



## Introduction

This document serves to provide stakeholders and policymakers with a concise overview of Bristol One City.

Bristol is an economically successful and productive city that is widely recognised as an attractive place to live, work, learn and visit. Our city has won national polls for being the UK's most liveable city and awards for our green credentials and innovation. Whilst being constrained to an area of just 42 square miles, it is one of the fastest growing cities outside of London with the population expected to grow from 427,000 to 550,000 by 2050.

This success is contributing to the challenges we now face.

- **Housing**  
There are already 20,000 households on the social housing waiting list, 1,300 households in temporary accommodation.  
The city has a chronic lack of affordable housing, in the last 10 years house prices rose by 93%, around £161,000. In parallel, rents in the city have increased by 52% since 2011 whereas wages have only increased by 24% over the same period.
- **Indices of Multiple Deprivation**  
5% of Bristol's population live in the most deprived 10% of areas in England in 2019 (16% in 2015)  
17,200 children (21%) and 13,600 older people (17%) in Bristol live in income deprived households.
- **Climate and Nature**  
Meet its carbon neutrality by 2030 and adapt to the changing climate through a Just Transition  
Reverse the decline in biodiversity and restore and protect habitats.

*The tale of two cities... This has always been the tale of two cities Both must be told in their entirety Wearing the pride and the shame on each shoulder We walk forward – knowing with hard work One of those forces can far outshine the other.*

**Vanessa Kisuule – Bristol's City Poet 2018-2020**

To maximise the success of the city and overcome its challenges a plan is needed, one that brings together all of the organisations that influence the city – the council, business, health, workers, community, faith and education with an aspirational vision to best align and utilise their resources to help maximise the success of the city.

## What is Bristol One City?

Bristol One City is an approach that brings together a huge range of public, private, voluntary and third sector partners to work together to make Bristol fairer, healthier and more sustainable. It enables the city to respond to immediate and long-term city-wide opportunities and challenges that transcend organisational boundaries.

## What is the Bristol City Office?

The Bristol City Office is a small team hosted by Bristol City Council and co-funded by University of Bristol, University of the West of England, City of Bristol College, North Bristol NHS Trust and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust. The City Office is the guardian of the Bristol One City Plan, it convenes and coordinates activities to deliver the One City Plan and One City Approach to strategically address the long-term city opportunities and challenges.

## What is the One City Plan?

The One City Plan describes the Bristol we want to be by 2050 and how we can get there.

Inspired by the New York City Plan, the One City Plan sets out a path to a 2050 Bristol that is a 'fair, healthy and sustainable city, a city of hope and aspiration, where everyone can share in its success.' It provides a timeline across six themes: Children & Young People, Economy & Skills, Environment, Health & Wellbeing, Homes & Communities, Transport. Additionally, these boards are supported by the Culture Board, the Bristol SDG Alliance and the Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change. Each theme has a timeline to 2050 with three annual aspirational goals that articulate the opportunities and challenges partners across the city need to address to help deliver the long-term vision. All the initiatives within the One City Plan are underpinned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which provide an internationally recognised framework to benchmark the city's aspirations and progress.

The Plan has widespread city buy-in being co-created by the hundreds of city stakeholders including: One City Boards, Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change (BACCC), the Equalities Commissions, Bristol Older People's Forum, and the Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sectors, Elected Councillors and the Youth Council. Its last iteration was published in 2023 and will be updated again in 2025. The plan is delivered through the One City Approach.

### **The One City Plan is not...**

- A plan to usurp all plans: city partners will continue to have their own plans and strategies. This plan should complement those.
- Perfect: it will become more sophisticated with every iteration and as we make demands of it, challenge it and respond to it collaboratively.
- An instruction manual: it is up to partners to decide if, what and how they will work to help deliver our agreed city goals.
- Complete: there will be no such thing as a 'final version' because it will be in constant review.
- Owned and/or run by Bristol City Council. It is a collective product.

### **The One City Plan is...**

- An attempt to describe the Bristol we want to be.
- An attempt to focus the city on a sequence of actions that will help us get there.
- Something to grapple with: it should provoke debate and enable the wider city to engage with the city's future in a meaningful way.
- In constant review: it will be refreshed biennially through the City Office and the One City Boards.
- Built on an understanding that Bristol is a collective act. What citizens receive from the city is not determined by any single organisation but is the product of many decisions. Moreover, that we are interdependent, and no

organisation or sector can be all it can be while others struggle.

## The One City Approach

The One City Approach mobilises city stakeholders to collaborate and act on the One City Plan and its goals. The City Office facilitates the One City Approach by providing meetings and engagement opportunities, to enable collaboration across the public, private and VCSE sectors. These include:

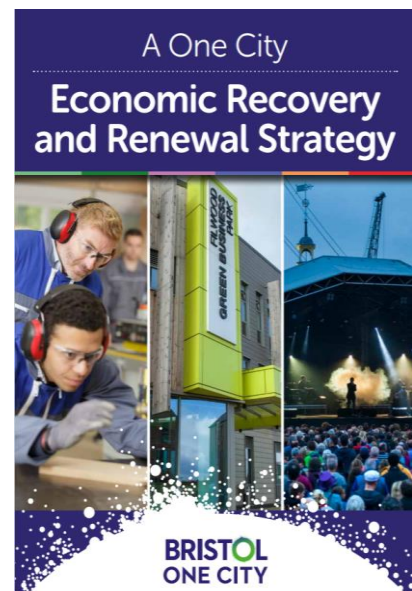
- **City Partners Group**

The City Partner group represents key anchor organisations in Bristol, including those that represent businesses, the VCSE sector, workers and faith. City Partners have established trusted relationships, and meet regularly to share insights, intelligence and to mobilise resources to address city wide opportunities and challenges.

