



**PURPOSE:** For noting

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 06 February 2024

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Bristol’s first Citizens’ Assembly recommendations – Final Update 03</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	<b>Citywide</b>		
<b>Author:</b> Tim Borrett	<b>Job title:</b> Director: Policy, Strategy and Digital		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Ellie King	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Stephen Peacock, Chief Executive Officer		
<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 provide a final update to 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 has been measured.</li> <li>3. To update Cabinet where and how the Citizens’ Assembly has influenced other activities and the 2023–24 Business Plan.</li> </ol>			
<b>Background</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In January 2020, Full Council decided to trial deliberative democracy processes in 2020/21. This 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, a representative cross-section of the city was identified. 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 described 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 recommendations were used to shape Council’s updated Corporate Strategy 2022–27. They have also been used and embedded in the Council’s annual service and business planning process. 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 and in preparing the 2023 refresh of the One City Plan.</li> <li>5. The first update on Bristol’s first Citizens’ Assembly recommendations went to Cabinet on 18 January 2022 and the second update to Cabinet on 2 August 2022. This report provides a third and final update for Cabinet to note.</li> </ol>			
<b>Insights and influence of the Citizens’ Assembly</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Citizen’s Assembly has impacted the council’s approach to deliberative democracy and participatory</li> </ol>			

budgeting. The Community Resilience Fund applied deliberative democratic and participatory decision-making processes to award the CRF funding of £4m to Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations from across Bristol. The Council worked with TPX Impact to engage communities at a neighbourhood level in the spending of money set aside as part of the Fund, and we are exploring how this process can be applied in other areas. Drawing on lessons learnt from undertaking the Citizens' Assembly, the CRF embedded evaluation into its process and maintained more direct engagement with participants.

2. The Recommendations have been used to inform our Corporate Strategy and Business Planning. In our most recent business plan 2023-24, which was approved at Cabinet in April 2023, included actions directly responding to Citizens' Assembly Recommendations or Actions, for example:
  - Increase provision and availability of supported housing, Housing First and move on accommodation. Service users will include single homeless clients, ASC service users and Care leavers, via a joined-up approach between key council services. This will be supported by the Government's Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme.
  - Use income generated from the Clean Air Zone, that will improve air quality in the city, to help fund transport projects that have safe and active travel at their heart.
  - Develop active travel programmes and Liveable Neighbourhoods to ensure we are making best use of the public realm. This will include trialling elements of the East Bristol Liveable neighbourhood scheme.
  - Develop the Building Bristol initiative that supports local developers with employment and skills plans. This will help ensure developments deliver employment, apprenticeships, work experience and training through construction projects. Activity will include developing a revised charging model, developing a new 'buddy' scheme, and integrating the initiative into major developments.
3. The recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly have also been included in the One City Plan redraft where appropriate, and influenced the One City post-Covid Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy.

### Next Steps

1. This will be the final report and tracker of the Citizens' Assembly in this form.
2. The Council is currently drafting its Business Plan for 2024–25 which will be published in April 2024 and as before, where feasible, Actions and Recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly will be embedded into this plan.
3. In May 2022, Bristol voted in a referendum to move from the existing mayoral model to a committee model of governance. This will take effect from 5 May 2024.
4. The Actions and Recommendations from the Citizens Assembly can continue to inform any future review of key corporate strategies, planning and delivery plans, subject to the views of a new council administration.

### Lessons Learned

4. As the third and final Citizens Assembly update of this administration, officers have been asked to provide reflections on the Citizens Assembly process and lessons learned should future administrations undertake similar initiatives:
  - a. While the actual Citizens Assembly was fully funded and resourced, the recommendations and actions were not individually costed, nor were the resource requirements on individual services to support delivery. A future similar exercise needs to consider evaluation and resource for follow-up activity.
  - b. Future Citizen Assemblies may benefit from a tighter scope for discussion. To better support the deliverability of subsequent recommendations and actions. The question posed to Bristol's first Citizens Assembly was, "*How do we recover from COVID-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol?*". This was a broad subject matter that encompassed a significant area of work for the council and wider city. Of the 82 actions agreed, the majority (75 of 82) have been assessed to determine whether and how they can be taken forward. However, we have not been able to fully assess and agree a way forward for seven actions. This is either due to their complexity, capacity

within the council, balancing them against other priorities, or which require formal governance before they can be taken forward.

