(s) must be received in this office at the latest by **5.00 pm on Wednesday 21 February 2024**

**Petitions and Statements** - Petitions or written statements must be received at latest by 12.00 noon on the working day prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that petitions or statements must be received in this office at the latest by **12.00 noon on Monday 26 February 2024**

Please also note:

Questions, petitions and statements must relate to the remit of the Communities Scrutiny Commission.

Members of the press and public who plan to attend a public meeting at City Hall are advised that you will be required to sign in when you arrive. Please note that you will be issued with a visitor pass which you will need to display at all times.



**7. Update on Ecological Emergency Action Plan  
(time allocation: 25 minutes) Pages 17 - 25**

Report enclosed.

**8. Bristol Community Safety Partnership report 2022/23  
(time allocation: 25 minutes) Pages 26 - 42**

Report enclosed.

**9. Communities Scrutiny comments on Cabinet report on  
allotment rents and water charges  
(time allocation: 15 minutes) Pages 43 - 55**

On 5 March, the Cabinet will be considering a report seeking approval of updated rents and water charges for allotments.

Members of the Communities Scrutiny Commission received a detailed briefing on 15 February on the financial and service background to the proposals, including details of the rationale for the proposed increases, the results of benchmarking with other authorities, and the proposed extension to concessions offered.

The 5 March Cabinet report is due to be published on 26 February and will be forwarded to Commission members as soon as available. In the meantime, background information on the proposals is set out in the enclosed slide presentation, as shared with Commission members on 15 February.

At this meeting, the Commission is asked to formulate any comments on the Cabinet report for submission to the Cabinet meeting on 5 March.

**Please note:** Communities Scrutiny Commission members are aware that further to the recent public consultation, the Council’s administration has decided, and communicated widely to stakeholders that other proposed allotment changes, particularly in relation to tenancy rules, are not being taken forward at this time (for background, a copy of the letter sent to allotment stakeholders by the Cabinet member for Public Health and Communities is enclosed).

**At this meeting on 27 February, the Communities Scrutiny Commission will solely be commenting on the Cabinet report seeking approval of updated rents and water charges for allotments.**

**10. Community assets update (time allocation: 1 hour) Pages 56 - 69**

Report enclosed.



**11. For information - Quarterly Performance report (quarter 2, 2023/24)**

**Pages 70 - 88**



# Public Information Sheet

## Inspection of Papers - Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at [www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk).

## Public meetings

Public meetings including Cabinet, Full Council, regulatory meetings (where planning and licensing decisions are made) and scrutiny will now be held at City Hall.

Members of the press and public who plan to attend City Hall are advised that you may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room should the numbers attending exceed the maximum occupancy of the meeting venue.

## COVID-19 Prevention Measures at City Hall (from March 2022)

When attending a meeting at City Hall, the following COVID-19 prevention guidance is advised:

- promotion of good hand hygiene: washing and disinfecting hands frequently
- while face coverings are no longer mandatory, we will continue to recommend their use in venues and workplaces with limited ventilation or large groups of people.
- although legal restrictions have been removed, we should continue to be mindful of others as we navigate this next phase of the pandemic.

## COVID-19 Safety Measures for Attendance at Council Meetings (from March 2022)

Government advice remains that anyone testing positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for 10 days (unless they receive two negative lateral flow tests on consecutive days from day five).

We therefore request that no one attends a Council Meeting if they:

- are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19 or
- have tested positive for COVID-19

## Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.



## Public Forum

Members of the public may make a written statement ask a question or present a petition to most meetings. Your statement or question will be sent to the Committee Members and will be published on the Council's website before the meeting. Please send it to [scrutiny@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@bristol.gov.uk).

The following requirements apply:

- The statement is received no later than **12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting** and is about a matter which is the responsibility of the committee concerned.
- The question is received no later than **5pm three clear working days before the meeting**.

Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper. If the statement is longer than this, then for reasons of cost, it may be that only the first sheet will be copied and made available at the meeting. For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated to the Committee and published within the minutes. Your statement or question will also be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website and may be provided upon request in response to Freedom of Information Act requests in the future.

We will try to remove personal and identifiable information. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Other committee papers may be placed on the council's website and information within them may be searchable on the internet.

### During the meeting:

- Public Forum is normally one of the first items on the agenda, although statements and petitions that relate to specific items on the agenda may be taken just before the item concerned.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- The Chair will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- Your time allocation may have to be strictly limited if there are a lot of submissions. **This may be as short as one minute.**
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.
- Under our security arrangements, please note that members of the public (and bags) may be searched. This may apply in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending.



- As part of the drive to reduce single-use plastics in council-owned buildings, please bring your own water bottle in order to fill up from the water dispenser.

For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>

### Webcasting/ Recording of meetings

Members of the public attending meetings or taking part in Public forum are advised that all Full Council and Cabinet meetings and some other committee meetings are now filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's [webcasting pages](#). The whole of the meeting is filmed (except where there are confidential or exempt items). If you ask a question or make a representation, then you are likely to be filmed and will be deemed to have given your consent to this. If you do not wish to be filmed you need to make yourself known to the webcasting staff. However, the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now means that persons attending meetings may take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on the meeting (Oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). Members of the public should therefore be aware that they may be filmed by others attending and that is not within the council's control.

The privacy notice for Democratic Services can be viewed at [www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services)



## Bristol City Council Minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Commission

20 November 2023 at 5.00 pm



### **Attendance:**

#### **Communities Scrutiny Commission members present:**

Cllr Martin Fodor, Chair,  
Cllr Kerry Bailes  
Cllr Tessa Fitzjohn  
Cllr Gary Hopkins  
Cllr Henry Michallat  
Cllr Barry Parsons

#### **Cabinet member in attendance:**

Councillor Ellie King, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities

#### **Officers present:**

Penny Germon, Head of Service: Communities  
Robyn Taylor, Social Action and VCSE Investment Officer (Community Resilience Fund)  
Kurt James, Neighbourhood Enforcement and Street Scene Manager  
Patsy Mellor, Director: Management of Place  
Kate Murray, Head of Libraries  
Leon Flower, Library Service Development Manager  
Ian Hird, Scrutiny Advisor

### **13 Welcome, introductions and safety information**

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and explained the emergency evacuation procedure.

### **14 Apologies for absence and substitutions**

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Amal Ali, Cllr Amirah Cole and Christina Gray, Director: Communities and Public Health.





## 15 Declarations of Interest

None.

## 16 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Commission held on 14 September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

## 17 Chair's Business

None.

## 18 Public Forum

The Commission noted that the following public forum item had been received:

- A public statement from Suzanne Audrey on behalf of the Public Toilets Equalities Network.

## 19 Community Resilience Fund participatory decision making

The Commission considered a report setting out details of the impact of and learning from the Community Resilience Fund (CRF) process of participatory decision making and assessing opportunities to build on this.

Key points highlighted by officers in presenting the report:

1. Through the CRF, the Council had invested £4m of capital funding in 53 community and voluntary sector projects in the most deprived areas of Bristol (£3.2m, 40 projects), and in citywide equality groups (£0.8m, 13 projects). The decisions about how the funding was allocated were made by groups of citizens, community and voluntary sector groups and elected ward councillors. From the outset, it had been recognised that this was an action learning process.
2. In terms of the participatory process and lived experience from administering the CRF, five key learning points had been identified as follows:
  - The importance of co-design as a key principle and building capacity over time to enable and support participation.
  - Strong, confident facilitation at meetings was key.



- Importance of participants from diverse backgrounds.
- Building trust and confidence among participants.
- Ensuring access to information and expertise.

Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion:

1. In response to a question about costs, it was noted that the cost of support for co-production of the process and initial technical support had been £250,000; the grant management and programme management support cost £100,00 per annum. Overall, there was an estimated total spend of 14% (of the overall budget) on programme management over the 4 year course of the programme.
2. The vast majority of participants had given positive feedback about their involvement. 84% of participants had indicated they would take part again, 60% felt they had gained confidence through their involvement and 81% reported making new connections.
3. It was noted that a core objective of the CRF was to build city resilience by growing the power of and focusing the use of funding within communities experiencing the greatest inequality. It was suggested though that, in some cases, due to the area-based approach and criteria based on multiple levels of deprivation that had been applied, there were some deserving pockets of communities and groups that had not been reached through this funding opportunity in spite of being located within close proximity to areas of multiple deprivation, e.g. particular parts of Knowle which were geographically close to Filwood ward. It was suggested that an additional area of learning might be that in similar future exercises, it would be valuable to consult and capture views from local ward councillors at the outset, to tap into their local knowledge about groups who could be reached out to.
4. It was noted that a number of potential future opportunities had been identified for applying the participatory process in other areas, for example in relation to decision making around devolved Community Infrastructure Levy.
5. At the conclusion of the discussion, and in noting the key areas of learning as identified in the report, it was suggested that in the context of how area committees might operate after May 2024, it may be useful for the Committee Model Working Group to review the findings/learnings that would be set out within the final CRF evaluation report (which was awaited at this point).

## **20 Cost of Living - Welcoming Spaces**

The Commission considered a report setting out details of the 'One City, Many Communities' approach to the cost of living crisis over the winter of 2022/2023 which led to 105 Welcoming Spaces across the city, together with an assessment of the learning from this, and information on next steps.

Key points highlighted by officers in presenting the report:



1. The cost of living crisis response in Bristol had been set up to enable the city to come together in support of communities and residents through the challenging winter months between October 2022 and March 2023. The response saw the development of and co-ordinated new ways of working between different sectors. It created new ways of sharing information and supplied funding opportunities to organisations best able to serve Bristol's citizens and communities.
2. By working with city partners, funding was secured through a private donor for the first 17 Welcoming Spaces. Two rounds of social action grants investing £445,000 were then made available through Quartet Community Foundation. By April 2023, there was a network of 105 Welcoming Spaces across the city. The network included community groups and centres, faith spaces, care homes and leisure centres.
3. An online map had provided people with up-to-date information about the availability of Welcoming Spaces and cost of living crisis support.
4. Key feedback and learning was summarised as follows:
  - a. It took time to build trust and become established as a Welcoming Space. Spaces already set up and trusted by their communities saw more people using them through the Welcoming Spaces initiative.
  - b. The survey analysis of Welcoming Spaces showed that the biggest impact of the One City response on citizens was improved wellbeing and health through social connection.
  - c. The Welcoming Spaces initiative gave encouragement and impetus to build community capacity, leading to new community spaces.

Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion:

1. The community benefits delivered through the Welcoming Spaces initiative were welcomed.
2. It was noted that community groups had been able to apply to a social action small grants fund through Quartet to support welcoming spaces and social action over the coming year and to build upon what had worked well during winter 2022/23. Up to date information about welcoming spaces and cost of living support was also available on the Council's website.
3. It was noted that the city's libraries had been involved in the warm spaces initiative; Friends of Libraries groups in Hillfields, Clifton and Shirehampton had successfully bid for Welcoming Spaces funding to provide activities, hot drinks, and support on days when these libraries were not usually open.
4. A suggestion was made by a member that in bringing forward new high-rise development proposals, greater consideration should be given by the Council to enabling community use of lower/ground floor space.
5. It was noted that a key challenge to be taken forward into the post-May 2024 committee model through the relevant policy committee was that of making funding and the availability of welcoming spaces sustainable into the future, noting that many people in the city continued to face very real difficulties due to the national economic situation.



## 21 Community toilet scheme update

The Commission considered a report setting out an update on the Community Toilet Scheme.

As per the public forum, the Commission noted that the following public forum item had been received in relation to this item:

- A public statement from Suzanne Audrey on behalf of the Public Toilets Equalities Network.

Key points highlighted by officers in presenting the report:

1. The Community Toilet Scheme had started in 2018; 90 facilities joined the scheme by March 2020, when the scheme was necessarily paused due to the Covid pandemic before re-opening in May 2021 with 63 venues.
2. An audit carried out in January 2022 by the community marshal team on the 90 Community Toilet Scheme facilities in place at that point had identified issues such as missing information stickers, incorrect accessibility information, and some closed venues. The audit's purpose had been to assess the scheme's robustness, partner satisfaction and to scout for new members. As a result of these efforts, the scheme was expanded to include 159 facilities, with 119 being accessible, and with a new booklet produced to assist residents without internet access.
3. In response to the issues raised in the public statement submitted to this meeting by the Public Toilets Equalities Network, it was noted that the Council aimed to continue working with the network to further grow the scheme. It was important to acknowledge, however, that maintaining, auditing, and publicising the scheme remained a challenge, given the limited staffing and other resources available to support the scheme.

Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion:

1. In response to a question, it was noted that as soon as possible following a notification, information about the scheme on the Council's website would be updated to reflect any changes in information about which toilets were accessible and the opening hours. The team did not have the resources to develop an App with fully 'live' information but Bristol's community toilets were listed on the Great British Public Toilet Map
2. It was noted that whilst resources were limited, the team was able to offer assistance in relation to matters such as signage for community toilets within premises; this included the availability of an example sign on-line.
3. The increased geographical spread of community toilets across the city was noted and welcomed.



## 22 Library services

The Commission considered a report setting out an update on library services, including an assessment of the improvement work undertaken through Bristol's Library Innovation Fund and details about the likely future approach to developing a new Library Strategy for the city.

a. Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion of section 1 of the report - Background and key data on library services:

1. Points highlighted by officers in presenting this section of the report included:

- Library budget and building details.
- Improvements carried out through grant funding, including Library Improvement Fund resources from Arts Council England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport which had enabled Reference Library refurbishment to take place, creating a flexible event space, restoration and upgrading of historic desks, accessible desks and new exhibition spaces.
- New library developments to be taken forward in Filwood and in Southmead.

2. A point was raised about the fact that a number of years ago, some customer services staff had been located in some libraries for a few hours each week. It was suggested that this could be put forward as an idea that could be reconsidered from a public service/contact perspective, and which could also perhaps enable certain libraries to remain open for longer hours. It was noted that this suggestion would be forwarded to the Head of Citizens Services although it was inevitable that the resource and staffing implications of any future proposal would need to be assessed carefully given the financial situation faced by the Council; it was also noted that this may be an issue that could be put forward for consideration by the relevant policy committee(s) under the new committee model that would take effect from May 2024.

3. Members noted and welcomed the refurbishment of Henleaze library and the proposals to develop new library facilities in Filwood, as part of a £14.5 million upgrade to Filwood Broadway, and in Southmead, as part of the Glencoyne Square development. In response to a question, officers agreed to circulate details of the initial design brief for a new Filwood library; it was noted that this brief would be subject to significant further design development as the proposals would be taken forward in close collaboration with stakeholders and local residents.

4. It was suggested that in the context of taking forward the new Filwood library proposals, consideration should also be given to liaising with partners with a view to seeking to extend the current opening hours beyond the current 22 hours per week.

5. There was a discussion around the incidence of anti-social behaviour which had unfortunately been experienced in and around some libraries in recent years. It was noted there had been issues in particular at Junction 3 (Easton) and in Filwood, Southmead and Hartcliffe, mainly associated with anti-social teenage behaviour. Some libraries had used security staff and others, following liaison with the local police and other services, had used a variety of measures aimed at deterring anti-social behaviour, which



had included closing some libraries at particular times or adjusting opening hours. It was noted that officers were determined to ensure that libraries, in offering a universal service, were safe spaces for all users.

b. Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion of section 2 of the report - Bristol's Library Innovation Fund - projects undertaken and lessons learned:

1. Points highlighted by officers in presenting this section of the report included:

- The Innovation Fund had offered a total fund of £108,000 across the 27 libraries in the city, divided into two separate streams:
  - \* Stream 1: a 'Friends Fund' offering up to £1,000 to support Friends of libraries to establish a group and engage community support for their library.
  - \* Stream 2: an allocation of up to £3,000 for open applications to support ideas which could impact in one or more of the following ways:
    - Bringing the library and communities together.
    - Improving the space within library buildings.
    - Improving how the library service is delivered.
- The evaluation of the use of the Innovation Fund had identified the following issues that could be considered in improving library services:
  - \* Ensuring communication on an ongoing basis with communities and other council departments.
  - \* Making use of library spaces outside of staffed hours.
  - \* Issues around access to library buildings, room bookings and charges, and the inclusion of non-traditional events and activities in library spaces.
  - \* Data collection, to further develop evidence of impact, for both communities and the libraries.
  - \* Engaging young people is essential.
  - \* Continuation of effective working with Friends Groups and community groups.
- The experience gained through three particular case studies was highlighted, in St Pauls library, Bishopston library and Horfield library.

2. In relation to the details about Friends of Libraries groups, a point was raised about the evident disparity whereby Friends groups were active in the relatively affluent parts of the city whilst they didn't exist at all in some areas of relative deprivation. It was agreed that as part of taking forward the new Library Strategy, it would be critical to continue the work with communities to encourage and develop a much more comprehensive coverage of Friends of Libraries groups and achieve greater equity in this respect across the whole city.

c. Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion of section 3 of the report - Library Strategy:

1. Points highlighted by officers in presenting this section of the report included:



- Consideration was being given to taking forward the development of a new library strategy; this work was likely to start under the remit of the relevant policy committee that would take effect under the committee governance model from May 2024.

- Key themes and priorities to consider as part of developing a new strategy included:

- \* Digital services, given the rise in online membership, use of e-books and e-audio.
- \* Assessing the condition of the Council's library buildings (linking with Corporate Landlord priorities).
- \* How library technology could be refreshed and assessing what is needed in this respect.
- \* Maintenance of advertised opening hours.
- \* Capital requirements for funding bids, library refurbishments, and potential relocation of spaces.
- \* Marketing of the service.
- \* Working in partnership, within Bristol and with LibrariesWest and the South West region.
- \* Continued community engagement.
- \* Working with and extending the coverage across the city of Friends Groups.
- \* Co-delivery of council services through appropriate library buildings.

2. Members generally agreed that, in their view, taking forward the development of a new library strategy should form an early priority for the relevant new policy committee, after May 2024.

3. In the context of the potential themes and priorities for a new strategy, it was suggested, in discussion, that the following issues should also be considered as part of developing a new strategy:

a. Finance and resource availability, and innovation in this context will be paramount considerations, given the ongoing financial situation faced by the Council.

b. The key learning points from the lived experience of utilising the Innovation Fund.

c. Collaboration with partners to ensure best use of space within library services; co-location of services may bring opportunities to extend opening hours. Innovative/new approaches to shared use of space should also be considered, noting that the Council would be willing to discuss options with any suitable group that was willing to pay to use library space. It was suggested that the approach/model used through Somerset Art Works/Weeks (where artists were willing to pay for exhibition space in libraries) could be explored.

d. Ensuring that libraries offer a consistent 'open and friendly door' to residents.

e. In reviewing the condition of library buildings, it will also be important to consider the geographical spread of libraries and review the extent to which libraries are in the 'right place', especially in terms of serving the more deprived areas of the city.