### Case Study: Pandemic

*Bristol was able to respond quickly to the pandemic as the City Partners meetings offered a means to share information quickly to co-ordinate the responses across the city. Risks could be quickly identified by partners and mitigating measures put into place utilising partners resources and capabilities. This included: avoiding miss information being shared with prompt messaging from Public Health, the provision of meals for the most vulnerable in the city and sharing of best practices between sectors to re-open premises and deliver services.*

*The Economy & Skills Board worked with over 600 organisations in the city to create a One City Economic and Renewal Strategy to rebuild the economy following the pandemic and address entrenched inequalities in the city in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.*



### Case Study: Civic University Agreement

*The University of Bristol, University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), City of Bristol College, Bristol City Council and the City Office have created this Civic University Agreement (CUA) as part of a national and international movement for higher education institutions to better connect with, and be a positive benefit to, their cities and regions. Aligned to the Bristol One City Plan, its first priority workstream is to increase participation in Higher Education among under-represented groups specifically children from South Bristol and care leavers.*



- **One City Boards**

One City Thematic Boards are responsible for the delivery of the One City Plan goals. Each Thematic Board is co-chaired by an elected member and a representative from an external partner organisation. Board members are subject matter experts that are responsible for providing leadership for each of the themes and utilising their expertise, experience, resource and network to

mobilise city-wide action to deliver the goals. Each board is supported by a member of the City Office team and a Board Support Officer. Cross board collaboration is encouraged and facilitated with quarterly Multi-Board meetings. Boards may initiate their own workstreams through task and finish groups and workshops.

### **Case Study: Period Friendly Bristol**

*Initiated by a One City Goal to address period poverty in 2019, Period Friendly Places was created with support from the Children & Young People, Economy & Skills and Health & Wellbeing Boards, and city stakeholders including Jacobs and Hargreaves Lansdown to create a movement to make Bristol a city free of period poverty and period stigma. This established a City Donation and Distribution Network and Tackling Period Stigma.*



### **Case Study: Healthy Homes**

*Initiated by a One City goal to take a citywide approach to tackling damp and mould in Bristol's housing, the One City Homes and Communities Board have been investigating responses to tackling damp and mould across the housing, health, skills and energy sector. A recent joint development session with the One City Health and Wellbeing Board has seen a number of key actions emerge, that will support improved communication between front-line services.*



- **City Gathering**

Each year, the City Office organises two city-wide events to broaden participation to deliver the One City Plan and its Goals. City stakeholders from the public, private and VCSE sectors are invited to learn about ongoing opportunities and challenges facing the city that require multi-organisational efforts to address to develop a common understanding. They are encouraged to make offers and asks to their peers, where required to enable them to deliver one city goals. There have been 14 City Gatherings each with a range of high-quality speakers, including Sacha Mirzoeff from Chanel 4, Tom Stratton from the RSA, John Sauven from Greenpeace UK, Alice Charles from the World Economic Forum, and Stephen Jones from Core Cities.

### **Case Study: November 2023 City Gathering at City Hall**

*Over 200 attendees from the public, private and third sectors attended November's City Gathering. The Just Transition Declaration was launched and the meeting ended with ten organisations signing up and a communications consultancy responding to the request for pro-bono support to shape the offer for a wider audience. Participants also heard about the Welcoming Spaces initiative to create spaces to support communities through the cost of living. An organisation responded to their ask for support and donated £2,000 to support the running of these facilities. Participants also heard about the City Leap on their Community Grant scheme which will help decarbonise buildings and reduce energy costs, and which resulted in several expressions of interest.*





- **Offers & Asks**

City stakeholders are empowered to act on the One City Plan and 'offer' modes of delivering the plan and 'asks' of others to help deliver these activities. The City Office can help facilitate these exchanges.

### Case Study: Our City 2030

*In response to a One City Goal to improve career progression pathways for under-represented young people, Babbasa created Our City 2030. It is a service that helps talented young people in the city that would not have connections to access entry level opportunities within the cities growing sectors. In 2022-23, a pilot scheme was delivered with the creative sector with 25 young people being given the opportunity to gain experience and acquire skills to begin their careers. This has then led to 14 young people gaining paid employment. Our City 2030 is now scaling up its offer to deliver pathways into the professional services, environmental, tech and hospitality sectors. City Office responded to the 'offer' to deliver the goal by providing Our City 2030 with a platform at One City Boards and City Gatherings to recruit new industry partners and young people to access the service.*



### Case Study: City Funds

*City Funds is a £10m place-based impact fund, which invests in social enterprises, enterprising charities and impact-driven businesses in the Bristol region who have a great product or service that is tackling a social or environmental problem and need repayable investment to grow or capture an opportunity. It is aligned to the principles of Bristol One City. City Funds supported Ambition Lawrence Weston to install the a community-owned wind turbine will be built on land near Bristol to provide renewable energy to thousands of homes. Profits will fund a development plan for Lawrence Weston, including a £1.7m community hub providing training, social support and debt advice.*



