

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: For noting

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 18 January 2022

TITLE	Bristol's first Citizens' Assembly recommendations – Update 01		
Ward(s)	Citywide		
Author: Tim Borrett	Job title: Director: Policy, Strategy and Partnerships		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig	Executive Director lead: Mike Jackson		
Proposal origin: Councillor			
Decision maker: For noting			
Decision forum: For noting			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To update Cabinet on consideration of the recommendations and actions put forward by the Citizens' Assembly 2. To present the Citizens' Assembly tracker to Cabinet to demonstrate how progress against these actions will be measured going forward 3. To update Cabinet where and how the Citizens' Assembly has influenced the 2022-27 Corporate Strategy 			
Evidence Base:			
Background			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full Council decided in January 2020 to trial deliberative democracy processes in 2020/21. 2. The 60 members of Bristol's Citizens' Assembly convened over 30 hours from January to March 2021 to hear detailed evidence and deliberate three topics under the overarching question "How do we recover from COVID-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol?" 3. A report was presented to Full Council on 6 July 2021 that describes the process and the resulting 17 recommendations, comprising 82 actions, and rationale produced by the Assembly. For the remainder of this report, 'Recommendations' is capitalised to denote reference to the one or more of the 17 formal recommendations in the Citizens' Assembly report, and 'Actions' is capitalised when referring to any of the 82 actions. 4. Since being presented to Full Council, the report of the Citizens' Assembly's Recommendations and proposed Actions have been shared with the One City Economy Board and other One City Boards for consideration to inform the city's economic recovery and renewal strategy and in preparing the 2022 refresh of the One City Plan. 5. They have also been used in preparing the Council's updated Corporate Strategy 2022 – 27 and have been provided to managers as part of the Council's annual service and business planning process, which looks ahead to 2022/23. 			
Corporate Strategy			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The Recommendations have been used to inform the 2022-27 BCC Corporate Strategy in the following ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sources feeding into the Corporate Strategy priorities CYP1: Child Friendly City, CYP2: Supported to thrive, and CYP3: Equity in Education were the following Recommendations: "Equitable Start to life from prebirth to young adults" and "Equity in Education". b) Sources feeding into Corporate Strategy priorities ES1: Regeneration, ES2 Access to Employment, ES3 			

Good Growth, were the following Recommendations: “Training and Upskilling workforce”, “Increase access to diverse and high-quality employment”, “Make neighbourhoods more liveable”, and “Increase access to diverse and high-quality employment.” In a more general sense, awareness of the importance of tackling socio-economic disadvantage underpins a number of priorities.

- c) A vast majority of the Recommendations were around environmental concerns. These informed many Corporate Strategy priorities sitting under the theme of “Environment and Sustainability”.
- d) Sources feeding into Corporate Strategy priorities HCW1: Transforming Care and HCW2 Mental Health and Wellbeing were the following Recommendations: “Local planning agreements (such as Section 106 Master Plans) to prioritise communities health needs”, “Increase access to health information, education and services”, “Fund and create local representation groups so they take control of issues” and “Fundamentally reimagine neighbourhoods as they have impact[ed] on mental health”.

Plus, six Recommendations were devoted to tackling health inequalities which relate to priority HCW3: “Poverty” and HCW4: “Disability”

- e) Sources feeding into Corporate Strategy priority HC1: Housing Supply were the following Recommendation: “Ensure new and existing housing is energy efficient/low carbon.”

Various Recommendations citing environmental concerns were also generally applicable to the Homes and Communities priorities and their sentiment was reflected.

- f) An overall Recommendation of the Citizens’ Assembly was “By 2030 make Bristol the best city internationally to travel around by prioritising sustainable, safe, healthy and accessible alternatives to the car for all.” This Recommendation was a key source that fed into all Corporate Strategy priorities sitting under the theme of “Transport and Connectivity.”
- g) Business Planning for 2022-2023 is now underway which outlines the most important actions we need to take during the coming financial year. This also includes actions directly responding to Citizens’ Assembly Recommendations or Actions.

