

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** For noting

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 02 August 2022

<b>TITLE</b>	Bristol's first Citizens' Assembly recommendations – Update 02		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Citywide		
<b>Author:</b> Tim Borrett	<b>Job title:</b> Director: Policy, Strategy and Digital		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Asher Craig	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Mike Jackson		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> Councillor			
<b>Decision maker:</b> For noting			
<b>Decision forum:</b> For noting			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To update Cabinet on consideration of the recommendations and actions put forward by the Citizens' Assembly</li> <li>2. To present the Citizens' Assembly tracker to Cabinet to demonstrate how progress against these actions will be measured going forward</li> <li>3. To update Cabinet where and how the Citizens' Assembly has influenced the 2022-23 Business Plan</li> </ol>			
<b>Evidence Base:</b>			
<b>Background</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Council decided in January 2020 to trial deliberative democracy processes in 2020/21. The work was led by Cllr Asher Craig and Cllr Paula O'Rourke, recognising that it was cross-party support in the council chamber that facilitated the investment in new forms of engagement.</li> <li>2. Using a sortition process, we identified a representative cross-section of the city. 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?" This question and the three themes that were pulled out for deliberation were based on a broader survey, in which we heard about the experiences of thousands of people in the city and how these had been impacted by the pandemic.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>5. The recommendations were used to shape Council's updated Corporate Strategy 2022 – 27. They have also used and embedded in the Council's annual service and business planning process, which looks ahead to 2022/23.</li> <li>6. The first update on Bristol's first Citizens' Assembly recommendations went to Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.</li> </ol>			
<b>Corporate Strategy and Business Plan</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. The Recommendations have been used to inform Business Planning for 2022-2023, which was approved at</li> </ol>			

the 5<sup>th</sup> April Cabinet. The Business Plan 2022-2023 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, for example:

- a) Maintain a responsive, accessible, and sustainable network of libraries working with communities and partners for the good of local neighbourhoods and the city as a whole.
- b) Improve equality of access to information about the council's decision-making processes, voter registration and standing for public office by delivering a research project on the barriers preventing citizens from engaging in the democratic process.
- c) Create a Bristol Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy, to ensure that enhancing the natural environment is embedded into planning policy, council projects and new developments. Blue-green infrastructure refers to the use of blue elements, including rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands, floodplains, water treatment facilities, and green elements, such as trees, forests, fields, and parks in urban and land-use planning.

### 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, 65 of the 82 Actions have been assessed so far. Of these:
  - a) Ten 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) 19 Actions are being taken forward in part
  - d) 22 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) 17 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. On top of the eight actions from the first update that were deemed not feasible, two further actions have now been assessed and deemed not feasible for the Council to deliver. They are:
  - a) **Action:** Widen One City partners to include all employers with over 300 staff by promoting the benefits of being involved.  
**Outcome:** This was considered during a refresh of the One City operating model in early 2022, but unfortunately there is not enough staff capacity in the function to set up and manage this wider network.
  - b) **Action:** Conduct a feasibility study to determine if developers and businesses could be made to invest a set proportion of profits back into the community and to be accountable for this.

**Outcome:** It is not possible for a local authority to determine how businesses allocate their profits. However, there is a lot of other work underway to encourage diversity and inclusion across all sectors, and we will continue to promote and champion this across all sectors.

11. The 14 actions agreed in principle and, subject to any necessary Cabinet or budget approvals. Notable examples of these include:

- a) **Action:** 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.  
**Outcome:** Improving access to public transport and active travel in deprived areas is well supported in sub-regional and local transport policy. Documents such as our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and Bus Service Improvement Plan detail how we will improve provision to these areas. BCC are working with WECA to deliver 'Mobility Hubs' across the city (which will include services such as bike hire, car clubs and e-scooters) will also improve connectivity to public transport operating on our key transport corridors. BCC are working with WECA to establish a low carbon mass transit system for the city region which will service remote and deprived areas.
- b) **Action:** 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).  
**Outcome:** Community Resilience Fund (CRF) will invest £4m in the community and voluntary sector and focused on communities facing the greatest inequity. Local communities will decide the priorities for this funding using participative and deliberative processes. Bristol City Council has been working with community and voluntary groups and ward members from across the city to co-design the process. The Community Resilience Fund will develop deliberative and participatory approaches. The initial focus is CRF our aim is to develop a process and a way of working which can be applied to future local/community decision making. The principle of diversity in decision making is agreed. Sortition is being considered as part of the co-design process.
- c) **Action:** 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.  
**Outcome:** Bristol WORKS is working in partnership with West of England Combined Authority/Careers and Enterprise Company to improve Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance for young people pre-16 who are most at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment, or Training. BCC Community Learning service is providing information, advice and guidance, and informal learning opportunities to support adult learners develop their confidence, transferable skills, readiness to learn and progression pathways to further learning, work and volunteering.

