

Statement: PS20.01

Cabinet – 2 November 2021

Re: Agenda item 20 - Bedminster Green Framework Area

Statement submitted by Roger Gimson, Bristol Walking Alliance

In proposing to allocate Strategic CIL and other funding for Bedminster Green, Bristol Walking Alliance believes the need for adequate accessibility to Bedminster Station has been overlooked.

The ***Bedminster Green: Place-Making Framework*** (Nash Partnership 2019) proposed a new entrance to Bedminster Station from the Green. However, a current planning proposal (21/05219/F) will place a new building on the site before proper consideration has been given to how station accessibility will be addressed.

In the report ***Bedminster Station Accessibility Enhancements Options Study*** (Jacobs Consultancy 2020), commissioned by Bristol City Council, it was acknowledged that existing access is not compliant with current accessibility standards. It ruled out extending the existing subway through to Bedminster Green. However, it did not consider creating better access, for example with stairs and lifts as is planned for the new stations at Ashley Down and Filton North.

Given that Network Rail is considering future improvements to the track and stations that include Bedminster and Parson Street stations, we believe it is important that the potential for station improvements are considered before irrevocable planning decisions are made at Bedminster Green, and so that appropriate funding can be allocated to this important aspect of the public realm.

We are also perplexed that the problems with accessibility of Bedminster Station do not appear anywhere in the Equality Impact Assessments that are part of the Cabinet papers for this agenda item.