At the conclusion of the discussion, members agreed that it would be important to ensure that their comments as documented above were forwarded in due course to the relevant policy committee that would take effect in May 2024.

### **23 Quarterly performance report (quarter 1, 2023/24)**

The Commission received and noted a report setting out the progress to date made against delivering the Business Plan performance metrics and actions relevant to the Communities Scrutiny Commission remit.

### **24 Work Programme**

The Commission noted the latest update of the work programme.

Meeting ended at 8.00 pm

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_





# Communities Scrutiny Commission

## 27 February 2024



**Report of:** Alex Hearn, Director, Economy of Place

**Title:** Update on Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan

**Ward:** Citywide

**Officer(s) Presenting Report:** Kit Beaumont, Ecological Emergency Co-ordinator

### **Recommendation:**

To note progress made with the delivery of Bristol City Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan and progress made against headline targets.

### **The significant issues in the report are:**

Overall good progress has been made with delivery of the Council's Ecological Emergency Strategy (since it was last presented to Scrutiny in Nov 22) despite the EE Coordinator post being vacant for 12 months (due to recruitment restrictions) which impacted delivery of some projects. This post was filled October 2023 along with a new Senior Sustainability Officer (0.5fte) and work is progressing.



## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The City Council published its Ecological Emergency Action Plan in Sept. 2021 and progress was reported to the Commission in April 2022 and again in November 2022. This showed good progress across the action plan and that trend has improved with more actions completed and progressing as planned.
- 1.2. In June 2022 Cabinet approved additional funding for projects in the action plan. These progressed more slowly than anticipated due to the recruitment restrictions. However key personnel have now been recruited (1x Ecological Emergency Coordinator, 0.5 x Senior Sustainability Officer, 1 x Biodiversity Net Gain Officer) and progress has resumed.
- 1.3. The current action plan runs to 2025 and the council will start work updating this action plan later in 2024.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update and seek feedback on progress made against the council’s key targets related to the ecological emergency and the 77 actions in the BCC Ecological Emergency Action Plan. The report will also highlight key successes, areas that require attention and goals for the coming year.

## 3. Progress against BCC ecological key performance indicators

- 3.1. The Bristol City Council Ecological Emergency Action Plan is a council-wide programme of activities to deliver on the ambitions of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy and relevant aspects of the One City Climate Strategy. The council has adopted the key targets from these strategies and embedded them as key performance indicators that it reports on annually.

	Land managed for nature	Pesticide use	Tree canopy	Water quality	QoL indicator = % who have created space for nature.
<b>Reference</b>	BPOM336	BPPM436	MPOM335	BPOM435	BPOM330
<b>Rag/direction of travel</b>					
<b>Target</b>	30% of council land by 2030	50% reduction by 2030	25% increase from baseline by 2035	100% have water qual that supports healthy wildlife by 2030	55%
<b>Baseline</b>	15%	2,034 litres	16.9%	No data	53%
<b>2021/22</b>	-	<b>Total</b> = 1,775 litres (-13%) <b>Street Cleansing</b> = 971 (-19%) <b>Parks</b> = 803 (-4%)	-	No data	53%
<b>2022/23</b>	15%	<b>Total</b> = 1,668 litres (-18%) <b>Street Cleansing</b> = 970 (-19%) <b>Parks</b> = 698 (-16%)	16.9%	No data	53%
<b>2023/24</b>	Due April	Due April	Due April	TBC	55%

### **3.2. Land Managed for Nature:**

- 3.2.1. Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (PGSS) identifies the potential to increase the % of council land managed for nature from 15% to 31%.
- 3.2.2. The council has recently applied for external funding to deliver phase 1 of its land managed for nature plans and has passed the expression of interest phase.
- 3.2.3. All of the land identified through in the PGSS as having the potential to contribute to our land managed for nature target is included in the soon to be published WoE Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This is important as it not only will it be the strategic guide to nature recovery in the West of England, but it will also help to guide investment to this work through its link with the new biodiversity net gain requirements that come into effect February 2024.

### **3.3. Pesticides reduction:**

- 3.3.1. 2022/23 saw a 18% reduction in the use of pesticides (from baseline) across all council operations by careful review of usage in Parks and through the Street Cleansing Service.
- 3.3.2. Achievement of the 2030 target is reliant on a feasible technological solution, and we will continue to explore options. In 2022 Cardiff trialed a new hot foam treatment system and while this effective the trial showed that the cost was 10 times more expensive than using glyphosate. [CARDIFF COUNCIL \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/councils/cardiff/)
- 3.3.3. In addition to exploring new chemical alternatives the council will explore options for mechanical weed removal and trial these where possible.
- 3.3.4. The growth pattern of weeds has changed in recent years to start growing earlier. To mitigate this the Street Cleansing Service are planning to start spraying earlier in 2024 to tackle weeds before they've had a chance to establish.

### **3.4. Tree Canopy:**

- 3.4.1. Baseline data on tree canopy was captured using 2020 canopy data supplied by Bluesky – this was 16.9%. 2023 canopy cover results are due to be published and reported on in April 2024.
- 3.4.2. Headline details of tree planting strategy are included in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy with a more detailed plan to move towards the target being set out in the One City Tree and Woodland Strategy. This will be considered by the One City Environment Board in February and the Mayor in March this year.
- 3.4.3. There are approximately 30,000 ash trees in Bristol, many of which will need to be removed in the coming years due to Ash Dieback disease. Work has already started, focusing on trees next to paths, roads and other highly populated locations and local consultation will take place. A lot of the current removal is on the edge of woodlands where you can't replant due to shade so reliant on natural regeneration. Areas of mixed

woodland will be less impacted but areas where there are a high number of ash the impact will be significant (e.g. Nightingale Valley). In common with the rest of the country, Ash Dieback is likely to reduce Bristol's tree canopy cover and make the target harder to achieve.

### **3.5. Water Quality:**

- 3.5.1. The Environment Agency monitors river water quality for chemical contamination and ecological status in accordance with Water Framework Directive (WFD). All rivers in Bristol currently rated as 'moderate'. This data could be used to form a BCC indicator and work will be carried out to assess the feasibility of this.
- 3.5.2. In addition, BCC monitors harbour water quality for sewage pollution.
- 3.5.3. Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) and Wessex Water are creating a dashboard and monitoring site called 'River Hub' which will log Wessex Waters Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). Combined sewer overflow and is a term used to describe what happens when sewer systems which combine foul sewage drainage with rainwater drainage become overwhelmed by excess rainwater and overflow into nearby streams and rivers.
- 3.5.4. In addition, BART's citizen science river monitoring which will provide a further snapshot of water quality in Bristol.
- 3.5.5. The council will continue to work with stakeholders across the region to identify projects and interventions that can have a positive effect on water quality as well as aquatic habitats and species.

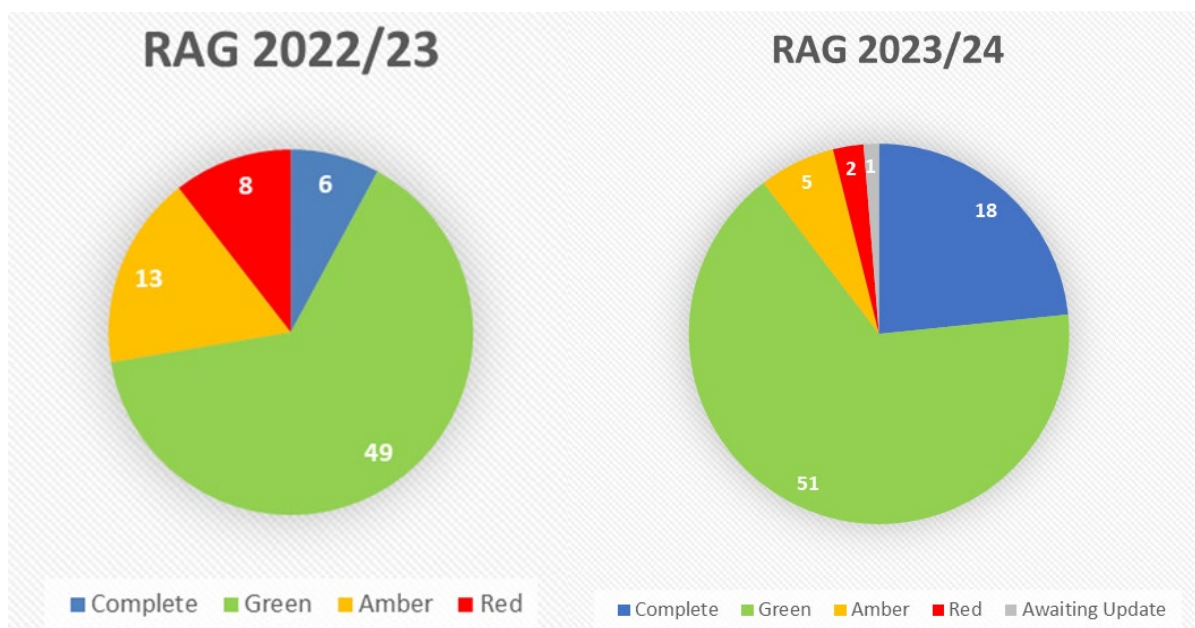
### **3.6. Community Action Quality of Life (QoL) Indicator:**

- 3.6.1. 2023 Quality of Life survey showed that 55% of people have created space for nature, which is in line with previous years. However, as the QoL data doesn't provide details on what these interventions were it only tells part of the story about the exciting work that is taking place in communities across the city.
- 3.6.2. The council recognises the positive impact that residents and community groups can have on a wide range of environmental issues. The council aims to influence this through its engagement and education programmes as well a working with partners, such as Avon Wildlife Trust and the Natural History Consortium, across the city.

## **4. Progress against BCC Ecological Emergency Action Plan actions**

- 4.1.1. Of the 77 actions in the BCC Ecological Emergency Action Plan 18 are completed and 51 are making good progress, with 5 are rated as moderate progress, as they may be running late or need additional resources. 2 are rated as red and we will set out a reason for this and a way forward. This marks a significant improvement from 2022/23 with many of the actions rated as 'amber' now being progressed and over twice as many actions completed.

## 4.1.2. 2022/23 RAG ratings vs 2023/22 RAG ratings:



## 4.2. Key successes/areas of progress:

- 4.2.1. Three new officers are in post as of November 2023 to help coordinate and deliver work across the council, city and region. They are the Ecological Emergency Coordinator (1fte), Senior Sustainability Officer (0.5fte) and a Biodiversity Net Gain Officer (1fte).
- 4.2.2. New environmental policies have been included in the new Local Plan, Parks and Green Spaces Strategy, Allotments Strategy, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and local Biodiversity Net Gain guidance for developers.
- 4.2.3. A new Sustainable Procurement Policy and guidance has been produced.
- 4.2.4. The Council has established a city-wide approach to Ash Dieback and other plant diseases and the One City Tree and Woodland Strategy shall be published in March.
- 4.2.5. Habitat creation and enhancement opportunities on Parks land have been identified and were consulted on at a very high level through the Parks and Green Space Strategy in Dec 23 - Jan 24. Funding has been sought to deliver phase 1 of this work subject to further consultation on site specifics.
- 4.2.6. Bristol Ecological Network modelling has been used in the production of the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy maps - consultation on the strategy is due to start mid-March 2024.
- 4.2.7. Bat Friendly lighting is being rolled out across the city. This piece of work will be complete across the city by March 25 and will enable us to control all the lights remotely from an individual column to a whole street, ward, or the entire city. This will reduce the impact street lighting has on roosting and foraging bats.

### 4.3. BCC Ecological Emergency Action Plan actions currently rated as ‘red’.

4.3.1 These actions are rated as red because they are significantly behind schedule and resources are not yet in place to complete.

Ref	BCC Activity	Responsible team	Comments Nov 2023	Proposed way forward
E.26	Commission a report to identify suitable reptile receptor sites on Council owned sites and non council owned sites (see also E25). Report to be undertaken with other landowners including Network Railway and Highways England.	Parks/Urban Design	No action currently being taken but could link to proposed habitat creation works or BNG site surveying. No resource or funding to take forward at present.	EE officers to work with Parks and BNG officer to ensure that any relevant survey work feeds into this objective.
E.34	Undertake ecological surveys of Highway land, to inform changes in management to increase biodiversity.	Highways	The adopted highway survey hasn't been done. There wasn't the capacity/resource to implement it due to the ecological emergency co-ordinator leaving and the spending freeze etc. No plan in place to carry out unless funding becomes available, work would need to be commissioned externally. Recommendations for management have been made through M4N and pesticide reduction report.	EE officers to work with Highways team to identify potential funds to carry out survey work.

#### 4.4. BCC Ecological Emergency Action Plan actions currently rated as ‘amber’.

4.4.1. These are actions which are behind schedule and require further action which is planned and resourced.

Ref	BCC Activity	Responsible team	Comments Nov 2023	Proposed way forward
C.1	Develop an in-house training programme on biodiversity legislation and ecological emergency for officers across all departments and levels, and councillors including training module.	Learning and Development	There are currently two training courses related to the ecological emergency on the Learning Hub. Completion of these is low as they are not mandatory. Eco emergency = 56 / Our OCEES = 67.  No current plan to make ecological training mandatory like climate change training.	Review modules to make them snappier if possible and look to market online training through corporate comms email (potentially linked to events like the Festival of Nature as a way of promotion).  Next step to target specific teams and create bespoke modules which focuses on relevance to teams’ work. This could include new training for incoming councillors.
E.32	Identify opportunities for ecological enhancements on council buildings/ facilities as part of Climate Resilience Estate Project.	Corporate Landlord	A climate resilience estate scoping report was commissioned and delivered setting out a range of recommendation for how a city-wide climate resilience estate project could be taken forward. There were 5 key recommendations some of which could be delivered through the emerging BGI strategy in 2024. Beyond that there would need to be more funding and a new piece of work commissioned or carried out.	Through development of BCC Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategy identify opportunities to include recommendations set out in report.
E.38	Scale up / relaunch Meadow Bristol; Sponsor a Meadow initiative for parks green spaces, highway verges, central reservations, roundabouts	Parks	This scheme was set up by a Head Gardener in the Parks service many years ago and focused mainly on creating 'pictorial' meadows and is currently paused.	Programme could be re-launched but not until we have started to trial a smaller cut and collect regime. The focus would have to switch to species-rich grassland creation rather than pictorial meadows, as the later aren't particularly sustainable.
G.5	Establish better maintenance regime for BCC-owned SuDS	Highways	All BCC owned SUDs are highways features and are currently managed by the highways team, although it is felt that these could be managed more effectively. There was a plan to be include	Work with Highways and the Flood Team to ensure that SUDs are being maintained effectively.

## 5. Key areas of work for 2024/25

5.1.1. The following are key areas of work for the coming financial year:

- development of the Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategy
- delivering the first phase of our land managed for nature programme
- establishing an approach to implement Biodiversity Net Gain
- embedding ecological practices in work programmes for services across the council.

## 6. 2025 onwards and refresh of Action Plan

6.1.1. The current BCC EE Action Plan runs until March 2025. Work will commence summer 2024 (following the introduction of the new committee system and councillors) to update and develop an action plan for 2025 onwards.

## 7. Policy

7.1.1. The Corporate Strategy makes a clear commitment: [Corporate Strategy Priority ENV2](#): Drive delivery of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy and the council's own action plan. Increase space for nature, reduce the use of pesticides, make waterways cleaner and reduce everyone's use of products that undermine the health of wildlife and wider ecosystems. Double the city's tree canopy by 2045.

7.1.2. The progress of the action plan reported here and the proposals for additional resources to enable the delivery of the action plan and wider strategy are in line with the corporate priority.

## 8. Consultation

### 8.1. Internal

8.1.1. The Action Plan was co-created with colleagues across the council in the services responsible for delivery of the actions. This update draws on progress reports from those colleagues.

8.1.2. Similarly, the relevant services were consulted in the selection of the priority actions and the costs of delivery.

8.1.3. Through this paper the Scrutiny Commission is being invited to comment on the proposals.

### 8.2. External

8.2.1. A number of stakeholders were consulted in the development of the action plan and continue to be as projects are developed and delivered.

## 9. Public Sector Equality Duties

9.1. Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker



considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
  - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
  - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
  - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to
  - - tackle prejudice; and
  - - promote understanding.

9.2. Many of the activities are evidence, strategy, and policy work which are unlikely to have direct adverse impacts on communities.

9.3. In the delivery of each project within the EEAP the lead officers consider equalities issues in line with the duties and BCC policies. For example, the Pesticide Reduction project is one which will make practical changes to the city environment, and could have equalities impacts, for example the impact of increased weed growth on footpaths may adversely affect people with limited mobility. This will be a key factor in the evaluation of options and changes to the use of herbicides.

#### **Appendices:**

1. Ecological Emergency Action Plan – update 2023

[Bristol Ecological Emergency Action Plan](#)

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

##### **Background Papers:**

[CARDIFF COUNCIL \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)



**Report of:** Hugh Evans (Executive Director of Adults and Communities)

**Title:** Bristol Community Safety Partnership report 2022-2023

**Ward:** Citywide

**Officer(s) Presenting Report:** Christina Gray (Director of Public Health and Communities), Penny Germon (HoS Communities) and Clare Sims (Safer Communities Manager).

**Recommendation:**

That Scrutiny notes this report on Bristol Community safety Partnership (CSP) activity from April 2022 to March 2023 and delivers any observations and/or recommendations to both the Bristol City Council Senior Leadership Team and the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP) Executive Board.

**The significant issues in the report are:**

Bristol CSP remains within the KBSP arrangements. The Partnership's statutory duties and activities are overseen and supported by the Keeping Communities Safe Group (KCSG). The Partnership has published its three-year plan which outlines its seven thematic priorities. This plan also gives regard to the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan and serves as our local Police and Crime Plan. In 2023, the KCSG has created additional subgroups in order to strengthen delivery against each of the priority thematic themes and has refreshed its formal reporting schedule to monitor progress and address barriers. In addition to this, a significant amount of grant funding has been secured and is being implemented effectively. This includes some part funding for a partnership data analyst who has in turn created a number of new dashboards relevant to the KCSG and has a schedule of data analytics going forward to include the production of an annual strategic assessment for crime, disorder and community safety.

It is recognised by the CSP that there are two specific areas of work that require development at a strategic level – these being the co-creation of both a local Reducing Reoffending Strategy and a local Preventing Serious Violence Framework. These two areas of work will be made a priority for the KCSG going into 2024/2025.

