



Bristol One City Homes and Communities Board

Date/time	09.30-11.30am, Thursday 11 th July 2024	Venue	1P06, City Hall
Co-Chairs	Oona Goldsworthy, CEO, Brunelcare; Cllr Barry Parsons, Chair of the Homes and Housing Committee, and Cllr for Easton		
Attendance	Dom Wood, 1625 Independent People; Judith Brown, Bristol Older People’s Forum (BOPF); Paul Hassan, ACH Refugee Integration Services Provider; Cllr Barry Parsons, BCC; Helen Parnham, BCC; Oona Goldsworthy, The National Care Forum; Penny Germon, BCC; Sarah O’Leary, Missing Link, Next Link and Safe Link; Rachel Butler, Bristol Community Land Trust; Louise Davidson, BCC; Clem Teagle, Bristol Temple Quarter; Paul Sylvester, BCC; Francesca Barclay, City Office; Karen Blong, City Office; Imogen Oxley, City Office.		
09.30 - 09:45	Arrival and networking (15 mins)		
09.45 - 09.50	Chair’s welcome and introductions (5 min) OG welcomed the board and introduced Councillor Barry Parsons who is the new co-chair for the Homes and Communities Board.		
09.50 - 09.55	<p>The new Council’s priorities (5 mins)</p> <p>BP reflected on the first few weeks of the new administration sharing information on how the new committee system functions, emphasising that every member of the committee across parties has an equal vote and an equal voice, the role of the chair is to help achieve consensus.</p> <p>BP also shared the administration’s priorities in relation to homes and communities which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tackling homelessness. - Improving housing services for residents. - Improving housing delivery. - Decarbonising Bristol’s housing stock. - Addressing challenges within the private renting sector to help reduce housing inequality. <p>BP shared that the new administration wants to engage with communities to better understand their priorities and involve communities in council decision making.</p> <p>BP also shared that following the council referring themselves to the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), the RSH has published an assessment of the council’s housing. This assessment found that the council does not currently meet the levels of quality and safety expected and that they must do more to improve how they look after council owned homes.</p> <p>OFFER: OG shared that Bristol housing associations are willing to provide support to the council through sharing their expertise and experience on social housing regulations and assessments.</p>		

	<p>ASK: Board members also agreed that it would be good for Bristol City Council’s Director Homes and Landlord Services to be invited to future Home and Communities Board meetings.</p> <p>The board discussed how RSH’s assessment could provide a positive opportunity for the council to transform their housing to being more community and resident led. BP added that the RSH assessment will provide an opportunity for the council to improve its collaborative working on housing in the city. There is a lot of motivation and energy to improve Bristol’s housing and create positive change through learning from best practice in the sector.</p> <p>OFFER: Bristol Older People’s Forum would like to work with the council to improve housing and will be sending BP invites to upcoming events and meetings.</p> <p>RB also highlighted the potential for the council to take this as an opportunity to work with the circular economy in Bristol construction and suggested involving MP Kerry McCarthy.</p>
09.55 – 10.10	<p>General election results and reflection: housing sector key lobbying asks (15 mins)</p> <p>BP asked the board what their key priorities are for change at the central government level and how they think the government could deliver high quality housing and nurture Bristol’s homes and communities.</p> <p>BP shared that the council, along with 17 of the biggest council housing providers in the country are coming together to write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government outlining current challenges facing delivery of new council housing.</p> <p>JB highlighted Bristol Older People’s Forum’s priorities surrounding rent control and improving private renting accommodation as well as the importance of the Living Rent Commission.</p> <p>The board also flagged the importance of the private rented sector (PRS) and of Government building positive relationships with private landlords as well as bringing in their planned renters’ rights policies; to avoid landlords leaving the sector. DW highlighted that landlords leaving the sector is a leading cause for why people become homeless.</p> <p>Community led housing was also shared as a key priority to help empower ordinary citizens access and create their own affordable housing options. Funding would be key for facilitating innovation and raise diverse voices within community led housing as well as to help unlock small and brownfield sites with potential. The board highlighted that they would like to see the Community Housing Fund reinstated in a way that is flexible and long-term.</p> <p>Tackling homelessness in the city was also brought as a priority. DW suggested that there should be more support for homeless people, improved local housing allowance and updated housing subsidies guidance and legislation.</p> <p>Tackling the deficit of accessible housing was also raised as a key priority as well as finding ways for resources and funding to be used as efficiently and effectively as possible. The board also discussed the importance of having a collaborative approach by working as a part of the wider region and with the West of England Combined Authority.</p> <p>OFFER: City Office will be setting up a working group to brainstorm how they can work as One City to bring the city’s key priorities for change in housing to central government.</p> <p>ASK: Board members were asked to let City Office know who would like to be invited to the working group to brainstorm how they can work as One City to bring the city’s key priorities for change in housing to central government.</p> <p>It was also flagged that Bristol City Council is losing its investment partner status with Homes England. This means that the council will not have access to Homes England’s grant funding and schemes.</p>