12. Following engagement with BCC officers, 19 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:** Work with all schools to implement 'Bristol School Streets' - roads being closed during pick up and drop off times.  
**Outcome:** Bristol has delivered a number of school streets projects already and has plans for another 4 locations in the coming academic year. It is important to note that some locations will not be suitable for timed or permanent closures given the impact on the surrounding network. Further rollout of this programme will be dependent on funding.
- b) **Action:** Create and maximise green space, greenery and pocket parks in existing neighbourhoods, ensuring that transport infrastructure repairs, maintenance and new transport schemes must improve the amount and quality of green space available where possible by using the Highways Maintenance budget.  
**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. These projects will explore how we can provide more greenspace, parklets and play space in our local communities as well as improve accessibility of local

parks. More generally transport projects delivered in the city will typically include greening measures such as tree planting and sustainable urban drainage schemes. The Council also has complementary targets (e.g. doubling of tree canopy coverage) which will help meet the recommendation outlined.

- c) **Action:** Work together internally and actively listen to community organisations and partners to create, gather and use data with clear information flows up and down, using all forms of media appropriate for the different social groups within Bristol.

**Outcome:** COVID and cost of living are examples of where Bristol City Council, community and the voluntary sector has worked together to share data and insight. This approach can be embedded in forthcoming Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and apply Joint Strategic Needs Assessment across all areas of business.

13. Further to the 22 Actions were agreed in principle, but are delivered by proxy or alternative activity.

Examples of this include:

- a) **Action:** Set yearly targets based on these recommendations, and assess them quarterly, with the One City commissioner/czar/champion reporting to One City board and council on progress.

**Outcome:** This was given full consideration during performance target identification and setting for 2022/23, with chosen measures linked to the top priorities of our Corporate Strategy and Business Plan 22/23; documents which are informed by the Citizens Assembly recommendations. The Performance Framework is approved, targets have been set and updates will be publicly available every quarter when they are reported to Cabinet and published on the Performance pages of our website.

- b) **Action:** Promote innovative ways to increase carbon effective planting by investing in existing green spaces and better utilising available spaces in all buildings businesses and houses, etc. (e.g living roofs on bus stops).

**Outcome:** In developing the Bristol Green Infrastructure Strategy we will investigate ways in which plants and nature can be incorporated. Planting will not have a significant benefit for carbon capture or air quality improvements and so planting should be undertaken for amenity and wildlife benefits and be an integral part of say street layout changes as part of liveable neighbourhoods.

- c) **Action:** Encourage new people to come into green industries – develop, organise and promote a BTEC/accredited course for people to be trained in conjunction with each new policy and innovation; including quality apprenticeships and outreach activities; focus promotion at under-represented groups (but don't exclude anyone)

**Outcome:** Bristol City Council can influence the green skills pipeline and support diverse recruitment through a number of interventions: use of our apprenticeship levy; job matching through our One Front Door; young careers pathways through Bristol WORKS and post 16 engagement. The Building Bristol initiative launched in April/May 2022 so that employment and skills plans are created for all major developments - at construction and end use phase - this can include green skills as new infrastructure and job roles come on stream. The City of Bristol College is a lead partner as a major supplier of vocational training and apprenticeship training. These actions will all be dependent upon employer/supplier demand for green skills.

14. There are 17 actions which are still under review/assessment. Officers will report again to Cabinet in 6 months to update on the progress of these.

15. The Council is continuing to trial new methods of participatory budgeting and are currently working with TPX Impact to engage communities at a neighbourhood level in the spending of money set aside as part of the Community Resilience Fund.

#### **Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1 Notes how the Citizens Assembly Recommendations have been embedded into the Business Planning for 2022-2023.

2. Notes the Citizens' Assembly tracker included at Appendix A.

<p><b>Corporate Strategy alignment:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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 and the 2022-2023 Business Plan.</li> </ol>
<p><b>City Benefits:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Consultation Details:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Background Documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Corporate Strategy 2022-27 (citizenspace.com)</a>  <a href="#">How do we recover from Covid-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol? Report from Bristol Citizens Assembly</a>  <a href="#">Bristol’s first Citizens’ Assembly – Outcomes Progress Report 1</a>  <a href="#">Bristol City Council Business Plan 22-23</a></p>

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£/	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	Insert specific service budget name
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£/	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:</b>			
<b>1. Finance Advice:</b> This report provides an update on the recommendations and actions put forward by the Citizens’ Assembly 2021. There currently isn’t any financial impact consequent to this report.			
<b>Finance Business Partner:</b> Olubunmi Kupoluyi, 25 July 2022			
<b>2. Legal Advice:</b> There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.			
<b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Husinara Jones Team Manager/Solicitor 21 July 2022			
<b>3. Implications on IT:</b> No IT implications are evident.			
<b>IT Team Leader:</b> Gavin Arbuckle, 25 July 2022			
<b>4. HR Advice:</b> No HR implications evident.			
<b>HR Partner:</b> James Brereton, 25 July 2022			

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Extended Leadership Forum	13.07.22
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Asher Craig	18.07.22
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off</b>	Mayor’s Office	30.05.22

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