

STATEMENT A2 – Keith Rundle

Dear Councillors

Has there ever been a time when investment in the city centre is more needed?

It is a massive relief that restrictions are being slowly lifted and visitors are returning to the city centre, starting a recovery, one careful step at a time.

But the economic impact of the pandemic has been brutal.

Not just on businesses, jobs and people's livelihoods, but on the cultural heart of our city.

We The Curious is among a cluster of extremely important attractions, which not only create income for the city, but which play an important role in education, especially breaking down gender and cultural barriers in science.

Arc would bring new annual spending of £13.3 million, creating 70-80 direct new jobs and a further 370 indirect jobs.

This spending will particularly benefit the city centre's hospitality industry, which has been extremely hard hit, and which employs many young people who have paid a disproportionately high-price economically during the lockdown.

This project resonates with Bristol's reputation for being at the forefront of technological innovation and engineering excellence.

Arc would further expand the Harbourside cluster of amazing visitor attractions, and would help put Bristol further on the international map.

And we should wholeheartedly welcome Arc to We The Curious and Millennium Square.

Thank you.

Keith Rundle

Bristol City Centre BID, Operations Director