	<p>The board discussed how housing discussions have been taking place in Bristol at all levels from grass root community discussions to high level strategic conversations, as evident in the upcoming Easton and Lawrence Hill neighbourhood forum for housing on the 2nd September.</p> <p>Board members discussed how they could go about talking more directly to local MPs on the city's priorities for housing.</p>
<p>10.10 – 10.40</p>	<p>Temple Quarter update and discussion (30 mins)</p> <p>CT from Bristol Temple Quarter (BTQ) introduced BTQ LLP to the board and updated members on BTQ's vision of place. BTQ has proposed a vision for BTQ that expands on what kind of place they are trying to create and how they can reflect the best of Bristol. BTQ's vision of place will be used as a guide for BTQ and its developers.</p> <p>OFFER: CT will share with board members the slides from the presentation along with the document which outlines BTQ vision of place.</p> <p>CT also updated the board on BTQ's inclusive growth strategy. The strategy is focused on more than economic factors, taking into consideration how BTQ can provide social value and maximise long term benefits for local people and communities.</p> <p>OFFER: BTQ's inclusive growth strategy will be shared with partners for comments as BTQ want it to be a working document that uses a collaborative approach.</p> <p>The underpinning principles for the inclusive growth strategy put in place focus areas for each year and provide a structure for how BTQ can deliver inclusive growth. CT also highlighted that BTQ is committed to delivering the inclusive growth strategy and will be appointing a head of inclusive growth to achieve this goal.</p> <p>Much of BTQ's focus will be on providing practical ways to create social value in local areas in a way that does not repeat work that is already happening in the city. BTQ is also considering how they can meaningfully and sustainably engage with communities and understand how they can make the most out of the development.</p> <p>OFFER: BTQ will continue to update the Homes and Communities Board on their progress across their workstreams.</p> <p>LD then update the board on BTQ's newly emerging housing strategy. This housing strategy recognises the challenges and opportunities in the city and focuses on more than just affordable housing. The housing strategy aims to make BTQ the place for registered housing providers to invest and will consider how housing fits into a full ecosystem, including the role that housing plays in economic growth.</p> <p>In June BTQ held a workshop with a range of stakeholders to explore and flesh out what is needed in the BTQ housing strategy. This discussion went beyond providing affordable housing and covered a range of topics including housing delivery, the local plan and how to use public sector land to maximise housing delivery. The strategy aims to be a long-term plan that thinks about housing differently.</p> <p>OFFER: LD offered to keep the Home and Communities Board updated on the emerging housing strategy for BTQ.</p> <p>Following this presentation board members discussed the complexity of developments such as BTQ and emphasised the importance of creating social value and achieving BTQ's vision of place.</p> <p>When developing the vision and strategy for BTQ it is also key to understand a wide range of stakeholders and how places make different groups feel. Placemaking was discussed as not just being about providing buildings and infrastructure but to also create spaces where people want to live and spend their time.</p>