**Contents:**

- 1 - Purpose of report
  - 2 - Background
  - 3 - Crime and Disorder Act 1998 statutory duties
  - 4 - Preventing and reducing impact of serious violence
  - 5 - Preventing terrorism by supporting those susceptible to radicalisation
  - 6 - Preventing and reducing impact of modern slavery
  - 7 - Preventing and reducing impact of domestic abuse
  - 8 - Preventing and reducing impact of anti-social behaviour
- 

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of the Bristol Community Safety Partnership (CSP) activity and impact during 2022-2023 for the purpose of scrutiny. This is in accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 which sets out that every local authority shall ensure that it has a crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or its executive with respect to the discharge of those functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 complement these provisions and are supported by Home Office guidance.
- 1.2. Bristol's duty to perform crime and disorder scrutiny sits with the Communities Scrutiny Commission. Bristol City Council (BCC) Officers are required to report on behalf of the KBSP on an annual basis relating to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.

**2. Background**

- 2.1. The Bristol CSP remains embedded in the KBSP, whereby arrangements combine the three Boards; the Bristol Children's Safeguarding Board, the Bristol Adult's Safeguarding Board and the CSP (formerly Safer Bristol) currently delivered by the KCSG. The CSP is made up by the five responsible authorities; Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service, Health (Integrated Care Boards) and the Local Authority. Delivery of the statutory duties placed upon these organisations to work in partnership are discharged to the KCSG– currently chaired by the Bristol Neighbourhood Policing Superintendent. Please refer to Appendix 1 for an overview of the current KBSP arrangements through a community safety partnership lens.
- 2.2. A 2022-2023 KBSP annual report has been published and is available to view on the [Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website](#). The KBSP annual report provides an annual overview of the two Safeguarding Boards and the CSP and is available for the Communities Commission for their perusal.

- 2.3. This report for Scrutiny Commission specifically provides a focused overview of KCSG's progress on delivering against the specific statutory duties that apply to CSP's and additional statutory duties that are crime, disorder and community safety specific and apply to most, if not all the five statutory partners.
- 2.4. The legislation that sets out the main CSP duties includes the following; Crime and Disorder Act 1998; Crime Disorder Regulations 2007; Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Serious Violence Duty); Counter Terrorism Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty); Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (ASB Case Reviews); Modern Slavery Act 2015 (duty to notify); Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (Domestic Homicide Reports). This report will therefore focus on activity undertaken and overseen by the KCSG that fulfils the above statutory duties.
- 2.5. Additional and more detailed information can be provided to the Committee on any of the other individual areas of KCSG business, if required.

### **3. Crime and Disorder Act 1998 duties**

- 3.1. Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act sets out who the Responsible Authorities are and how they can join together to work as a combined partnership in order to carry out their functions under sections 6 to 7 of the Act. The Responsible Authorities are Police, Fire and Rescue Authority, Local Authorities, Health Partners, and Probation Services and in Bristol they come together to deliver their crime and disorder duties under the KBSP, driven by the KCSG. This group remains well established and well attended by all statutory partners and an extensive range of additional partners from our voluntary and other third sector partners. The group meets bi-monthly and is supported by the BCC Safer Communities Team and the KBSP Business Team with strong governing lines back to the KBSP. In response to the 2023-2026 CSP plan, the KCSG has formed two new sub-groups (Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership and Modern Slavery Partnership) to strengthen partnership working and to drive this work forward (further detail relating to these priority workstreams are covered later in the report). The KCSG has also refreshed the reporting schedule for all KCSG subgroups (quarterly reporting) to improve oversight and escalation to ensure the objectives set against our statutory duties and our priority themes are progressing.
- 3.2. Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act sets out that local partners are required to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities to include; a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area and a strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area, and reducing instances of serious violence in the area (recent addition to CSP duties in accordance with the Serious Violence Duty).
- 3.3. The Committee will be aware that the Bristol Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-2026 was published in the summer of 2023 and that it sets out how the wider partnership will come together to tackle crime and disorder in Bristol with a focus on how we will deliver against the 7 thematic priorities.

3.4. Please see figure 1 below for all offences crime data for this period. We have seen a very slight decline from 2021/2022 to 2022/2023. Prevalence of crime types in Bristol are shown in figure 2 and indicates that offences against the person and theft remain the most common for this period.

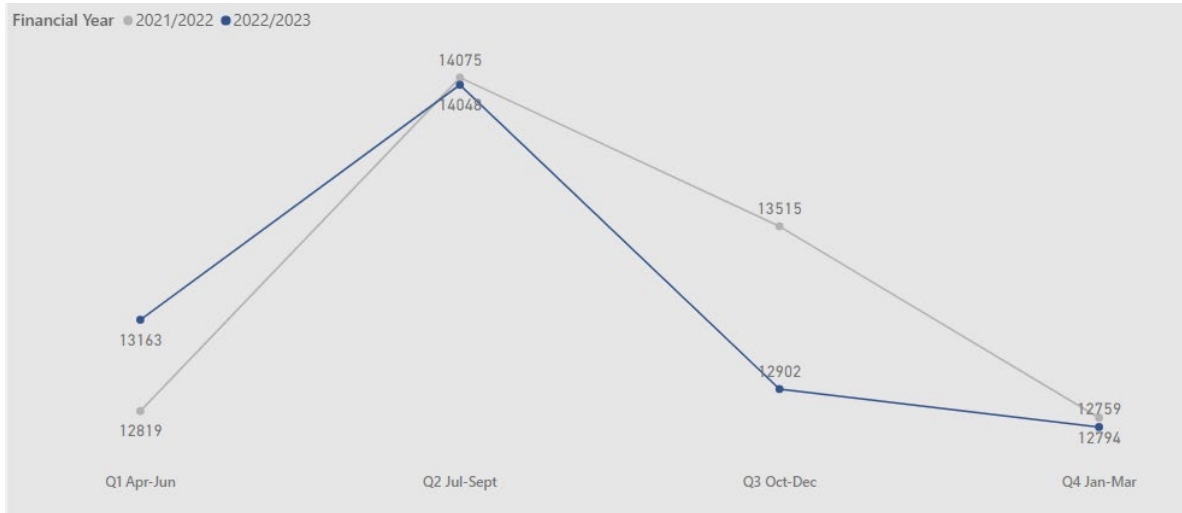


Figure 1: All Offences, 2021/22 vs 2022/23<sup>2</sup>

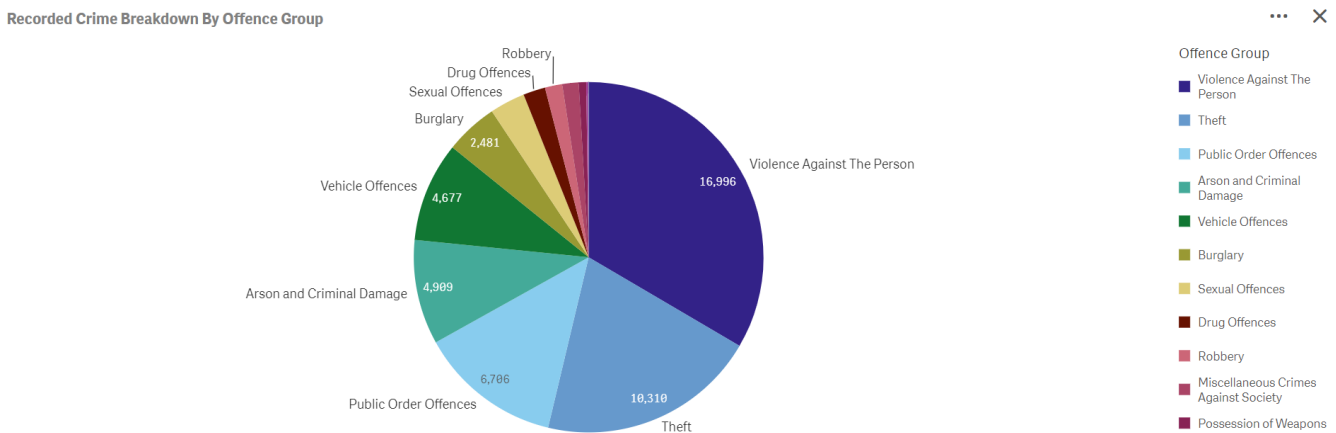


Figure 2: Breakdown of Bristol Police Offences by Offence Category (2022/23) (Source: Avon & Somerset Constabulary Community Safety Qlik App)

3.5. [Bristol's Strategy for Drugs and Alcohol 2021-2025](#) has been developed and is being delivered in partnership, with oversight from members of the KCSG and Bristol's Health and Wellbeing Board. The Combatting Drugs Partnership (one of the KCSG sub groups) is co-chaired by Bristol's Police Commander and BCC's Director of Public Health who drive the work set out in the drugs and alcohol action plan. The strategy sets out six priorities, one of which is to tackle crime and disorder.

3.6. The CSP is currently working to a [Southwest Reducing Reoffending Plan 2022-25](#). We are currently working with the Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board to produce an Avon

and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy by April 2024. The graph below<sup>1</sup> shows that in 2021 the proportion of those who do reoffend are significantly higher in Bristol than our neighbouring local authorities, this would be expected given that we are an urban area. As a police force area, the proportion of offenders who reoffended in 2021 is 23.4% compared to 24.9% in England and Wales.

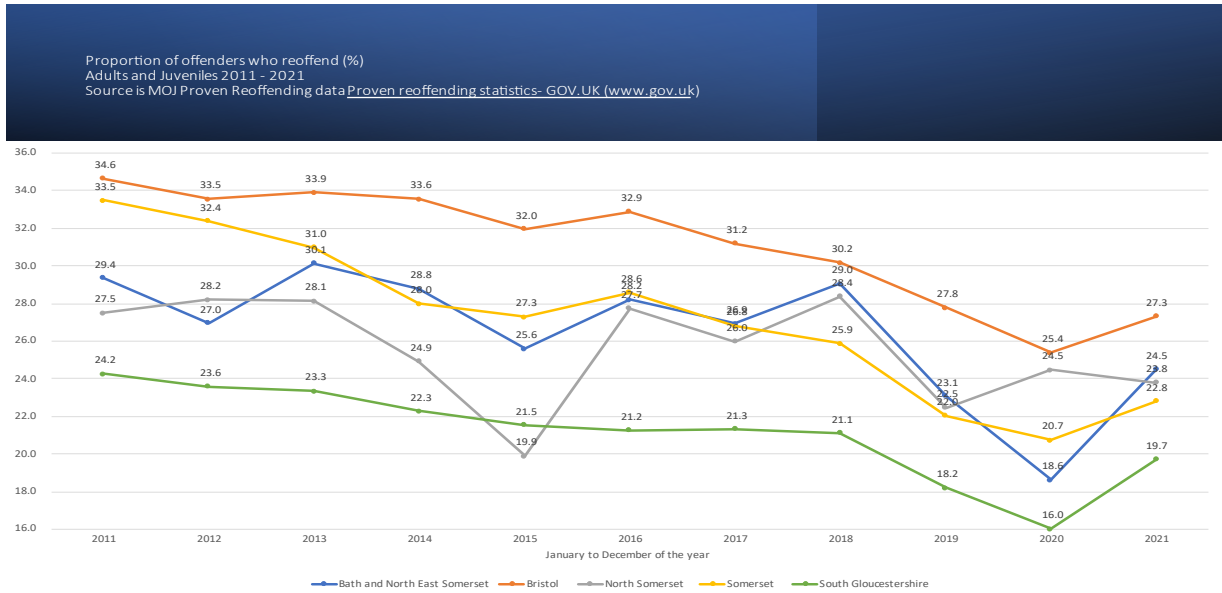


Figure 3: Proportion of offenders who reoffend (%)<sup>1</sup>

3.7. The Bristol Home Office funded Violence Reduction Partnership, locally known as Safer Options continues to work towards the priorities published in the [Safer Options Approach 2020-2030](#). The Preventing Serious Violence subgroup under KCSG supports and oversees the Safer Options partnership and reports directly into the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership, the Avon and Somerset Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the Home Office.

3.8. The Serious Violence Duty came into force in January 2023 and stipulates that those responsible authorities are to come together to produce and publish a strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area and reducing instances of serious violence in the area. Throughout 2023, Bristol responsible authorities have worked alongside force area partners to produce the [Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership Strategy 24-25](#) published on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The Bristol KCSG are now working in coalition with Bristol’s wealth of grass roots organisations and its communities to produce a Bristol Preventing Serious Violence Framework.

3.9. Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 sets out CSP’s functions in respect of the formulation and implementation of a strategy in that for each area there shall be a strategic group whose

<sup>1</sup> [Proven reoffending statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/proven-reoffending-statistics)

functions shall be to prepare strategic assessments; and prepare and implement a partnership plan. The last full strategic assessment on crime, disorder and community safety was published in December 2021. However to progress this going forward, in 2023, the KCSG allocated a small proportion of the police and crime grant towards a partnership data analyst. This has resulted in a number of developments to further improve the partnership’s ability to analyse data sets available to us. KCSG now has live data dashboards for hate crime and ASB and dashboards being developed for domestic abuse and modern slavery. A schedule of strategic assessments has been agreed and includes annual summary assessments to sense-check progress and identify any new emerging themes. A full crime and disorder strategic assessment will be completed to inform the new partnership plan for 2026. The data analyst endeavours to support all KCS sub groups with requests for data analytics that are within scope and within capacity.

#### 4. Serious Violence Prevention

- 4.1. The Serious Violence (SV) Duty as set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 includes a requirement for local partnerships to complete a SV strategic needs assessment (SNA) to understand how violence is affecting their communities and to develop and publish a SV prevention strategy. Section 11, Schedule 1, defines specified authorities as Chief Officers of police, fire and rescue authorities, integrated care boards, local health boards, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services. As stated above, the Bristol serious violence specified authorities (under the KCSG) collaborated with specified authorities at an Avon and Somerset level to fulfil these duties and the strategy has been published.
- 4.2. Prior to the implementation of the SV Duty in January 2023, Bristol’s partnership response to serious violence has focused on serious youth violence with our local response led by Safer Options. Safer Options is a coordinated whole systems response to preventing serious youth violence and exploitation and the role of the Safer Options team is to support change across the whole system, leading to an effective and sustainable approach. For the most recent annual report please refer to the [A&S Violence Reduction Unit Report 2020-2021](#).
- 4.3. Whilst the Bristol prevalence for all serious violent crime types decreased slightly from 4923 (2021-2022) to 4316 (2022-2023), incidents of public space and peer on peer serious violence continues to impact greatly upon our city.

**There was a 12% decrease in Serious Violence Offences in Bristol in 2022/23<sup>2</sup>**

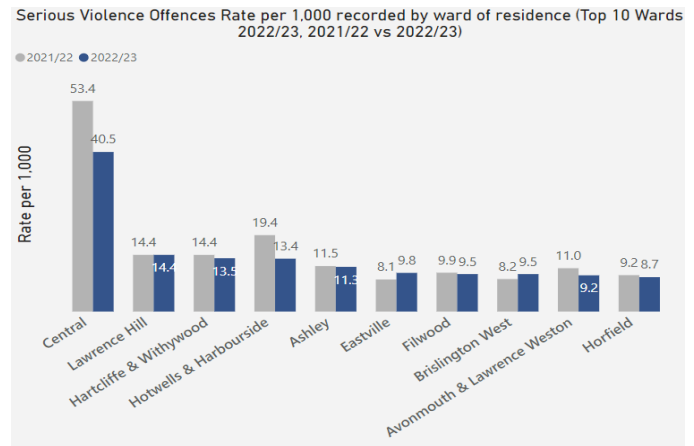
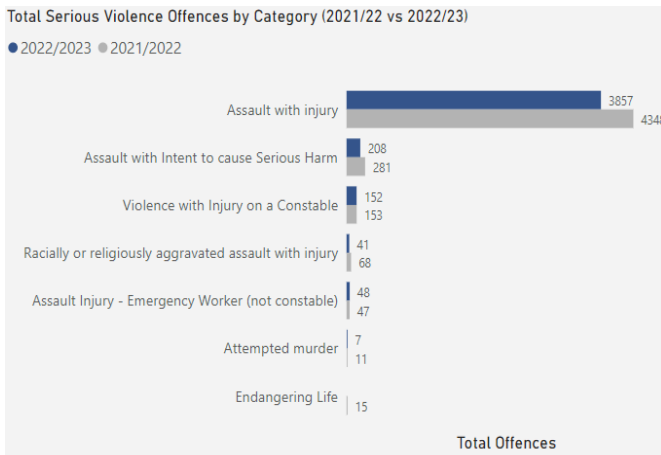
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<sup>2</sup> Avon & Somerset Constabulary (Niche)



The graph below shows Assault with Injury Offences fell by 11% between October 2022 and September 2023, but during this period there have been 4 knife related Murders

This graph shows that Central Ward remains the highest ward for the rate of Serious Violence but the other wards showing here represent relatively high rates for non-central wards



4.4. Safer Options continues to target their interventions to our ward areas of greatest need, and it is recognised by the partnership that a broader local serious violence framework is required, one that is evidence based and captures the voices and the nuances of our city. The new SV framework will not only continue to focus on serious youth violence and exploitation but will also address that of violence against women and girls, sexual violence and violence linked to our nighttime economy.

4.5. In July 2022, BCC Safer Communities team successfully secured Home Office Safer Streets funding (round 4). This initiative set out to prevent neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour (ASB). The project took place in the wards of Hartcliffe, Bedminster and Southville and the interventions delivered included community participation, youth work, situational crime prevention such as CCTV and lighting, equalities training, substance misuse harm reduction and the city-wide expansion of the Safety for Women at Night agenda.

4.6. In 2023, the KCSG also allocated funds to Life Skills Immersive Learning Facility. The funds were used to refresh their main safety programme (designed for year 6 primary school children) which is accessible to every school in Bristol and surrounding areas. The grant was used to



support the ‘dark alleyway scenario’ in which children and people with learning disabilities are taught to avoid places where they feel unsafe. The scene also includes an audible knife attack which is reported to the police and gives children increased confidence in knowing what to do in an emergency situation whilst not endangering themselves. Life Skills confirm that during 2022-2023, 3690 year 6 pupils/people with learning difficulties accessed this service. One year 6 teacher from Elmlea Primary School commented that “Life Skills is a fundamental resource, providing children with the essential tools to build awareness of their surroundings and to keep themselves safe at a crucial stage of transition”.