- c. The total number of actions and activities that such a broad question produced presented challenges in delivering against them all. A tighter and more focused scope could lead towards SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) objectives.
- d. To ensure citizens have clear expectations of what the council can deliver, future Citizen Assemblies should be more clearly confined to what the Council and partners can legally do. Of the 82 Actions there were 12 Actions deemed as not feasible for the Council to deliver on the basis that they would require a change in national policy, legislation or regulation. The legal parameters in which the Council operate could have more clearly been articulated as part of the Citizens' Assembly to support expectation management with citizens and partners.
- e. The main avenue for the Council to update on progress against recommendations and actions was through Cabinet updates. While this is an important process to ensure progress and accountability, any future Citizens Assembly should plan, cost and resource a detailed communications plan to accompany the activity.

#### **Further information**

1. Information about the actions and updates in activity is available in appendix Ai (overall information about the actions) and Aii (a tracker containing all the Actions and updates).

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

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the final update report and influence of the Citizens' Assembly 2021
2. Notes the Citizens' Assembly tracker and other detailed information included at Appendix Ai and Aii.
3. Notes how the Recommendations have been embedded into the most recent Business Plan for 2023–24.
4. Notes the lessons learnt for future initiatives like the Citizens' Assembly

#### **Corporate Strategy alignment:**

1. The Corporate Strategy emphasises that all Bristol citizens have 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 and the 2023–2024 Business Plan.

#### **City Benefits:**

1. This assembly has given BCC new ways and approaches of listening to the diverse views of the people of Bristol, capturing these and feeding them into the city's recovery and renewal planning.
2. Citizens' Assembly provided invaluable public opinion on the questions facing us on health and wellbeing, transport, and climate change which has informed several Bristol City Council and One City Strategies

#### **Consultation Details:**

1. As part of a Bristol City Council programme of citizen engagement called 'Your City Our Future', a series of focus groups during July was followed by a citywide survey of citizens during August and September, which received over 6,500 responses.
2. The Council has sought to work with communities to ensure their diverse perspectives, ideas and priorities. The Citizens' Assembly was a trial in deliberative democracy. Bristol's Citizens' Assembly brought together 60 residents from Bristol - reflective of Bristol's local diversity in terms of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, geography, deprivation, and employment.
3. 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 \(citizenspace.com\)](#)  
[Bristol City Council Business Plan 23-24](#)  
[Bristol's first Citizens' Assembly – Outcomes Progress Report 1](#)  
[Bristol's first Citizens' Assembly – Outcomes Progress Report 2](#)  
[How do we recover from Covid-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol? Report from Bristol Citizens Assembly](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£ n/a	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	n/a
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£ n/a	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	n/a
<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>			
<p><b>1. Finance Advice:</b> This report provides an update on the recommendations and actions put forward by the Citizens' Assembly, how these actions will be measured going forward and how the Citizens' Assembly has influenced the 2023-24 Business Plan. There are no financial implications as a result of this report. Any funding required to progress the individual actions referred to in this report will need to follow the appropriate decision pathway and governance route.</p>			
<b>Finance Business Partner:</b> Kathryn Long, Finance Business Partner (Resources), 04 January 2024			
<p><b>2. Legal Advice:</b> There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.</p>			
<b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor, 20 December 2023			
<p><b>3. Implications on IT:</b> I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.</p>			
<b>IT Team Leader:</b> Alex Simpson, Lead Enterprise Architect, 19 December 2023			
<p><b>4. HR Advice:</b> No HR implications evident.</p>			
<b>HR Partner:</b> Kirstie Macrae, HR Consultant, 28 December 2023			

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Tim Borrett: Director, Policy, Digital and Strategy	24 January 2024
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Craig Cheney: City Economy, Finance & Performance	08 January 2024
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	08 January 2024

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b> Ai. Citizens' Assembly actions update, January 2024 Aii. Citizens' Assembly action tracker	<b>YES</b>
<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>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<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>