	<p>Board members also encouraged BTQ to take on a collaborative approach and to join up the city throughout the development phases. The importance of incorporating community input and meeting the needs of everyone within the needs of the planet was also stressed. The board discussed the importance of providing housing for a wide range of groups, including students, to help address housing challenges in the city. It was also suggested that BTQ consider the barriers to success and worst-case scenarios in order to design out potential issues.</p> <p>The discussion concluded with acknowledgement of the huge scale of opportunity that BTQ will bring to Bristol and emphasised the impact that this will have for generations to come.</p>
10.40 – 10.55	<p>Skills, Retrofitting and Construction – cross board workshop (15 mins) This item was moved to the next Homes and Communities Board meeting.</p>
10:55 – 11:10	<p>BCC Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 (15 mins) HP updated the board on Bristol City Council’s Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029. This strategy is due to be published by the end of 2024 and will replace the previous strategy which was published in 2019. The board were updated on what has changed since 2019 including an increase in demand for homelessness services and how temporary accommodation needs has tripled.</p> <p>The strategic priorities are being drafted with the support of a multi-agency steering group which includes members from the One City Homes and Communities Board. The strategy will have high-level actions for each year leading to 2029 and will incorporate the information gathered from several engagement session that were done to understand people’s experiences of homelessness and rough sleeping in Bristol.</p> <p>Based on feedback from the steering group and engagement sessions the strategy will address the need for appropriate accommodation based on varying levels of support needs, more empathy in staff, spreading out services across the city, more accessible information and guidance and trauma-informed training for staff.</p> <p>The strategy will also focus on using collaborative approaches across the council and the sector to solve systemic issues and provide early interventions for a wide range of people with varying support needs. The four strategic priorities will focus on prevention, accommodation, partnership and helping people move forward. Each priority will have key objectives that will help deliver these prioritise.</p> <p>The next steps include a consultation on the strategy in the summer where stakeholders will be able to provide additional feedback before the strategy is published at the end of the year.</p> <p>OFFER: Members were asked to reach out to HP or PS if you would like to join the consultation on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 in August.</p> <p>The board then discussed the governance of the strategy and how to help drive forward the strategy. It was suggested that a group could be set up to take ownership of the strategy and to identify which sectors and teams can support the implementation.</p> <p>ASK: Members were also asked to contact PS or HP if they have any recommendations for the governance of the implementation of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.</p> <p>It was noted that there will be an annual action plan to support the implementation of the strategy which will focus on partnership working. The board also discussed the importance of using the data on homelessness to support the strategy and action</p>

	<p>planning. In particular, the importance of working with the private renting sector was highlighted due to data that suggests that loss of privately rented homes is a leading cause for homelessness.</p> <p>AKS: Board members were asked to share information about the consultation on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy in August with their networks.</p> <p>OFFER: Slides from HP’s presentation which details the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 will be sent out to board members.</p> <p>ASK: Board members were asked to provide feedback on the board's discussions on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 by emailing HP or PS.</p>
<p>11:10 - 11.15</p>	<p>Next steps for the One City Boards and membership (5 mins)</p> <p>FB updated the board on the membership refresh process which will be initiated at the October board meeting with view to have it refreshed by the following board meeting in January 2025.</p> <p>FB also shared that the One City Plan will be refreshed in spring of 2025. City Office is considering how the structure of the plan can be improved. At an upcoming board meeting board members will look at the goals for homes and communities.</p> <p>OFFER: Board members were asked to let City Office know if they would like to be involved in the working group that will input into how City Office refreshes the One City Plan.</p> <p>FB also noted changes in the City Office team and shared that the Head of City Office permanent role is being recruited for.</p> <p>OFFER: FB offered to share the Head of City Office role advertisement with board members.</p> <p>ASK: Board members were asked to share any updates or upcoming events with City Office to be shared on the One City Office news page.</p>
<p>11:20 - 11:30</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>BP shared that the next Homes and Communities Board meeting will be on the 10th October at 2pm at the University of Bristol.</p> <p>ASK: Board members were asked to contact City Office if they have any agenda items/topics for the next board meeting.</p> <p>JB shared concern over the evacuation procedures for high rise buildings in Bristol and asked that the board ensure that there are procedures in place that provide safe evacuation for people with disabilities and support needs who live on high floors. It was also highlighted that building wardens must be given lists of people with disabilities and support needs so that fire response knows who to give priority to during evacuations.</p> <p>OFFER: OG offered to discuss evacuation procedures for high rise buildings further with JB.</p> <p>FB shared that the next City Gathering will be on the 8th November.</p> <p>OFFER: Board members were asked to contact City Office if you would like to join a working group that will help shape and improve the next City Gathering.</p> <p>FB also highlighted that the Just Transition Declaration is pushing for early adopter with a deadline of the 15th July.</p> <p>OFFER: Board members were asked to contact City Office if they would like to make a Just Transition Declaration.</p> <p>LD shared that a template for council housing planning applications has been created following discussions at the Health and Wellbeing Board’s development session with the Home and Communities Board in the spring</p> <p>OFFER: City Office to share the template for council housing planning applications with board member.</p>

	<p>ASK: LD asked that board members add comments to the template for council housing planning applications regarding whether it is accessible.</p> <p>PH shared that the One City Homes and Communities Race and Housing sub-group has a live document that will be shared with board members.</p> <p>ASK: Board members were asked to read and share their input with PH and AR on the Race and Housing sub-group document.</p>
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