- 4.7. In July 2023, BCC and Avon and Somerset Police came together to formalise and agree a joint response protocol to critical incidents impacting on the city (that do not meet the threshold for the formal emergency protocols). This protocol was stood up immediately following the murder of one of our young people, recognising the need to coordinate the bringing together of our city’s partners to provide an immediate response to support communities. The protocol relates to the acute phase of any serious incident of which the impact on communities is significant. A real-time joint assessment of dynamic risk is undertaken and if stood up, key stakeholders are brought together to assess and mitigate dynamic risks throughout that acute phase, after which the process is stood down. The protocol has been stood up following three critical incidents thus far and has proven to be invaluable in bringing city partners together to ensure communities are supported and community relations are stabilised.
- 4.8. As an effective preventative measure, knife surrender bins have also been installed in Bristol as part of the Avon and Somerset Police response to Operation Sceptre in a bid to encourage people to safely discard of any knives and weapons they are carrying and prevent street-based knife crime. In April 2023 as requested by the community, bins were installed in Castle Park in the city centre and outside The Park Centre in Knowle. Additional knife bins are already present at the Bridewell Police Station, Bristol Crown Court, Bristol Magistrates Court, Staple Hill and at Trojan Free Fighters in Jude.
- 4.9. Emergency bleed control kits are located across Avon and Somerset in the event of someone suffering a catastrophic bleed. They are designed to be easy-to-use and instantly accessible by members of the public and bystanders to use in moments before an ambulance arrives on scene. Whilst bleed kits do not prevent knife crime, their availability and use can save lives of those who have suffered a knife or other injury resulting in significant bleed. The education programme that compliments some types of bleed kits can also, in turn, serve as an educational and therefore preventative measure. Towards the end of 2022 and into 2023, the KCSG reallocated some police and crime grant funding to bolster the installation of bleed kits in various parts of the city where assessments indicated they would be best placed. Communities were also listened to and bleed kits have been installed at various locations across the city. This initiative continues to be implemented and an evaluation will be undertaken in due course.

## **5. Preventing terrorism by supporting those susceptible to radicalisation**

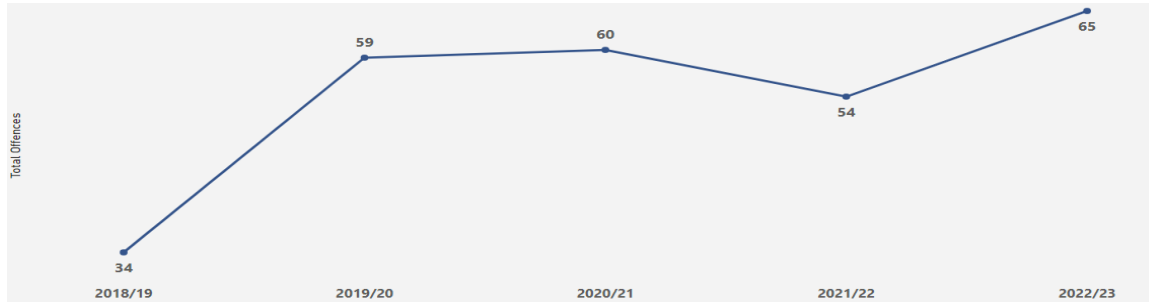
- 5.1. Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism Security Act (CTSA) 2015 places a duty on “specified authorities” listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The Prevent Duty applies to education, health, local authorities, police and criminal justice agencies (prisons and probation). The revised Home Office Prevent Duty Guidance came into force on 31 December 2023. Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 sets out the duty for local authorities to ensure that there

is a local panel in place to assess and to provide support for people susceptible to being drawn into terrorism – referred to as a Channel Panel.

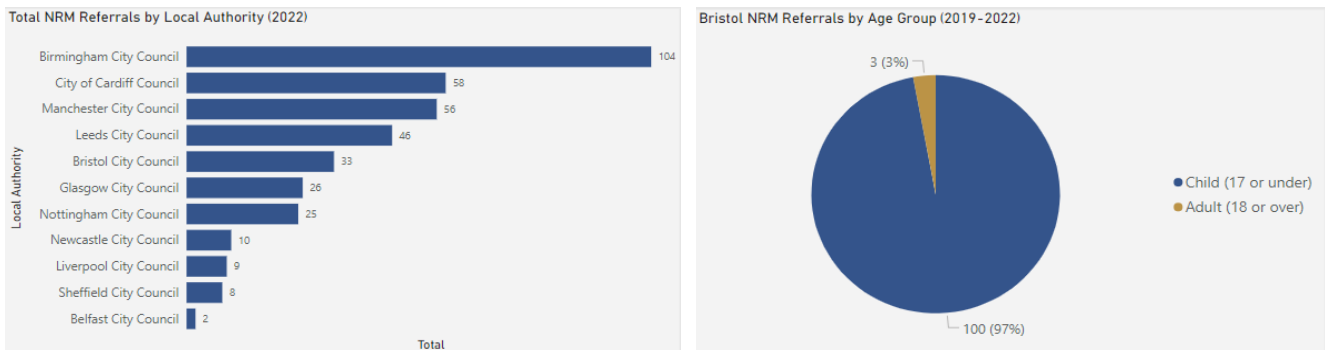
- 5.2. The 'Building the Bridge' Prevent Partnership Board continues to oversee and support the partnership activity in meeting its Prevent Duty as does the KCSG. The Board meets quarterly and continues to be very well attended by its statutory partners. This Board oversees the local authority's compliance with the Home Office benchmarking for Prevent and the Home Office Channel Assurance work, both of which remains assessed as 'good'.
- 5.3. Bristol was successful in bidding for Home Office Prevent Priority funding in 2022 and subsequently was able to recruit to two prevent specialist posts – Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer. This has resulted in greater service provision across the partnership. In particular, widespread delivery of specialist Prevent in education training across the education sector in Bristol. Local authority in house training has stepped up and has been supported by the development of an 'Prevent Champion' scheme.
- 5.4. Prevent referrals for Bristol stood at 37% of all Prevent referrals across Avon and Somerset between April 2022 and March 2023 (the highest for all local authority areas within this force area). This was a 0.14% increase compared to those received between April 2021 and March 2022. Referrals for males made up 92%. With regards to age cohorts, children and young people (17 and under) made up 32% of the total number of Bristol referrals. Individuals aged 18-30 made up 14%, 30-50 made up 30% and those ages 50 plus made up 22% of the total number of Bristol prevent referrals. The number of those individuals assessed as susceptible to radicalisation and requiring support through the Channel process has remained consistent throughout 2022-2023.

## 6. Preventing and reducing impact of modern slavery

### Modern Slavery Police Recorded Offences in Bristol - 2018/19 to 2022/23<sup>2</sup>



### Bristol City Council ranked 5<sup>th</sup> highest among Core Cities for NRM referrals by Local Authorities in 2022 (up from 6<sup>th</sup> in 2021), with 97% of referrals being for Children<sup>3</sup>



6.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 designates councils, police, borders and immigration authorities and non-governmental organisations working in this area as ‘first responder’ organisations. These organisations have a number of responsibilities, and it is up to each to decide how they wish to discharge these duties. These include identifying potential victims and recognising the indicators of modern slavery; gathering information to understand what has happened; referring potential victims to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) if they consent (as an access to secure available support); if they do not consent to an NRM, to complete a Duty to Notify form, and/or if there is insufficient information available. Both are ways of recording the national numbers of modern slavery. There is also a duty for first responder organisations to be a point of contact for the Single Competent Authority to assist, when necessary, to assist decisions as the victim goes through the NRM process.

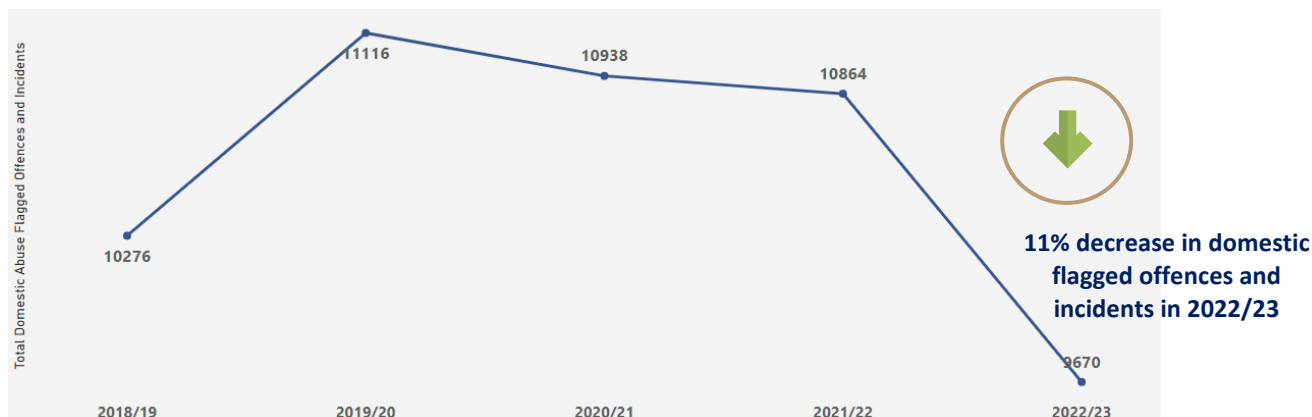
6.2 Other responsibilities that relate to Council’s involve supporting potential modern slavery victims. These support services can involve safeguarding children services; adults with care and support needs; housing/homelessness services; community safety services and disruption activities; and by ensuring that the supply chains councils procure from are free from modern slavery. This relates to and is covered in the BCC Modern Slavery Transparency Statement and action plan which the Council pledged to update and publish annually.

<sup>3</sup> [Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2022](#)

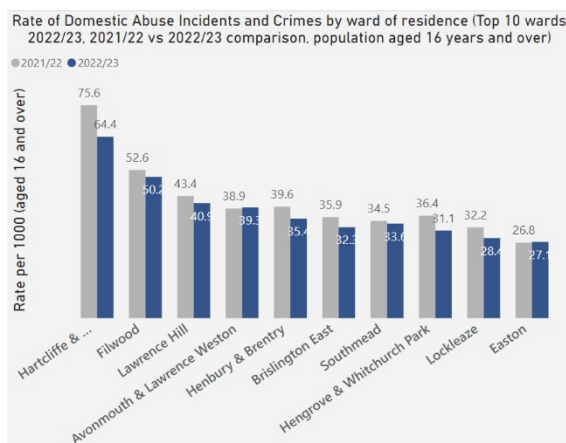
6.3 A BCC Modern Slavery task group was set up in 2022 following the publication of the BCC Modern Slavery Transparency Statement. This group drives forward an action plan that sits under the Council's pledge and a significant part of this plan involves strengthening partnership working to tackle modern slavery. The Scrutiny Commission will also be aware that modern slavery is one of the KCSG's 7 thematic priorities. There have been a number of achievements carried out by this group but of particular note, a bespoke BCC in house modern slavery e-learning module has been developed and formally made mandatory. This level 1 e-learning has to date been completed by 3857 staff and/or elected members. BCC now has 39 trained designated First Responders who have completed the level 1 e-learning and the level 2 online Home Office training. In addition they have also completed bespoke level 3 training delivered face to face by Unseen. Plans are afoot to make this training package available to the wider partnership.

## 7. Preventing and reducing impact of domestic abuse

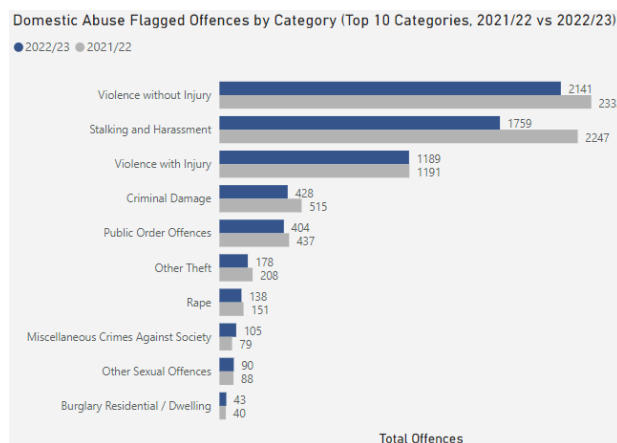
### Domestic Abuse – Bristol prevalence<sup>2</sup>



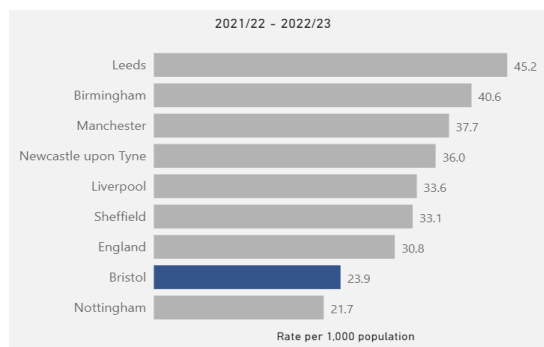
### Hartcliffe & Withywood remains the highest ward for the rate of Domestic Abuse offences/incidents.<sup>2</sup>



### Stalking and Harassment Offences fell by 28%, while the levels of Violence with Injury were consistent.<sup>2</sup>



### Bristol has the second-lowest rate of Domestic Abuse offences among the core cities<sup>4</sup>



7.

57) sets out the support that is to be provided by local authorities to victims of domestic abuse. Each relevant local authority in England must assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in its area and prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy. The

<sup>4</sup> [Wider Determinants of Health - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

relevant local authority that publishes a strategy under this section must also in carrying out its functions, give effect to the strategy. This statute also sets out that the relevant local authority must appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board.

7.2 In Bristol, the domestic abuse board function is fulfilled by the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence group (MADVSA) which reports to both the KBSP Executive and the KCSG. A Bristol Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy is published online and is due for review soon. The MADASV group also holds the implementation of the DA Act duties and fulfils the CSP’s violence against women and girls’ priority. A Bristol Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2024 has been drafted and is out for consultation with a plan to be published in March 2024.

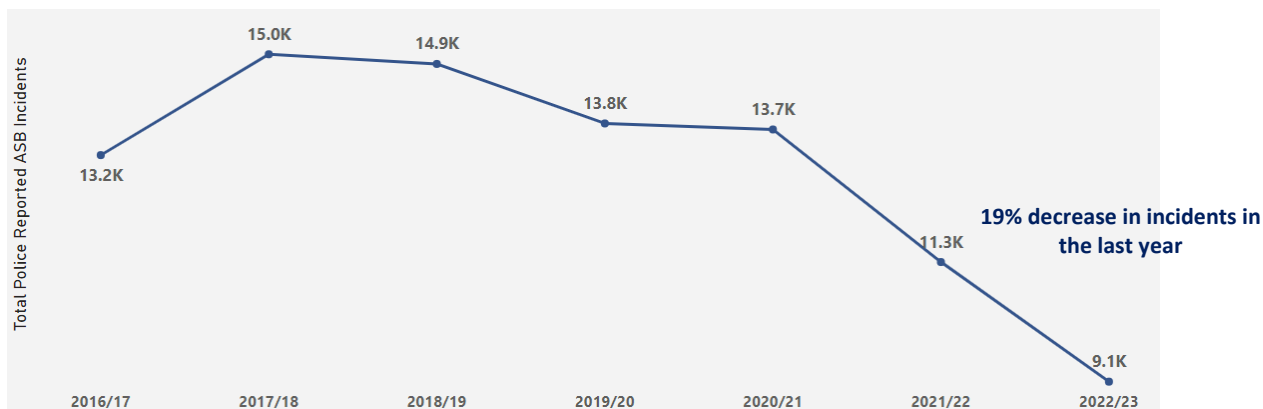
7.3 Section 3 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 provides the multi-agency statutory guidance for the conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) and states that the “overall responsibility for establishing a review rests with the local CSP as they are ideally placed to initiate a DHR and review panel, due to their multi-agency design and locations across England and Wales...the chair of the CSP holds responsibility for establishing whether a homicide is to be the subject of a DHR”. The KBSP Business team leads on coordinating the DHR multi-agency assessment process and the commissioning and publication of DHRs in Bristol. The DHR subgroup is chaired by Avon and Somerset Police and supported by BCC Public Health teams who also commission DA services.

Number of DHRs	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Initiated	0	2	1	0
Ongoing	11	13	14	14
Submitted to Home Office	0	0	3	1
Published	1	0	0	0

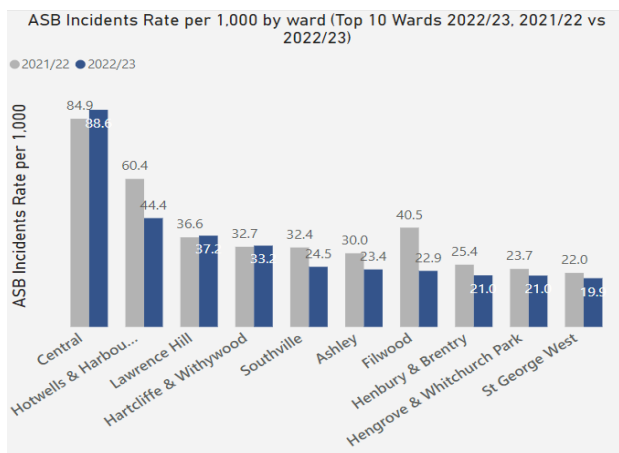
7.4 The MADVSV group reports that the ‘Sanctuary Scheme’ launched July 2023, resulted in more than 20 victims being able to stay in own homes with security measures and additional support. There has been additional investment in Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA’s) supporting maternity hospitals, street sex workers and sexual health services. The DRIVE perpetrator programme has been launched in Bristol. As stated above, work with partners has begun to develop a DASV city wide strategy, with a commitment to eradicate Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in all areas of our city, supporting all victims and survivors, challenging unacceptable behaviour and holding perpetrators to account.

## 8. Preventing and reducing impact of Anti-Social Behaviour

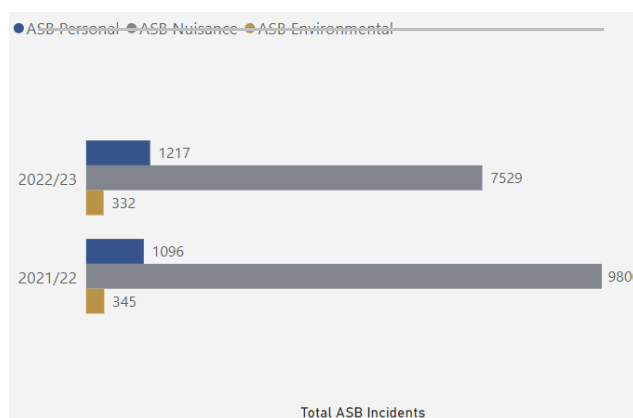
**ASB Bristol Prevalence 2022-2023<sup>5</sup>**



**Central Ward remains the highest ward for the rate of ASB incidents.<sup>5</sup>**



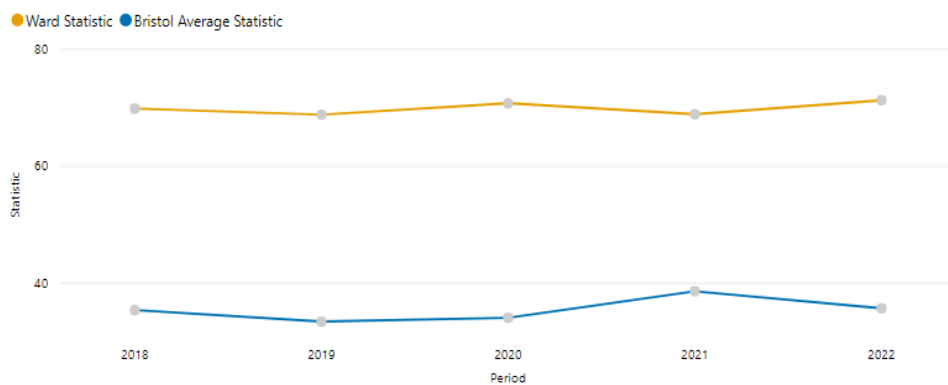
**ASB Nuisance Incidents decreased by 30%<sup>5</sup>**



8.1. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (section 104 and 105) introduced

**71% of Hartcliffe & Withywood residents reported ASB as problem locally in 2022- this was the highest ward value, and double the Bristol average<sup>6</sup>**

**% who feel anti-social behaviour is a problem locally**



Whilst the data shows a decrease in incidents, this is likely to reflect a change in police recording more incidents as crimes as opposed to an actual decrease in ASB prevalence.