Citizens Assembly and recommendations

- 7. The Citizens’ Assembly produced 17 Recommendations. Each Recommendation has a rationale and there are a total of 82 associated Actions which Assembly members felt would:
 - a) rapidly reduce the impact of our homes on climate change
 - b) make changes to our neighbourhoods to make traveling easier, healthier and better for the environment
 - c) tackle health inequalities in Bristol.
- 8. Following engagement with a wide range of council officers, 49 of the 82 Actions have been assessed so far. Of these:
 - a) Eight Actions have been deemed not feasible for the Council to deliver on the basis that they would require a change in national legislation/ regulation. Bristol City Council does not have the ability to deliver these actions.
 - b) 14 Actions have been agreed in principle and, subject to any necessary Cabinet or budget approvals, will be progressed as set out.
 - c) 20 Actions are being taken forward in part
 - d) 21 Actions have been agreed in principle but are delivered by proxy or alternative activity which closely aligns to the intention of the recommended action.
 - e) 19 Actions are still under assessment to identify the appropriate service or partner to deliver them. Other service pressures in responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and/or awaiting the

development of the updated Corporate Strategy have slowed this assessment process in these cases.

9. A tracker containing all of the Actions and updates is available at Appendix A. This notes the overall Recommendations; the One City Plan Goals which are related to each Recommendation; each specific Action that relates to the overall Recommendations; the Senior Recommendation sponsor for each Recommendation; the Director, Cabinet Member and management owner of each individual Action; the current proposal for each Action; whether the Action is considered a council, city-wide or partner responsibility.

10. The eight actions that were deemed not feasible are:

a) Action: BCC to explore establishing a centralised green housing fund to supply the above.

Response: BCC does provide grants to households as part of a regional or national scheme. However, there are currently no national or regional schemes. We will continue to seek from HM Government national grants and loans to support decarbonisation by households, taking into account their income and the degree of improvements made.

b) Action: Collaborate with other organisations to set high quality green standards for companies and require approval/accreditation on retrofit/energy improvements.

Response: Standards for energy efficiency retrofit are set nationally and these will be used for future government funding.

c) Action: Create a 'green dot' or similar branding/logo to show you meet the standards as a trader, landlord, property owner or builder, with builders being trained to understand and meet these.

Response: As above, standards for energy efficiency retrofit are set nationally and these will be used for future government funding. These standards relate to the energy performance of the Building - Energy Performance Certificates, and to retrofit works - the Publicly Available Specification 2035 or PAS2035.

d) Action: Bring the buses back into public ownership.

Response: This is not possible currently as under current legislation it is not possible to establish a municipal bus company.

e) Action: Create a support plan made available for all Bristol citizens who require one based on a person centred approach.

Response: Bristol City Council is unable to provide individual lifestyle services because of capacity and resource. Our focus is on city wide health and the conditions which support health and healthy choices. We will continue to direct citizens to resources which are available nationally and make ensure these are accessible.

f) Action: Initiate PR exercise around different types of jobs – better promotion of jobs that are seen as lower skilled

Response: Bristol City Council promotes schemes when asked to by DWP, however is unable to promote job vacancies due to resource and capacity. This campaign could lead to duplication with efforts from employability specialist organisations and campaigns run by the DWP. Recommend this action is raised at the One City Economy and Skills board, and if deemed necessary, run as a One City campaign with partners.

g) Action: BCC to define, create and regulate different levels of financial options for home efficiency

improvement. The standard option should be for home improvement to achieve the target of net zero by 2030. Beyond this there will be a range of interest charged options as a choice for those that wish to make improvements past the base level.

Response: BCC does provide grants to households as part of a regional or national scheme. However, there are currently no national or regional schemes. We will continue to seek from HM Government national grants and loans to support decarbonisation by households, taking into account their income and the degree of improvements made.

- h) Action: Provide grants for lower income households. Prioritise grants to ensure equality (means tested). Set clear and transparent criteria around the grant system. Assure safeguards are in place for fair accountability.