Central ward being highest for ASB is a longstanding theme and to be expected given urban aspect of the city centre and the impact of NTE.

South Bristol continues to report ASB as a significant problem and this theme concurs with the QoL data for fear of crime affecting people’s lives.

specific measures designed to give victims and communities a sense of control if antisocial behaviour are dealt with. This includes the anti-social behaviour order (formerly known as the community trigger), which gives victims of persistent ASB reported to

<sup>5</sup> Avon & Somerset Constabulary (STORM)

<sup>6</sup> [Ward Profile Tool \(November 2023\)](#)

any of the main responsible agencies (such as the council, police, housing provider) the right to request a multi-agency case review where a local threshold is met. Agencies, including local authorities, the police, local health teams and registered providers of social housing have a duty to carry out a case review when someone requests one and their case meets a locally defined threshold. Agencies also have a duty to publish data at least annually on the number of triggers received, how many met the threshold, and the number that resulted in further action.

- 8.2. BCC takes the lead for the administration of the ASB Case Review in Bristol. This includes management of the cases and hosting of the multi-agency ASB Case Review Panel. This is managed by the Safer Communities Team. In line with the statutory requirements, BCC publishes data relating to the numbers of ASB Case Reviews and their outcomes. To view this data follow this link: [ASB case review \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/asb-case-review)

	2021-2022	2022-2023
Case Reviews meeting threshold	37	45
Case reviews resulting in further action	35	37

- 8.3. Police and Crime grant funding has been used to recruit a fixed term ASB Problem Solving Partnership Project Officer who has been coordinating multiagency collaborative projects to reduce locational and cohort specific ASB across the City and supporting the ASB case review process. The Police and Crime grant has also been used to fund a partnership subscription to the RESOLVE ASB - a centre of excellence focused on community safety and ASB, providing access to national academics, discounted training and improved networking across this area.
- 8.4. As stated earlier, the KCSG has created a live ASB dashboard which is proving invaluable in assuring the partnership that high level indicators of incidents of ASB can be easily realised and targeted with interventions as appropriate, prior to events escalating.
- 8.5. The new ASB partnership group has been established in response the ASB thematic priority and is bringing partners together to build on the existing partnership arrangements in place through ASB multi-agency meeting and case conferences. An ASB memorandum of understanding has been agreed and an ASB partnership action plan is in place.



## 9 Summary

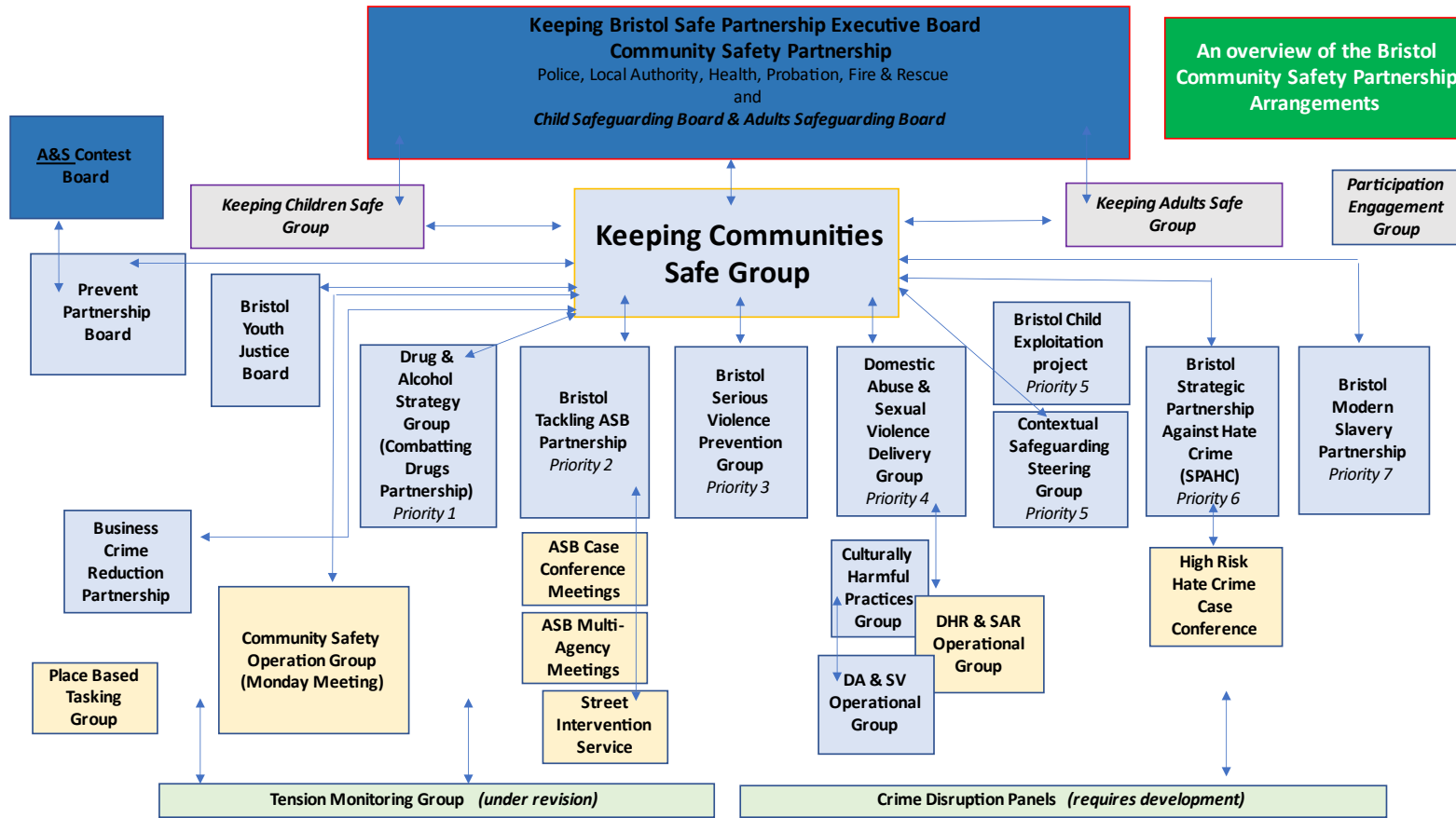
- 9.1 This report sets out to provide the Communities Scrutiny Commission with an overview of decisions and activity undertaken by the KCSG from 2022 to 2023 with a firm focus on the community safety related statutory duties that apply to the community safety partners in Bristol. The content of this report provides a snapshot of the activity undertaken and does not give justice to the extensive partnership work undertaken alongside that of the KCSG during this period. Of particular note, two of our additional subgroups remain very strong in their delivery against the partnership’s priorities, those being the Strategic Partnership Against Hate Crime and the Combatting Drugs Partnership.
- 9.2 Following on from the formation of the KBSP, the KCSG and its subgroups continue to grow and evolve in response to identified opportunities for partnership and collaboration. It should also be noted that the voice of our communities and particularly our citizens with lived experience are integral to the effectiveness of any community safety partnership and therefore being woven through each of the priority sub-groups to ensure that delivery is effective and remains on-point.
- 9.3 The Bristol Youth Justice Board also sits within the Bristol CSP and their partnership requires some reference here. However, the Communities Scrutiny Commission should be assured that this group is subject to scrutiny by the Regional Youth Justice Board.
- 9.4 The highlights of 2022-2023 are difficult to encapsulate, but the addition of two new partnership groups (Modern Slavery and ASB) are to be celebrated as is the creation and implementation of the BCC/Police joint acute critical incident protocol. The new protocol has added a breadth of partnership working from senior leaders through to grassroots operations on the ground, which have in turn empowered our communities to act and support one another during times of crisis and trauma.
- 9.5 Successful Home Office bids have secured funds for the Safer Streets 4 project and moving into 2024, Bristol has also been successful in securing Safer Streets 5 funding. Home Office Prevent funding for posts and projects has been secured for 2023-2024 and a bid for the final year of funding available has been submitted, which if successful will take us to March 2025 with funding for the two Prevent posts.
- 9.6 Moving into 2024 and towards 2025, the Bristol Community Safety Partnership will face resource challenges as the cost-of-living crisis unfolds but regardless, the partnership is growing from strength to strength and we look forward to the KCSG and its sub groups evolving further. Of particular note, the CSP is focused and committed to developing a Bristol Preventing Serious Violence Framework that will anchor into the Avon and Somerset Strategy but will firmly remain localised, with the strength of communities at its core. Bristol also requires a local Reducing Reoffending Strategy and this will be a priority going into 2024. Finally, strengthening the oversight and reporting arrangements of the subgroups will continue as a key focal point for the KCSG.

### Appendices:

[1 – KBSP arrangements through a KCS group lens](#)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

Background Papers: *None*



## Communities Scrutiny Commission 27 February 2024



### **Agenda item 9: Communities Scrutiny comments on Cabinet report on allotments rents and water charges (time allocation: 15 minutes)**

On 5 March, the Cabinet will be considering a report seeking approval of updated rents and water charges for allotments.

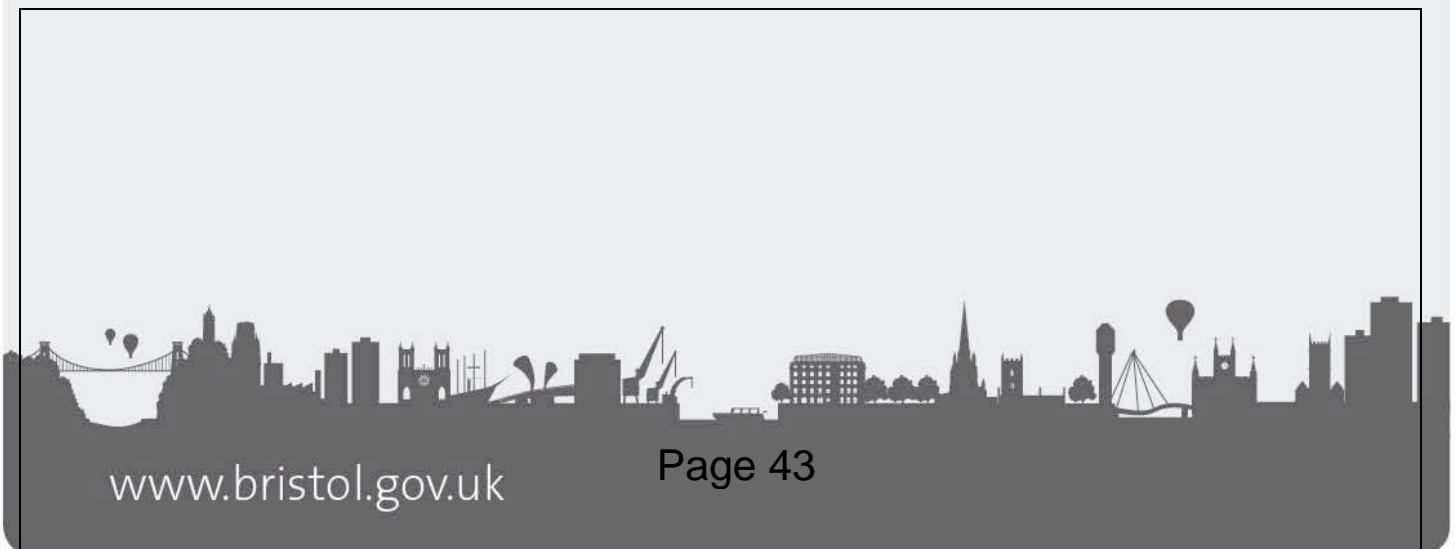
Members of the Communities Scrutiny Commission received a detailed briefing on 15 February on the financial and service background to the proposals, including details of the rationale for the proposed increases, the results of benchmarking with other authorities, and the proposed extension to concessions offered.

The 5 March Cabinet report is due to be published on 26 February and will be forwarded to Commission members as soon as available. In the meantime, background information on the proposals is set out in the enclosed slide presentation, as shared with Commission members on 15 February.

At this meeting, the Commission is asked to formulate any comments on the Cabinet report for submission to the Cabinet meeting on 5 March.

**Please note:** Communities Scrutiny Commission members are aware that further to the recent public consultation, the Council's administration has decided, and communicated widely to stakeholders that other proposed allotment changes, particularly in relation to tenancy rules, are not being taken forward at this time (for background, a copy of the letter sent to allotment stakeholders by the Cabinet member for Public Health and Communities is enclosed).

**At this meeting on 27 February, the Communities Scrutiny Commission will solely be commenting on the Cabinet report seeking approval of updated rents and water charges for allotments.**







# Communities Scrutiny Commission

## Allotment Briefing

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[www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk)



# Current Allotment Fee Structure

Accessible Plot	Band A 0-74m <sup>2</sup>	Band B 75-149m <sup>2</sup>	Band C 150-224m <sup>2</sup>	Band D 225-349m <sup>2</sup>	Band E 350-449m <sup>2</sup>	Band F 450-540m <sup>2</sup> or above
N/A	£30	£50	£70	£85	£150	£165

£15 application fee is currently applied at the start of a new tenancy to cover administration cost

*A range of Concessions and Discounts are applicable – please see slide 6*

# Current Income and Required Expenditure

Item	Cost
Parks staff - Allotments Officer x 2, Allotment Manager, and supporting Parks Technical Officers	£187K
Support Costs – Central Support, ICT, Office, Consumables, Admin, transport	£32K
Buildings and Infrastructure – annual maintenance, cyclical replacement of water infrastructure, compliance checks	£301K
Utilities	£41K
Grounds maintenance inc tree works	£41K
Waste clearance and pest control	£31K
Corporate Income Target **	£55K
<b>Total cost estimate</b>	<b>£688K</b>
<b>Income from food growing assets 2022/23</b>	<b>£286K</b>
<b>Difference –</b>	<b>£402K</b>

\*\*Full Council decision on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 agreed to an annual revenue budget saving of £55K for allotments

# Buildings and Infrastructure Annual Maintenance Budget Estimate for Allotments and Smallholdings

The below extract is a breakdown of the estimated annual cost required to manage and maintain the allotment and smallholdings buildings and infrastructure.

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## Buildings and Infrastructure Budget Estimate - Allotments and Smallholdings

Buildings & infrastructure – ad-hoc maintenance	£44,856
Buildings & Infrastructure - annualised cyclical replacement/maintenance over 15yrs	£233,196
Statutory Compliance Checks	£23,040
<b>Buildings and infrastructure cost sub-total</b>	<b>£301,092</b>



# Proposed Fee Structure

## Proposed Total Combined Rent - including water charge (This only applies to sites with water)

Accessible Plot	Band A - Mini		Band B - Small		Band C - Medium		Band D - Large		Band E		Band F		Band G		Band H	
0 - 8m2	0-74m2		75-149m2		150-224m2		225-349m2		350-449m2		450-549m2		550-699m2		700-999m2	
Discounted	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount
£30	£72	£36	£89	£44.5	£156	£78	£178	£89	£249	£124.5	£311	£155.5	£389	£194.5	£528	£264

Plots 1,000m2 or above will be charged additionally as pro-rata of Band H

## Plot Size Land Area only

Accessible Plot	Band A - Mini		Band B - Small		Band C - Medium		Band D - Large		Band E		Band F		Band G		Band H	
0 - 8m2	0-74m2		75-149m2		150-224m2		225-349m2		350-449m2		450-549m2		550-699m2		700-999m2	
Discounted	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount	Full	Group/ Benefits Discount
£25	£64	£32	£79	£39.5	£141	£70.5	£158	£79	£224	£112	£281	£140.5	£354	£177	£488	£244

Plots 1,000m2 or above will be charged additionally as pro-rata of Band H

# Concessions and Discounts Offered

## Concessions and Discounts currently offered

Income based discounts – 50% discount on one plot, offered to tenants in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or Housing Benefit (see below)

Flood/Marginal discount – up to 50% for plots that temporarily flood, or growing area is compromised by trees etc.

Plot Condition Discount – up to 50% may be offered to new tenants taking on overgrown plots over 1 or 2 years depending on condition

Collective, CIC, or community group discount – 50% discount for group activities that add social value

Site representative discount – 100% on one plot (largest plot)

Long tenant service (discontinued in 2017/18 so is not applicable for new applicants) - Over 25 years – 50%, over 50 years 100%

## Proposed Concessions and Discounts

Continue to offer the concessions and discounts above, but expand the **Income based discount** to include any tenant in receipt of Universal Credit or Pension Credit benefits – 50% discount for one plot.

Direct Debit options – tenants will be able to pay rent by Direct Debit in quarterly or monthly instalments

# Summary of Income and Required Expenditure for New Fee Structure

Item	Cost
Parks staff - Allotments Officer x 2, Allotment Manager, and supporting Parks Technical Officers	£187K
Support Costs – Central Support, ICT, Office, Consumables, Admin, transport	£32K
Buildings and Infrastructure – annual maintenance, cyclical replacement of water infrastructure, compliance checks	£301K
Utilities	£41K
Grounds maintenance inc tree works	£41K
Waste clearance and pest control	£31K
Corporate Income Target**	£55K
<b>Total cost estimate</b>	<b>£688K</b>
<b>Est income 2025/26 with additional proposed allotment rents and water service fees</b>	<b>£389K</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>£299k</b>

\*\*Full Council decision on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 agreed to an annual revenue budget saving of £55K for allotments

# Bench Marking

## Comparison Summary - Allotment Rents April 2023

As advertised on websites or via enquiry. No inflation added to comparators, but allowance for water charges added where applicable. Rates are full cost (not discounted)

	Bristol		Other Local Authorities					
	Existing Rate	Proposed Rate	Bath & North East Somerset ( Sept 2024 rent)	Plymouth	Nottingham*	Brighton & Hove	Birmingham	Sheffield (April 2024 rent)
Accessible Plot	NA	£30						
Mini Plot	£30	£72	£39 (£43)	£98	£38	£27	£60	£45 (£47)
Small Plot **	£50	£89	£86 (£93)	£98	£80	£54	£74	£92 (£97)
Medium Plot	£70	£156	£134 (143)	£192	£121	£81	£110	£130 (137)
Large Plot ***	£85	£178	£212 (£227)	£192	£178	£126	£134	£182 (£192)
Age or low income discounts available	50%	50%	Yes	No	25-50%	25%	50%	25-75%

\* Water service charge included at 30% of base rental unless otherwise stated by the authority. Where an authority charges by £ per m2 the mid-point dimension in the BCC plot size band is used to calculate the fee

\*\* Bristol CC most popular plot size at 52%

\*\*\* Allotments Act standard size plot of 250m2 included in this band

	Existing Size Band - m2
Accessible plot	NA
Mini Plot	0-74
Small Plot **	75-150
Medium Plot	151-224
Large Plot ***	225-351

**Please Note:** Since carrying out the bench marking exercise, we are aware that some of the above authorities have further increased their rents by inflation and that they will increase their rents again prior to our rents coming into effect in April 2025.

# Questions

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**Reply to** Councillor Ellie King  
**Email** [cllr.ellie.king@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ellie.king@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Date** 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Stakeholder,

I am writing to update you on the proposed changes to the Allotment Rents and Tenancy agreements.

As you will know, the consultations on the draft 'Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and Food Growing and Allotments Strategy' and 'Allotment Rent and Tenancy Agreement' both closed recently. We received over 3,500 responses to the consultations and officers are currently working hard to collate feedback.

Over the consultation period, I had several opportunities to discuss proposals with allotment representatives and food growers. Although I do not yet have the final consultation report, a few emerging themes have stood out to me.

The first is that the key themes and strategic priorities identified in the draft 'Parks and Green Spaces and Food Growing and Allotments Strategy' are supported. Bristol is a leading city in terms of our approach to sustainable food growing and food equality. Everyone recognises the importance of a thriving network of accessible spaces for local people to grow healthy and sustainable food. Residents want a collaborative, equitable and financially sustainable parks and allotment service to deliver against these strategic priorities.

The second is that there are mixed views on the proposed allotment rent increases. It is widely understood that financial pressures faced by the service are due to wider chronic underfunding of local authorities from central government. It is also acknowledged that current allotment rents do not cover the cost of running the current service, let alone deliver the service that we all want to see.

The third and final theme is that there are significant concerns and objections to the proposed tenancy rule changes, and administrative fees and charges. I share some of the disappointment expressed about the process and understand and agree with much of the feedback received.

In response to this feedback, and to allow for more meaningful engagement, I have agreed with the Mayor and the parks service that the proposed changes to tenancy rules, fees and charges will not be taken forward in their current form. A key aim of the proposed Parks and Green Spaces Strategy is for the council to work differently with communities to ensure an inclusive and accessible parks service, so I am taking this opportunity to prove our commitment to this principle.



We are also therefore postponing the workshop with allotment tenants and stakeholders that had been organised for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. I apologise for any inconvenience caused to those who were planning to attend. I have asked the service to prepare a more collaborative process to discuss and redesign the tenancy agreement with representative stakeholders. This will allow the necessary time to make the engagement meaningful and help to build a trusting and constructive working relationship.

Given the pressing need to improve the offer from our allotments service to tenants through improved maintenance, communications, and capacity, I am still considering the consultation feedback on the proposed allotment rents and combined water charges ahead of a final proposal coming to Cabinet for decision in March.

I value all the feedback that we have received so far and appreciate the constructive conversations and challenge that has taken place. I have had the privilege of building positive relationships with food growers across the city in my time as Cabinet Member, and I hope we can continue to work together.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellie King".

**Councillor Ellie King**

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities

# Communities Scrutiny Commission

## 27 February 2024



**Report of:** John Smith, Executive Director Growth & Regeneration

**Title:** Community assets update

**Ward:** Citywide

**Officer(s) Presenting Report:** Peter Anderson, Director of Property, Assets and Infrastructure  
John Bos, Property Partner, Neighbourhoods and Communities

### **Recommendation:**

That the Communities Scrutiny Commission notes the latest update report and considers how the current approach to community asset transfers could be improved.

### **The significant issues in the report are:**

This report presents an overview of the existing process for Community Asset Transfer and sets out some areas where changes and improvements could potentially be made.

The report highlights good examples of recent CAT transactions that demonstrate good collaboration, effective partnership working and achieving good social value outcomes.





## 1. Summary

Community assets are essential for the delivery of services and activities by community-based organisations in Bristol. They are not directly managed by the council and don't produce significant rental income, but they contribute greatly to the overall community infrastructure in the city at minimal direct cost to the council. The way in which assets are allocated to and managed by VCSE sector organisations is well established, but should be reviewed in the light of the changing needs of local communities, the council's priorities, and the emerging committee system.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1 The current CAT process came into effect in 2010, when the first [CAT Policy](#) was adopted. It has evolved gradually over the years, and it mainly deals with 'renewals' (property assets that are already in community use) and with assets that have newly become available for community use, eg because they were declared surplus to the council's operational requirements.
- 2.2 In both cases, details of the CAT opportunity are advertised on the website and template forms are provided for expressions of interest. The exception to this is when a VCSE organisation already occupies the property and applies for a new lease.
- 2.3 The test that all CAT applicants need to meet: the eligibility criteria, a [summary](#) of which is on the website and full details are set out in [the Policy](#). All applicants need to demonstrate that they have the necessary expertise and that their proposals are financially viable and deliver social value. Each asset transfer should provide tangible benefits to the local community by: providing community infrastructure, delivering community-based activities, generating wealth, and encouraging pride of place. In addition, applicants also need to provide evidence that they meet the pre-VISIBLE quality standard and the council's [Baseline Standards](#).
- 2.4 Assessing the social value of a CAT transaction requires a bespoke approach, depending on the size and value of the asset. In some cases, this will consist of calculating the GVA (gross value added) to the local economy. In other cases, we seek to calculate the local social, environmental and economic value from the proposed new use of the property, eg by using the Council's TOMS template which is used by bidders as part of the procurement process for capital works. Although the TOMS valuation does not directly convert into £s monetary value, it provides a transparent breakdown of the specific measures, and a useful proxy valuation of the overall social value offer.
- 2.5 Application process: a two-stage process is used for all applications. Stage 1 consists of an expression of interest. An application for an asset that is not available for CAT or not deemed suitable by the CAT Group is normally refused at this stage, eg when an asset is part of the commercial property portfolio. Refusal can also apply to applications that request conditions that are contrary to the Policy or other BCC policies or strategic aims. Applicants are always encouraged to discuss their aspirations with the service that is most closely aligned to the asset or use, and to seek political support from Ward Members. Officers in Property work closely with colleagues in the Neighbourhoods & Communities team and other relevant services to engage with applicants at the earliest possible stage, so that Stage 1 refusals are minimised. Stage 2 requires a full business plan, projected budgets, and supporting

- information. Only applications that have been approved at Stage 1 can be considered at Stage 2, there is no fast-track process.
- 2.6 Decision-making process: decisions at both stages are made by the CAT Group, which is chaired by the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration and consists of officers and members. Currently, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Communities & Public Health are part of the CAT Group. These roles need to be reviewed under the new Committee System.
  - 2.7 Applications for CAT are only considered for leasehold transfers, not the transfer of the freehold ownership of assets. The maximum duration of leases will depend on the level of capital investment that the CAT tenant will be able to attract. The maximum term is 35 years. CAT leases for a longer duration will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, with decisions made by Cabinet rather than the CAT Group.
  - 2.8 CAT leases are linked to a Service Agreement which secures a range of non-monetary and social outcomes for the duration of the lease. This Agreement enables the council to reduce the rent for as long as the tenant delivers the agreed social outcomes. The level of rent will depend on the asset's physical condition, its income generating potential, and the anticipated social outcomes. It usually ranges between a peppercorn and two-thirds of the market rent. Continued non-compliance with the Service Agreement will enable the council to impose a full market rent or terminate the lease.
  - 2.9 Having a transparent and inclusive CAT process creates a level playing field for all CAT applicants. Both the 'ask' and the 'offer' are clearly set out in a prospectus document for each new CAT opportunity. A recent example of this can be viewed on the website for the new [St Peter's Community Centre](#). All available information is published and visible to anyone interested in applying for CAT, and for local communities and potential partners to see.
  - 2.10 The CAT process is managed by Property Services. Officers in the Neighbourhoods and Communities division input into the process at various stages. The views of other council services are also sought, where applicable, e.g. the Parks Service, Children & Young People Services (for adventure playgrounds and youth facilities), Arts & Culture, and Housing Services (for assets that are part of the HRA). The views from local ward members are sought and included in the final report. For larger or more prominent assets, an evaluation of the business plan and accounts is provided by the Corporate Finance team.
  - 2.11 CAT is an integral part of the effective management and approach to property assets. This is reflected in the current property strategy which covers the property portfolio of operational assets, investment and development. The strategy is under review, taking the learning and benefits achieved by the Property Transformation Programme introduced in June 2023.
  - 2.12 The following points capture areas under consideration for CAT within a revised strategy:
    - Council's operational requirements and the needs of local communities should be a key driver for CAT.
    - all CAT service agreements should be regularly monitored to ensure that the social value outcomes are being maintained.
    - there is no legislation that compels BCC to engage in CAT and the Policy needs to be clear that CAT is discretionary.
    - 'meanwhile use' can be a valuable tool when disposing of surplus assets and should be considered, but clear guidelines are needed.

2.13 Current role of Neighbourhoods and Communities Service: Community Development officers are invited to comment on individual CAT applications at both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the process and they feed into the CAT process on an ad-hoc basis. Regular discussions about community asset issues take place between Property Services and Community Development officers. The Head of Service for Communities is a member of the CAT Group and is directly involved in the decision-making process.

2.14 It is important that the Neighbourhoods and Communities Service continue to have a key role in supporting communities to understand the role of CAT and help them to engage in the CAT process. VCSE organisations are a crucial part of what makes Bristol such a creative, dynamic, and progressive city. Our policies and decision-making processes need to be transparent and we need to work collaboratively with VCSE organisations and City Partners in using community assets to address disadvantage and create fairness. Colleagues in the Neighbourhoods and Communities Service have direct contact with local communities, with community anchor organisations, and with the many VCSE organisations that already use and manage community assets. They are best placed to strengthen these relationships and ensure that CAT transactions benefit the communities where they are most needed.

2.15 In summary, working with the Communities Team creates potential for:

- Developing a consistent / strategic approach to community impact and the long-term building of resilient communities as a key outcome e.g. developing an approach to Community Asset Transfer where social value is integral to the financial modelling; enabling and encouraging community leadership
- Developing a partnership with the community and voluntary sector with the aim of safeguarding civic and community spaces and identifying strategic gaps for development
- The Communities Team to act as a bridge between communities/community and voluntary facilitating effective communication and joint working
- Developing a 'front door' to communities who have asks of the council in terms of land and buildings
- Community assets can help VCSE organisations in making the 'shift from asking to earning' by removing uncertainty, reducing grant dependency, attracting sustainable social investment, and generating unrestricted income from trading to help build back better.

2.16 CAT statistics for the past five years:

- Since January 2019, 38 CAT transactions have been approved, of which 33 have been fully completed and 5 are in progress. Please see Appendix A for details of lease duration and uses.
- List of current community assets, showing names, locations, description, rent values, and total concessionary value: please see EXEMPT Appendix B.

2.17 Case studies and reflections on lessons learnt:

- Hartcliffe City Farm – see Appendix C
- Jacob's Wells Baths – see Appendix D
- The Coach House – see Appendix E

### 3. Policy

3.1 Current [CAT Policy](#): This was adopted by Cabinet in 2010. It introduced a clear set of eligibility criteria and a generic process by which applications are considered. It created both transparency and consistency.

3.2 Since the Policy was adopted in July 2010, 85 CAT transactions have been approved, of which 80 have been completed and 5 are in progress.

3.3 What works well in the current Policy:

- standardised approach: all requests for a property at less than full market value are treated equally; before the CAT Policy, large variations between concessionary leases existed.
- published eligibility criteria & process create transparency and trustworthiness: an applicant will know all details of eligibility and the process upfront.
- the linked Service Agreement provides an effective control mechanism. It ensures that social value is delivered from the asset over the entire lease term; it also provides a 'positive user clause', which ensures the asset cannot become dormant or left underused.
- each CAT request is evaluated in terms of financial viability: this helps to ensure leases are not granted to organisations or projects that may have interesting social outcomes but that don't have a robust business plan.
- two-stage process: CAT requests that are for assets that are not suitable or available are prevented from progressing; this saves time/resources for both applicant and BCC.
- clear decision-making process: prior to CAT, a mix of political and delegated decisions was used, often lacking clarity, sometimes inconsistent and occasionally based on political or personal preferences.
- CAT applicants need to meet a minimum quality standard: initially, applicants often perceive this as 'cumbersome' or 'red tape', but by the end of the CAT process almost all applicants remark how constructive and useful this insistence on a minimum standard was for them; this has helped to increase standards and organisational capacity across Bristol's third sector.

3.4 Areas for improvement to the Policy could potentially include:

- measuring Social Value: an easy-to-use social value tool is needed and should be incorporated into the application process for CAT; the value to the community should be captured so that it can be measured at periodic review meetings with the CAT tenant.
- including an option of freehold sales at full market value: these should be restricted to VCSE organisations that have funding to acquire a freehold asset, possibly linked to the Community Right to Bid.
- removing the 'first refusal' option (2.3 in the Policy): this should be treated solely through the Community Right to Bid.
- unsuitability of certain assets for CAT: more clarity is needed on assets that are excluded from CAT, eg HRA assets or properties that form part of the commercial estate.

#### 4. Consultation

##### a) Internal

No formal consultation has taken place as part of producing this report, but it contains input from the Neighbourhoods & Communities Team.

##### b) External

Not applicable

#### 5. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 5b) This report is for information only.

#### Appendices:

Appendix A: List of CAT transactions during the past five years  
Appendix C: CAT case study of Hartcliffe City Farm  
Appendix D: CAT case study of Jacob's Wells Baths

Appendix E: CAT case study of The Coach House

**Exempt appendices:**

Appendix B: List of current community assets

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**

None

## Community Asset Transfer Transactions completed since January 2019

Number of CATs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 33 completed</li> <li>➤ 5 approved and awaiting completion</li> <li>➤ a further 20 are in progress</li> </ul>		
Length of lease – completed CATs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two of 6 months</li> <li>• Three of 1 year</li> <li>• One of 2 years</li> <li>• Four of 5 years</li> <li>• One of 7 years</li> <li>• Four of 10 years</li> <li>• Two of 15 years</li> <li>• One of 20 years</li> <li>• Two of 25 years</li> <li>• Four of 30 years</li> <li>• Nine of 35 years</li> </ul>	Length of lease – CATs awaiting completion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of 5 years + 35 years</li> <li>• One of 20 years</li> <li>• Two of 35 years</li> <li>• One of 125 years</li> </ul>
Use:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community centre</li> <li>▪ Sports facility</li> <li>▪ Bicycle workshop</li> <li>▪ Culture &amp; dance centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adventure playground</li> <li>▪ Youth facilities</li> <li>▪ Swimming pool</li> <li>▪ Community garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community farm</li> <li>▪ Small business hub</li> <li>▪ Foodbank</li> </ul>



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## CAT case study Hartcliffe City Farm

[HCF website](#)

### The challenge

Community-run farm on a sprawling [11 hectare site](#), established in the 1980s, in overall poor condition, and controlled for 40 years by an organisation that struggled to manage the facilities and balance the books.

Despite its condition, the farm was loved by local residents and schools.

Located on the doorstep of Bristol's most deprived communities, in an area with very few community facilities.

### The CAT process used

Strong political support enabled us to take the sitting tenant to Court and have them evicted.

A [prospectus](#) was published, expressions of interest were invited, and more than ten bids were received.

The imaginative joint proposal by two local organisations was selected and supported through the CAT process.

An initial CAT lease was granted in March 2021 for 5 years at a peppercorn rent. After settling in, the new tenant undertook widespread local consultation and developed a more in-depth business plan. A CAT lease for 35 years was then granted in Feb 2023.

### The outcomes

The new organisation published its proposals and raised over £800K of funding during its first 12 months.

It closed the site to the public, carried out major renovations, then gradually re-opened with volunteers and limited public access, and finally brought animals back onto the site, after its main funding bids had been successful.

The council's offer of a 35-year CAT lease [unlocked a £300K grant](#) from the Community Ownership Fund.

### Lessons learned

- Selecting two well-regarded local charities to take on the CAT reassured the local community and funders
- The two-stage lease (5/35 years) gave the tenant confidence, without them having to commit long-term from the start
- Working with another VCSE organisation to develop an independent community engagement report was crucial
- The value of the long lease was successfully used as leverage and 'match funding' for other funding bids



## CAT case study

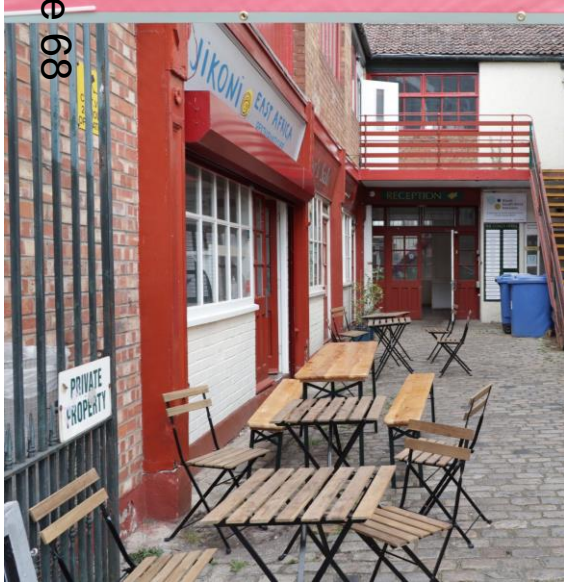
### Jacob's Wells Baths, Bristol BS8

[JWB website](#)

<p><b>The challenge</b></p>	<p>Large building with a 1,600m2 footprint, arranged over several levels, with a very tall chimney at the rear. Opened in 1889 as a municipal baths and swimming pool complex. The original pool, boiler house and water storage tanks remain intact. The building is Grade II listed and also listed as an Asset of Community Value. Closed in 1977 and converted into a community dance centre. The tenant handed the property back in 2016. The overall condition of the property is very poor, especially the glazed, lantern roof. The building has fallen into major disrepair due to water ingress and a lack of investment in repairs &amp; maintenance over more than 10 years.</p>
<p><b>The CAT process used</b></p>	<p>Expressions of interest were invited in 2016, and four bids were received. An ambitious proposal by a national leisure operator to restore the pool and create a leisure, dance and community facility was chosen and approved by Cabinet. Its scheme was delayed by the pandemic, suffered large cost increases, and faced huge energy bills. In the end, it was unable to line up the necessary capital and handed the property back in 2022. A new CAT process in March 2023 resulted in two bidders, of which Trinity Community Arts was chosen. TCA moved at pace, took over responsibility for the property in July, and commenced an emergency repair programme. It has been very successful in attracting grant funding and raised £1.5M in just 6 months. It currently expects to open in early 2026.</p>
<p><b>The outcomes</b></p>	<p>TCA was awarded £1M from the Community Ownership Fund to save the building for future generations. A new 35-year CAT lease will help create a new dance, arts, culture, youth and community facility in central Bristol. The project benefits from TCA's vast expertise in restoring the Trinity Centre and turning it around. The CAT also produces significant annual revenue savings for the Council, at no cost to Bristol.</p>
<p><b>Lessons learned</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the asset had become a liability and was virtually worthless at the time the CAT was approved</li> <li>• the project would not have taken off if we had not worked with such an experienced partner organisation</li> <li>• transferring a liability to a VCSE organisation should only be undertaken after sources of potential capital funding have been identified and after all other options have been ruled out</li> </ul>



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## CAT case study The Coach House

[BSWN website](#)

The challenge	An original 19 <sup>th</sup> Century coach house complex, spread over three floors and multiple internal levels, lacking accessibility, and in a dilapidated condition. After having been used for many years to deliver business support to SMEs and start-ups, the tenant was faced with an ageing, unsuitable and expensive to manage property, requiring major renovation and investment.
The CAT process used	Expressions of interest were invited from selected organisations. The Black South West Network was offered a short lease in 2020, plus a 35-year CAT lease, conditional on BSWN raising the capital for a major refurbishment of the property. BSWN developed an ambitious vision for a regional centre for Black Enterprise and Culture. Potential funders of its £4.9M scheme required a much longer lease. A 125-year conditional CAT lease was approved by Cabinet in Nov 2023.
The outcomes	<p>BSWN will completely refurbish the historic buildings and create an environmentally sustainable, integrated physical and digital space that is alive with the cultural heritage of the Black and Racially Minoritized communities of the West of England. The property will remain in public ownership and will be a key pillar in the move towards inclusive growth, providing development support to hundreds of Black and Minoritized led organisations each year.</p> <p>By not selling the property off, the council foregoes a capital receipt and potential rental income, but the CAT will generate more than £22M of added value in the first ten years from launch. BSWN will create a unique city centre hub that builds community wealth and will nurture entrepreneurship, business development, cultural expression, and collaborative working.</p>
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• historic buildings harbour many surprises, many of which are very costly to remedy</li> <li>• calculating and evidencing Social Value requires a professional tool that is focused on metrics that are specific to Bristol</li> <li>• working collaboratively with a professionally run VCSE partner is essential to get traction and attract potential funders</li> </ul>

# Communities Scrutiny Commission

27 February 2024



**Report of:** Felicity Williamson, Strategic Intelligence & Performance Advisor

**Title:** Quarterly Performance Report (Quarter 2 2023/24)

**Ward:** All wards

**Officer Presenting Report:** Felicity Williamson, Strategic Intelligence & Performance Advisor

**Contact Telephone Number:** N/A

## Recommendation

That the Communities Scrutiny Commission note the progress to date against delivering relevant Priorities in the 7 Themes of the BCC Corporate Strategy 2022-27 and Business Plan 2023/24, and that Scrutiny members note areas of specific interest or concern to review progress with relevant Managers or Directors.

## The significant issues in the report are:

In addition to Theme Summary reports for each of the 7 Themes in the BCC Corporate Strategy, this enhanced approach to performance reporting now includes a **Performance Dashboard** for each Scrutiny Commission, with all Performance Metrics and Actions at:

[2023-24 Performance Dashboard \(Q2 Scrutiny - public link\)](#)

NB This new interactive Power Bi tool replaces the previous pdf data appendices.

For the Communities Scrutiny, of the overall Performance Metrics and Actions reported this quarter:

- **83%** of Business Plan Actions are currently **on track or better** (10 of 12)
- **60%** of Business Plan Priority Measures (with targets) are **on or better than target** (9 of 15)
- The one City Outcome with data reported this quarter is on target



## 1. Background context

Performance reporting is based on the Bristol City Council (BCC) [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#). This report and appendices provide the relevant Performance Measures from the [Business Plan 2023/24](#), as approved by CLB in March and noted by Cabinet in April 2023. Key points of note:

**Performance Dashboard** - All Performance Metrics and Actions are at: [2023-24 Performance Dashboard \(Q2 Scrutiny - public link\)](#); this new interactive Power Bi tool is replaces the previous pdf appendices (follow the links to view by individual Scrutiny Commissions).

**Thematic Performance Clinics** - As per the [Performance Framework 2023/24](#), reporting is primarily through Thematic Clinics which focus on overall Performance for each of the 7 Business Plan themes and address specific Performance Improvement issues. Appendix A2 contains all 7 Theme Summary reports.

**Business Plan Actions** – Performance reporting includes progress of the Business Plan Actions as well as Performance Metrics. This allows much more focus on delivery of the Business Plan Priorities.

**Business Plan Priority Metrics / City Outcome Measures** – Performance reports include **Business Plan Priority Metrics** (mainly quarterly measures for the Business Plan Priorities; metrics the council has direct responsibility over so measure council performance) plus **City Outcome Measures** (mainly annual indicators on the Corporate Strategy themes and overall ‘health of the city’; outcome-focused measures that are slow moving, with long-term targets).

**Targets** – Any Targets which require explanation, such as appearing counter-intuitive compared to last year’s outturn, are noted in [BCC 2023/24 Business Plan Performance Measures and Targets](#).

## 2. Summary

### Overall Performance summary:

Taking the available Performance Metrics and Actions for this quarter, as relevant to the Communities Scrutiny remit:

- 83% of Business Plan Actions are currently on track or better (10 of 12)
- 60% of Business Plan Priority Measures (with targets) are on or better than target (9 of 15)
- The one City Outcome with data reported this quarter is better than target

### Key Points of focus:

The Communities Scrutiny Commission has 40 Performance Metrics and Actions across all 7 Themes, primarily in the Homes and Communities Themes (20) and Environment and Sustainability (12) Themes following by Effective Development Organisation (3), Economy and Skills (2), Transport and Connectivity (1), Health, Care and Wellbeing (1) and Children & Young People (1).

Note: some Metrics are annual and are not updated in Q2.

Key points of note for this Scrutiny Commission from relevant Themes are below, plus

- all data on Actions, Performance metrics and City Outcomes (for each Scrutiny Commission remit) are in Appendix A1: [2023-24 Performance Dashboard \(Q2 Scrutiny - public link\)](#)
- full Thematic Summary reports are included in Appendix A2

Theme 3 – Environment & Sustainability (2 Actions, 6 Priority Metrics and 4 Outcome Measures):

- Five of the six Actions and Metrics relating to waste and fly tipping are all on track or better than target. **BPPM5447z Total household waste** is slightly worse than target for this period. It is unclear if this is part of a trend or a seasonal peak.

Theme 5 - Homes & Communities (6 Actions, 11 Priority Metrics and 3 Outcome Measures):

- **BPPM374a Average relet times (all properties)** - the backlog of properties is now being completed with a high turnaround time on individual properties. However, these longer-term empty properties coming back into use is impacting on the average re-let figure which has increased for a fifth consecutive quarter. Recruiting surveyors is still a challenge.
- **BPPM352b Number of people sleeping rough** is significantly behind target in Q2, although accounting for 15 of the 70 in the September count who had accommodation they could return to, the count is similar to the same point last year despite the higher number of people coming on to the streets as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. Winter accommodation is now opening.
- **BPPM353 Number of households where homelessness is prevented** is now better than target after being worse in Q1 and **BPPM358a Households moved into settled accommodation** continues to be significantly better than target. However, **BPPM357 number of households in temporary accommodation** continues to increase and is now behind target at 1,368.
- **BPPM194 Numbers participating in community clear-ups per quarter** – significantly behind target for Q2 due to wet weather resulting in a high number of litter picking bookings being cancelled.

### 3. Policy

Performance is reported as part of quarterly governance process as soon as possible after gathering all the necessary data and reporting through the BCC Decision Pathway.

All Business Plan performance metrics and actions contained within Appendix A1 are designed to demonstrate our progress towards the BCC Corporate Strategy 2022-27.

### 4. Consultation

#### a) Internal

Performance progress has been presented to relevant Divisional Management Teams (DMT), Thematic Performance Clinics, Executive Director Meetings (EDM), Corporate Leadership Board (CLB) and Cabinet Board prior to the production of this report.

#### b) External

Performance progress is also presented publicly to Cabinet.

### 5. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:



- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
  - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
  - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
  - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
  - tackle prejudice; and
  - promote understanding.

5b) Not applicable

**Appendices:**

Appendix A1: [2023-24 Performance Dashboard \(Q2 Scrutiny - public link\)](#)

Appendix A2: All 7 Theme Summary reports

Appendix A3: Performance Dashboard User Guide (Scrutiny)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:** None

# Children & Young People Theme Summary Report

Qtr 2 (01 Jul '23 – 30 Sep '23)

This is the quarterly Theme Summary report highlighting progress against the relevant actions, performance metrics and City Outcomes from the 2023/24 Business Plan, inc summary from lead Director.

**Report of the Lead Director: Fiona Tudge** [Director Children, Families & Safer Communities]

Actions	Priority Metrics	City Outcomes	Overall Progress
<b>Performance</b>			<b>On schedule</b>
67% on schedule or better (8 of 12)	44% on target or better (4 of 9)	50% on target or better (1 of 2)	
<b>Direction of Travel</b>			
N/A	60% improved compared to 12 months ago (3/5)	100% improved compared to 12 months ago (2/2)	

## 1. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics performing well:

- BPPM245a – **Reduce Suspension rate for Black Caribbean, Mixed White & Black Caribbean, & GRT In Primary Schools** – This measure is performing above target this year this is a new measure from this year
- BPPM245b – **Reduce Suspension rate for Black Caribbean, Mixed White & Black Caribbean, & GRT In Secondary Schools** - This measure is performing above target this year this is a new measure from this year

## 2. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics that are of concern:

- BPPM200 -**Increase % of children in care that have a full-time suitable education provision**– This is a new measure this year that for the second quarter is performing slightly below target
- BPPM080 – **Increase the take-up of free early educational entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds** – This is performing slightly below target
- BPOM201 - **Percentage of audited children's social work records rated good or better** – This has improved to 59% from the previous quarter of 54% but remains below target

## 3. Key points discussed at Thematic Performance Clinic, inc next steps:

Key points discussed at the Theme Clinic, plus next steps:

- Education summary focussing on education of children in care, and children in education, employment and training.
  1. Children in Care. Focus on children of a statutory school age, excluding early yrs and post 16yrs provision. Accuracy of data has improved. Where children are not in full time education some of the arrangements are appropriate such as Hospital Education, re-integration post a period of suspension or the education provision meets their needs. For some children the national and local pressures regarding placement sufficiency have impacted children being able to access education in a timely way. There is clear oversight of all arrangements.
  2. Education, Training and Employment for post 16yrs. There is an improving trajectory for post 16yrs with focussed activity on career fairs, career coaches and apprenticeships.

## 4. Lead Director Comments:

Performance overall has decreased since Q1 however when compared to the same period in the previous year there has been an overall improvement.

No performance measures are significantly behind target this quarter compared to 1 last quarter. Although more measures are behind target they are less substantially behind target.

**Fiona Tudge [Children & Families Service]**

**Date of Thematic Performance Clinic**

31/10/23

# Economy & Skills Theme Summary Report

Qtr 2 (01 July 23 – 30 Sept 23)

This is the quarterly Theme Summary report highlighting progress against the relevant actions, performance metrics and City Outcomes from the 2023/24 Business Plan, inc summary from lead Director.

Lead Director: Christina Gray [Director Communities & Public Health]

Actions	Priority Metrics	City Outcomes	Overall Progress
<b>Performance</b>			<b>Behind schedule</b>
<b>83%</b> on schedule or better (10/12)	<b>38%</b> on target or better (3/8)	<b>40%</b> on target or better (2/5)	
<b>Direction of Travel</b>			
2 improved since Q1 9 are the same as Q1 1 is worse than Q1	<b>50%</b> improved on 12 months ago (4/8)	<b>50%</b> improved on 12 months ago (2/4)	

## 1. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics performing well:

- BPPM268 – **Increase the number of adults in low pay work & receiving benefits accessing in work support** - This measure is well above target for Q2 at 488 (target for Q2 = 300) and is exceeding all programme targets.
- BPOM141 – **Increase the number of organisations headquartered in Bristol which are Living Wage accredited** – 243 employers now headquartered in Bristol at end of Q2 which is just below the annual target.
- BPPM506 – **Increase the level of social value generated from procurement and other council expenditure** – significantly above the annual target at the end of Q2 at £10,953,627 (target = £6,500,000).

## 2. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics that are of concern:

- BPPM266 - **Increase % of adults with learning difficulties known to social care who are in paid employment** – significantly below target again in Q2 at 3.6%. No improvement since Q1.
- BPPM263a – **Reduce the % of young people aged 16-17 who are NEET/Not Known** – remains below target in Q2 at 10.9% and higher than Q2 last year (9.2%).
- BPOM222 – **Increase the take-up of free early educational entitlement by eligible 2 year olds** – well below target at 62.1% and a decrease on the figure for last year (71%).

## 3. Key points discussed at Thematic Performance Clinic, inc. next steps:

Key points discussed at the Theme Clinic, plus next steps:

- The clinic reviewed two metrics of concern. The first was ‘Adults with learning difficulties known to social care who are in paid employment’ which saw no improvement between Q1 and Q2.
- Data recording/cleansing issues highlighted last quarter had been reviewed between the service and the data team with records updated where possible. Better knowledge of the issues with data but need a long term solution. Possible options discussed.
- The group agreed it would be helpful to discuss this area with other LAs who have better performance to understand what they are differently and consider if they are using the same definitions and cohorts.
- Wider interest has been shown in this measure and it is being picked up within the service now where further analysis and review will take place.
- The other measure reviewed was the take up of early education entitlement by eligible 2 year olds. Colleagues from public health and early years joined to discuss together. Reasons for the decrease in take up this year were considered and early years colleague explained some of the complications around data collection that impact the figure.

- Data is collected and updated throughout the year and will be reviewed within the service.
- Also considered impact of the expansion of childcare next year.

**4. Lead Director Comments, inc summary of Theme rating:**

This theme has been marked as 'behind schedule' for Q2 as less than half of the performance metrics and outcome measures are currently on target. Furthermore between Q1 and Q2 the theme has seen an increase in the number of measures below target, including an increase in the number of actions behind schedule.

**Christina Gray** [Director Communities & Public Health]

**Date of Thematic Performance Clinic**

2 Nov 2023

# Environment & Sustainability Theme Summary Report

Qtr 2 (01 July 23 – 30 Sept 23)

This is the quarterly Theme Summary report highlighting progress against the relevant actions, performance metrics and City Outcomes from the 2023/24 Business Plan, inc. summary from lead Director.

**Lead Director: Pete Anderson** [Director Property, Assets and Infrastructure]

Actions	Priority Metrics	City Outcomes	Overall Progress
<b>Performance</b>			<b>On schedule</b>
87.5% on track or better (7/8)	75% on target or better (3/4)	100% on target or better (1/1)	
<b>Direction of Travel</b>			
1 improved since Q1 7 are the same as Q1 0 are worse than Q1	50% improved compared to 12 months ago (2/4)	Parity compared to 12 months ago	

## 1. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics performing well:

- **BPPM542** – the amount of untreated waste landfilled has remained very low this quarter due to the high availability of the Energy Recovery Centres in Avonmouth.
- **BPPM545** - Fly-tip reporting and subsequent clearances were significantly better than target during Q2, continuing the trend seen in Q1.
- **P-ENV3.2** - The expansion across the city of the commercial waste improvement project continues apace and is on schedule. 95% of all sites have been audited with 85% of these now having access to recycling. The HRA (Housing Revenue Account) also have 20 sites that have modifications planned for this year.

## 2. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics that are of concern:

- **P-ENV2.2** – Developing an ecological and green infrastructure investment plan continues to show as behind schedule. However the appointment of an Ecological Emergency Co-ordinator, who is to lead this work, has now been achieved.

## 3. Key points discussed at Thematic Performance Clinic:

1. Tracking our delivery of the 2025 net zero targets. Progress here has been made this quarter, with a Management Board (including related Heads of Service) set up to monitor delivery with respect our 2025/2030 targets. A document now exists which is tracking each element within this and also has a predictor indicating whether delivery is on schedule. A wider Climate Investment Plan is also in the pipeline – details to follow in the coming months.
2. Electric vehicle (EV) update. The HRA (Housing Revenue Account) was not yet in a position to buy new vehicles as the infrastructure (charging points) wasn't yet there to enable this. This is problematic as we go in search of net zero, however as per point 1 above this is being closely monitored by the Management Board. A discussion is also upcoming around Bristol Waste and the electrification of some of their fleet, to include a conversation around other local authorities joining forces to negotiate economies of scale via purchasing.
3. Waste. A discussion was had around how BCC should continue to look into potential future models for delivering a waste service in the city after a new DEFRA update on the sector. It was agreed there were many challenges, including our recycling and carbon neutral targets; also how to best to

deliver services to over 8,000 'hard to reach' properties across Bristol. Bristol Waste also needed to undertake a CO2 stock-take in relation to points 1 and 2 above.

4. BCC Business Plan metrics. Potential future KPIs – it was agreed that the current suite relating to Environment & Sustainability should stay in place for next year, however noting that the Waste Strategy may highlight other potential areas to shine a light on in the following years. Also to potentially include an explicit carbon savings target.

#### **4. Lead Director Comments, inc. summary of Theme rating:**

It continues to be heartening to see all but two of the associated metrics and actions for the Environment & Sustainability theme being either on track (actions) or better than target (metrics). Recruitment of an Ecological Emergency Co-ordinator should help with bringing our one 'behind schedule' action back on track next quarter. However the challenges associated with delivering out 2025 net zero targets should not be underestimated. Details of the specifics on all the associated measures can be found in Appendix B.

**Pete Anderson [Director Property, Assets and Infrastructure]**

**Date of Thematic Performance Clinic**

2 November 2023

# Health, Care & Wellbeing Theme Summary Report

Qtr 2 (01 July 23 – 30 September 23)

This is the quarterly Theme Summary report highlighting progress against the relevant actions, performance metrics and City Outcomes from the 2023/24 Business Plan, inc summary from lead Director.

**Lead Director: Mette Jakobsen** [Director Adult Social Care]

Actions	Priority Metrics	City Outcomes	Overall Progress
<b>Performance</b>			<b>On schedule</b>
100% on track or better (7/7)	43% on target or better (3/7)	Data not yet due	
<b>Direction of Travel</b>			
100% the same as previous quarter	57% improved compared to 12 months ago (4/7)	Data not yet due	

## 1. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics performing well:

- All of the published actions (100%) for this theme are presently on schedule.
- 4 of the performance metrics (57%) are better than Q2 in 2022/23.
- 3 of the performance metrics (43%) are better than the Q2 target:
  - increase the percentage of service users (aged 18-64) receiving Tier 3 (long term care) at home or tenancy [snapshot]
  - increase the percentage of service users (aged 65+) receiving Tier 3 (long term care) at home or tenancy [snapshot]
  - Increase % of BCC regulated CQC Care Service providers where provision is rated 'Good or Better'

## 2. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics that are of concern:

Significantly behind target

- Reduce the percentage of contacts to Adult Social Care (aged 18-64) starting Tier 3 services – Behind target
- Reduce the percentage of contacts to Adult Social Care (aged 65+) starting Tier 3 services
- Number of service users (aged 18-64) in Tier 3 (long term care) [Snapshot]
- Number of service users (aged 65+) in Tier 3 (long term care) [Snapshot]

## 3. Key points discussed at Thematic Performance Clinic, inc next steps:

Due to similarity of the data to the previous quarter and availability of staff with key stakeholders being unable to be represented a decision was made for the meeting to be cancelled.

## 4. Lead Director Comments, inc summary of Theme rating:

Pleasingly all actions were reported at 30 September '23, as 'On Track'

Whilst 4 performance indicators are showing 'Below Target', 57% of the priority performance metrics are better than Q1 in 2022/23. The 4 x KPIs that are presently 'Below Target' are within my Directorate, Adult Social Care, and the position is being closely monitored.

There was contrasting performance across the Health, Care & Wellbeing Theme in Q2, but on balance the Theme is judged to be “On Schedule” for where we expect it to be.

**Mette Jakobsen** [Director - Adult Social Care]

**Date of Thematic Performance Clinic**

N/A



# Homes & Communities Theme Summary Report

Qtr 2 (01 July 23 – 30 September 23)

This is the quarterly Theme Summary report highlighting progress against the relevant actions, performance metrics and City Outcomes from the 2023/24 [Business Plan](#), inc summary from lead Director.

**Lead Director: Donald Graham** [Director Housing and Landlord Services]

Actions	Priority Metrics	City Outcomes	Overall Progress
<b>Performance</b>			<b>Behind Schedule</b>
75% on track or better (9/12)	57% on target or better (8/14)	33% on target or better (1/3)	
<b>Direction of Travel</b>			
17% worse than Q1, 83% the same.	50% improved compared to 12 months ago (7/14)	50% improved compared to 12 months ago (1/2)	

## 1. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics performing well:

- Museum visitor numbers and the number of households where homelessness is prevented are both now above target (below in Q1).
- Most metrics significantly above target in Q1 continue to be so in Q2 – community engagement, consultation response from the 20% most deprived areas, people enabled to live independently through home adaptations, households moved into settled accommodation and private sector dwellings that were returned to occupation.

## 2. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics that are of concern:

- The number of citizens participating in community clean-ups has gone from significantly above target in Q1 to significantly below Q2. This usually high-performing metric's Q2 performance is attributed to the number of event cancellations because of the poor weather.
- The number of energy efficiency home installations has doubled delivery in Q2 compared to Q1 (16 in Q1, 32 in Q2, total of 48 year to date), but is still significantly behind target.
- Average re-let times has increased compared to Q1, but this is in part due to the backlog of longer-term empty properties now being completed. See discussion key points below.
- The number of households in Temporary Accommodation (1,368) has continued to increase and is worse than target.
- The percentage of major planning applications processed within 13 weeks or as agreed is now worse than target.
- As anticipated, affordable housing starts and completions are now slightly behind target.

## 3. Key points discussed at Thematic Performance Clinic, inc next steps:

Key points discussed at the Theme Clinic, plus next steps:

### Sustainable Travel Options for young people

The Action HC4.1 Develop more sustainable travel options, including independent travel, for young people with special educational needs and disability aged 16-25yrs is behind schedule. Disability is one of the Priorities under the Homes and Communities Theme. The Action is behind schedule in Q2 due to the capacity of Communications to undertake the formal consultation on changes, which relates to around 400 current post-16 young people with special educational needs plus future cohorts. The consultation is now planned to go live mid-December with the aim that the proposed policies go to Cabinet in March. If approved, some new policies can come into force in April. Others will be from the start of the 2024-25 academic year in September. The pilot Independent Travel Training was impacted by staff sickness, but this is now progressing and ready to be implemented from April, subject to consultation results and policy adoption.

### Empty properties

The number of empty properties is believed to have peaked and is now decreasing each month. However, as long-term empty properties are being brought back in to use, this is increasing the average number of days a property is empty in the quarterly reporting. It is hoped that the average number of days properties will be empty will be reducing by Q4 reporting.

The high-level changes and areas of focus that are positively impacting empty property turn-around performance are:

- Monitoring of contractor performance
- Improve internal performance through efficient use of ICT system
- Management of internal repairs performance (implemented secondments to fill vacancies in surveyors due to difficulty recruiting plus one repairs team down which the Head of Service is currently working on re-building).
- The amended re-let standard which has a focus on repair rather than replace
- Enforcing tenants to return the property to the expected standard before vacating

Housing are carrying out a 'key to key' review to identify where impediments and opportunities exist to reduce turnaround time.

### Rough sleeping

Winter projects - **Winter Surge** was launched on 01/11/2023 providing 11 beds with on-site support. This is for clients with more complex needs and provides an opportunity to get these clients off the streets where some targeted work can be done. The target stay is around 12 weeks where the client will receive food and support whilst a suitable option is found for them to leave the streets. Outreach and the Higher Needs Floating support service will be working together to support these clients. **Winter Churches Shelter** started on 1/10/23 providing 9 beds with support going in to help people with move on. This is for clients with low support needs. **SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol)** is activated if there are more than 3 nights of temperatures below 0 or where the weather presents a risk to life. The outreach team will find those sleeping rough and we will offer accommodation during the cold weather.

## 4. Lead Director Comments, inc summary of Theme rating:

This theme is now judged to be "Behind Schedule" due to the increase in Actions and metrics performing below target in Q2. Despite the number of households where homelessness is prevented performing above target for Q2, the number of households in temporary accommodation is continuing to increase. Work being done to improve empty property turn-around time is expected to show improvements by Q4 and action is being taken to unblock affordable housing delivery where this is in the Council's control. However, the ongoing cost of living pressures means demand for housing support services is expected to increase for the rest of this reporting year.

**Donald Graham [Director Housing and Landlord Services]**

**Date of Thematic Performance Clinic**

3 November 2023

# Transport & Connectivity Theme Summary Report

Qtr 2 (01 July 23 – 30 September 23)

This is the quarterly Theme Summary report highlighting progress against the relevant actions, performance metrics and City Outcomes from the 2023/24 [Business Plan](#), inc summary from lead Director.

**Lead Director: Patsy Mellor** [Director Management of Place]

Actions	Priority Metrics	City Outcomes	Overall Progress
<b>Performance</b>			<b>On schedule</b>
88% on track or better (7/8)	0% on target (1/1)	100% on target or better (3/3)	
<b>Direction of Travel</b>			
100% same as Q1 (8/8)	100% worse compared to 12 months ago (1/1)	67% improved compared to 12 months ago (2/3)	

## 1. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics performing well:

- **BPOM 474** Park and Ride passenger numbers are above target in Q2 after stagnating in Q1.
- **BPOM 475** Bus passenger numbers are continuing to increase and are 449,735 above the Q2 target (14% below pre-pandemic levels).
- **TC4.1** The Cumberland Road, Redcliffe Bridge and Goal Ferry bridge projects have all completed. Kings Weston and New Cut Bridges projects are progressing well and the Vauxhall Bridge project commenced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

## 2. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics that are of concern:

- **TC1.1** Mass Transit Strategic Outline Business Case taken to the October 2023 committee, but it is unclear what the next steps will be.
- **BPPM120 Road safety incident numbers** – there are still issues with the data supply so estimates are being provided (see discussion points).
- **BPOM477 Vehicle charge point installations**

## 3. Key points discussed at Thematic Performance Clinic, inc next steps:

Most of the projects within the Action to improve connectivity across the city via planned transport projects are on track. The Stoke Park Path to cater for the 800 Lockleaze new homes is complete. The first phase of a bus lane on Muller Road is progressing well. The Hengrove Park work on access junctions through the urban living site of around 1,500 homes has recently started. The reason this Action is behind schedule overall is the lack of progress with Mass Transit.

Issues remain with the timeliness of road traffic accident data being supplied to the council from the Police. This is impacting on the council's ability to monitor performance. Receiving data several years after incidents occur means it is not possible to accurately judge how schemes and plans are doing in terms of road safety. The Head of Service will write to their Director to document the actions take to date to try and resolve the issue. The Director will then escalate it to the Chief Executive for consideration on raising it with the Police Crime Commissioner.

For 2023-24 the current plan, in partnership with Bristol City Leap, is to deliver 12 fast chargers across the city serving 24 charging bays for delivery in Q4.

## 4. Lead Director Comments, inc summary of Theme rating:

**TC1.1:** Most of this is complete or progressing well as outlined above. The only reason it came to clinic was the Mass Transit element which is going to October committee. Maybe be worthwhile to separate Mass Transit as a standalone project?

**BPPM120 Road safety incident numbers:** As above there remains issues with obtaining up to date information from the Police. Service requested to raise as an issue for the CEO to raise with PCC.

**BPOM477 Vehicle charge point installations.** Advised by City Leap team that the 23/24 plan is to install 12 fast charger server 24 bays and are on track.

**Patsy Mellor [Director Management of Place]**

**Date of Thematic Performance Clinic**

November 2023

# Effective Development Organisation Theme Summary Report

Qtr 2 (01 July 23 – 30 Sept 23)

This is the quarterly Theme Summary report highlighting progress against the relevant actions, performance metrics and City Outcomes from the 2023/24 Business Plan, inc. summary from lead Director.

Lead Director: **Tim Borrett** [Director Policy, Strategy and Digital]

Actions	Priority Metrics	City Outcomes	Overall Progress
<b>Performance</b>			<b>Behind schedule</b>
92% on track or better (11/12)	25% on target or better (3/12)	0% on target or better (0/1)	
<b>Direction of Travel</b>			
0 improved since Q1 11 are the same as Q1 1 is worse than Q1	55% improved compared to 12 months ago (6/11)	0% improved compared to 12 months ago (0/1)	

## 1. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics performing well:

- **P-EDO5.1** - *Preparing the organisation for its change to a committee model of governance* remains on track. The arrangements for the change of governance continue to proceed well, with most of the key working arrangements now being approved by Full Council. Focus has now primarily shifted to updating the Constitution and preparing the organisation. No issues are anticipated.
- **P-EDO2.3** – *The restructure and redesign of our corporate support services to deliver ambitious savings targets that help address our budget challenge* is on track to deliver. Restructures within Policy, Strategy & Communications, Digital Transformation, and Finance are complete. Within Workforce and Change a restructure has been implemented and savings delivered, with some further re-design work underway in specific teams before it is formally finalised.

## 2. Theme Actions / Priority Metrics that are of concern:

- **BPPM515** - *Reduce the % of complaints escalated from Stage 1 to Stage 2* is now showing as significantly worse than target. Despite continued training from the central complaints team, officers across all services are spending less time completing high-quality Stage One responses to complaints. More complainants are now prepared to take their complaints further - this trend is likely to continue to be seen in the Q3 and Q4 periods. We have also seen a notable increase in escalations of CAZ complaints - 10.5% in Q2, compared with 6% in Q1.
- **BPPM529** - *Increase the % of young people (16-29) in the Council's workforce* remains significantly worse than target even though there was a modest improvement in Q2. Recruitment of young people is a long-standing priority for the Council, as it is for the public sector more generally. We continue to market appropriate jobs and apprenticeships and are committed to exploring other avenues through which this disparity can be addressed. An increased focus on apprenticeships and career progression opportunities is hoped to attract a greater number of younger people to apply to work at the council.
- **BPPM520** - *Increase the % of colleagues who would recommend the council as a good place to work*. There has been a 6 percentage point decrease in positive responses this time, from 70% in 2022 to 64% in 2023, which is a return to pre-Covid results (62% in 2019/20). This year's staff survey took place in the context of a wider organisational restructure and budget restraints which will have caused considerable change to colleagues' working lives and ways of working. This may well have impacted responses to this question.
- **P-EDO1.1** - *Continue to work with city partners and the mayoral commissions to deliver a wide range of citywide actions including the One City plan's refresh*. Pace of delivery has, as anticipated,

been impacted by former City Office staff leaving their roles. Successful recruitment has been undertaken and new staff are in post, with day-to-day activities remaining on track. However, there has been some delay in identifying top One City Plan actions for the City Office to support this year. This is being addressed in discussion with the One City Governance Board.

### **3. Key points discussed at Thematic Performance Clinic, inc. next steps:**

The Clinic has had to be postponed this quarter. It is however anticipated that the following topic will be revisited during Q3 reporting, where the key points to be discussed will be:

The Clinic will focus on our workforce diversity targets and ways to implement new strategies to improve the current situation (where a number of key measures are significantly behind target). Colleagues attended a Harvard conference on this very topic recently, so discussion here is timely.

### **4. Lead Director Comments, inc. summary of Theme rating:**

Several significant change and transformation activities which deliver necessary savings and prepare the council for its future governance model are on track, but poorer performance on KPIs – which are predominantly compliance-based metrics – suggest that organisational focus on delivering services and change activity has taken priority over good quality, timely compliance with requirements for handling complaints, FOI requests and other good governance necessities.

Back-office services (and notably Public Health and Communities) continue to be the better performers on compliance, whilst demand-driven front-line services have been less able to meet these requirements. Significant efforts have been made to address this, including the introduction of mandatory management objectives measured during 121s and 6-monthly performance reviews. There are some green shoots of improvement towards the end of Q2 and in to Q3 in some areas, and it will be important for leaders to keep this in focus alongside other change, transformation, savings and service delivery pressures.

**Tim Borrett, Director: Policy, Strategy and Digital**

#### **Date of Thematic Performance Clinic**

Clinic postponed

# Appendix A3: Performance Dashboard User Guide (Scrutiny 2023-24)

When you first access the **2023-24 Performance Dashboard\*** you should see a summary page (referred to as the **Home Page** if you need to get back to it). The information on this page will build up over time as the year progresses through each quarter.

\*NB The images below are Quarter 1 so will change for subsequent updates, but the principle is the same.

Click this button to view more detail

Keep an eye on the options the buttons in the bottom left-hand corner give you. Further into the Dashboard they allow you to return to the Home Page or reset a page.

You should get the following page when you click on the button that says **Click to view Business Plan Themes by Scrutiny Commission**

Click these boxes on and off to change the charts to display information for an individual scrutiny commission

Click on these buttons to view information about the three types of performance measures. Each button relates to more detailed information behind one of the three bar charts on this page. If you want to know more about the red (Significantly worse than target) Priority metrics in the middle bar chart, click on the **Priority Metrics** button.

The screenshot below shows the **Actions**. The page title will tell you which view you are looking at.

Click these boxes on and off to see information for an individual scrutiny commission or particular status

**Scrutiny Commission by Actions** 2023/24

Scrutiny (select all for OSMB)

Actions: 12 | Actions with status: 12 | On track or better: 92%

Status Change compared to previous quarter: 1 Behind Schedule, 11 On Track

As business plan actions can change each year, comparison is only 'in-year'.

Click for detailed breakdown: Priority Metrics, City Outcome Measures

Guidance, Reset Page, Home Page, Scrutiny Summary

Code	Division Responsible	Title	Q1	Q1 Action Progress
P-EDO6.1	G&R - Property, Assets & Infrastructure	Continue to Implement the Corporate Landlord model. Focus on progressing with the office and depot rationalisation workstreams in order to deliver revenue savings.	1	Office and depot rationalisation are key workstreams of the Property Transformation Programme. Corporate Finance are actively reviewing the ledgers to identify revenue savings from buildings identified for disposal. Ernest Young (Finance Strategic Partner) have been commencing work on a new Corporate Landlord financial model for the Council. Options paper to ensure that the revenue target is achieved presented at September 2023 Cabinet.
P-EDO6.2	G&R - Property, Assets & Infrastructure	Continue to deliver the wider disposals programme and support generating capital receipts.	1	The Disposals Programme is now an integral workstream of the Property Transformation Programme (top 4 council savings priorities). The Property Board is now meeting on a 6 weekly basis with the sole purpose of agreeing property asset disposals. Cabinet received a disposal Options paper to ensure that the capital receipts target is achieved for 2023-24 is to be presented at September 2023 Cabinet.

You can move this slider down to view more of the table

**Scrutiny Commission by Actions** 2023/24

Scrutiny (select all for OSMB)

Actions: 1 | Actions with status: 1 | On track or better: 0%

Status Change compared to previous quarter: 1 Behind Schedule, 0 On Track

Data on quarterly status change will be available after completion of quarter 2.

As business plan actions can change each year, comparison is only 'in-year'.

Click for detailed breakdown: Priority Metrics, City Outcome Measures

Guidance, Reset Page, Home Page, Scrutiny Summary

Code	Division Responsible	Title	Q1	Q1 Action Progress
P-ES5.2	G&R - Housing & Landlord Services	Continue work to deliver a digital service for council housing residents by 2025, increasing access to ultra-fast fibre broadband.	1	Project paused throughout covid, however has been resourced to re-ignite. Project board re-created with new membership, Stakeholders and contractors agreeing composite wayleaves, surveying standard and financing model to contribute to internal costs; allowing for scale up of project to catch up on lost time.

You can click on a chunk in the bar chart to view the corresponding text in the table below. Click on the chunk for a second time to get the full table contents back.

If you get in a muddle, just click the Reset Page button in the bottom left corner.