Response: BCC does provide grants to households as part of a regional or national scheme. However, there are currently no national or regional schemes. We will continue to seek from HM Government national grants and loans to support decarbonisation by households, taking into account their income and the degree of improvements made.

11. The 14 actions agreed in principle and, subject to any necessary Cabinet or budget approvals, to be progressed are:

- a) Learn from other cities and countries where green technologies are the norm and report on what regulatory frameworks and investment plans could be applied to the Bristol region.
- b) Initiate talks with business, education and community partners and work with them to establish and deliver a plan on achieving the targets on home improvements (net zero), ensuring it's not left to individuals.
- c) Communicate independent and trustworthy information about different types of energy and environmental improvements, their impacts on the environment and the investment costs, running costs, and savings to allow comparison of different options and possibilities. (The One Stop Information Centre could do this.)
- d) Ensure more remote and deprived areas are served by public and active transport network; increase the number of interchanges to support connectivity around the city without having to go via the centre.
- e) Creatively reintroduce and support local services and utilising existing services and local businesses, ensuring that they are accessible (e.g. local police, public access to school libraries and mobile libraries).
- f) Put transparent and publicly accessible evidence-based data at the forefront of communication around decision-making, and in communications with the public use data that makes an impact (e.g. case studies, the average Bristol car journey is less distance than a hedgehog typically walks in a night, 80% of public space is given over to roads).
- g) Engage directly and specifically with the transport issues faced by children and young adults in education, many of whom are feeling forgotten about and are disengaged from society as a result of COVID-19.
- h) Require local planning agreements such as Section 106 and Master Plans to prioritise communities health needs.
- i) Inclusive and affordable access to green spaces, sports fields, outdoor gyms with free exercise activities and educate people on where these are and how to use them.
- j) Create local representative groups (using sortition, just like the citizens' assembly) to let communities take control of issues, directly connecting community groups to power (the council and relevant partners).
- k) Fund and support existing community led organisations that are getting results and mirror their effective practices with new areas and communities.
- l) Raise aspirations in children and young people: better connect all primary and secondary schools

with businesses to increase exposure to different opportunities e.g. through internships and or work experience, practical experience.

- m) Increase support to existing career advice services in school and adult education, emphasising development of soft skills or non-academic subjects as a route into real world opportunities.
- n) Engage with a diverse range of community leaders (faith leaders, community organisation leaders, play professionals, etc.) to better understand different communities. Find out what's not working so far and how to improve e.g. listening exercises, local citizen's assemblies etc then tailor local health related policy accordingly.

12. Following engagement with BCC officers, 20 actions could be taken forward, however only elements of the Action can be delivered by Bristol City Council. Notable examples of these Actions are:

- a) Action: Develop and introduce standards for all existing properties (e.g. for home-owners, landlords, and social housing) and to be incorporated into new building regulations.

Outcome: It has been agreed that we can create Local Plan policies for new buildings to set zero carbon standards and policies are in development to achieve this. It has been agreed that BCC is able to set standards for the development of new council homes and for their refurbishment. However, building regulations and standards for energy efficiency retrofit are set nationally and we cannot vary them locally.

- b) Action: Demonstrate the benefits of liveable neighbourhoods by implementing five pilot schemes in the most deprived neighbourhoods in place by end of 2021.

Outcome: The council has begun delivery of a pilot Liveable Neighbourhood in East Bristol with plans for a second pilot area to be delivered by 2024. The delivery (and relative success) of these two pilot projects will help inform whether a wider programme of Liveable Neighbourhoods is progressed across the city.

- c) Action: Community kitchens/shops/gardens should be funded to showcase and celebrate good affordable food (e.g. The Grand Iftar in Easton). These hubs can be used as a social/cultural space as well as promoting healthy eating through classes and by example.

Outcome: Bristol City Council is no longer the primary, or only funder of this type of activity. Bristol City Council will use its convening and partnership powers to leverage resource. Food Policy is a high corporate priority and will continue to be so.

13. Following engagement with BCC officers, 21 Actions were agreed in principle, but are delivered by proxy or alternative activity. Examples of this include:

- a) Action: Support people currently in relevant industries (building, energy, advice, etc.) to reskill through accredited and subsidised training courses, on the job training into green industries and jobs

Outcome: The West of England Combined Authority is the regional strategic lead body for business and skills and is the commissioner of the Adult Education Budget and programmes such as Workforce for the Future. The council will engage with regional colleagues about the potential for broadening the scope of this scheme.

- b) Action: Create a budget to invest in active travel, with annual incremental targets so that by 2030 it is equal to what is spent on roads, with a dedicated fundraising unit. Including funding for segregated cycle lanes, subsidised bikes (free to people on low incomes/benefits), secure bike storage (residential and in the centre), training people to ride bikes safely, maintenance and continued improvements of active travel infrastructure.

Outcome: The recently announced City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement for the West of England area contains a significant allocation for active and sustainable transport. Outside of this five-year allocation from government, the council is intending to pursue other government grants for walking and cycling improvements as and when they are announced. Increasing spending year on year is not possible to guarantee, as transport funding is largely allocated to the council by WECA, often passporting available Government funding.

- c) Action: Language barriers create a vocational-conversion package that enables those with high-skills but limited English to access the market whilst upskilling minimising the potential negative health impacts for this group.

Outcome: There is an English for Speakers of Other Languages Network which has produced a West of England Strategy which is being transferred to West of England Combined Authority as lead agency. Locally there is work underway on this action and involving other local partners such as ACH. The City of Bristol College would be a major partner as they hold adult education budget funding for accredited English for Speakers of Other Languages. BCC Community Learning can contribute through linking up community-based English for Speakers of Other Languages provision and English for Speakers of Other Languages conversation clubs.

14. There are 19 actions which are still under review/assessment. Officers will report again to Cabinet in 6 months to update on the progress of these

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet notes how the Citizens Assembly Recommendations have been embedded into the Corporate Strategy (2022-2027). Business Planning for 2022-2023 is currently underway and Citizens Assembly Recommendations will be considered as part of this process.
2. That Cabinet notes the Citizens' Assembly tracker included at Appendix A.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. The Corporate Strategy emphasises that all Bristol citizens has a role to play in shaping the city. The deliberative democratic process of a Citizens' Assembly puts this emphasis into practice, and demonstrates how citizens can feel empowered to make fundamental changes to the city.
2. The recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly, as outlined in the above section, has directly fed into the themes and specific priorities throughout the new Corporate Strategy 2022-27.

City Benefits:

1. An equalities impact assessment for the Citizens' Assembly project identified measures that were implemented to ensure that Assembly members and citizens could engage with the process, including people with hearing and sight impairment/loss, people who are not confident in use of the English language and people who do not use online services.
2. No equalities impact is identified from the recommendation from the Citizens' Assembly. Any future decisions arising from taking forward the recommendations would be subject to their own EQIA processes.

Consultation Details:

1. The Corporate Strategy 2022-27, which used the report of the Citizens' Assembly within its evidence base, was subject to public consultation in August 2021.

Background Documents:

[Corporate Strategy 2022-27 \(citizenspace.com\)](https://citizenspace.com)

[How do we recover from Covid-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol? Report from Bristol Citizens Assembly](#)

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Revenue Cost	£/	Source of Revenue Funding	Insert specific service budget name
Capital Cost	£/	Source of Capital Funding	e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:			
1. Finance Advice: This report provides an update on the recommendations and actions put forward by the Citizens' Assembly 2021. There is no financial impact consequent to this report.			
Finance Business Partner: Jemma Prince, Finance Business Partner, 7 January 2022			
2. Legal Advice: There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.			
Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 7 January 2022			
3. Implications on IT: No IT implications are evident.			
IT Team Leader: IT, 7/1/22			
4. HR Advice: No HR implications evident.			
HR Partner: James Brereton, HR Business Partner, 07 January 2022			
EDM Sign-off	Mike Jackson	7/1/22	
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	7/1/22	
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off			

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal Citizens' Assembly action tracker	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	No
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO