

Bristol Citizens' Assembly

“How do we recover from COVID-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol?”



Interim Report

March 2021

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Introduction

The Bristol Citizens' Assembly brought together 60 residents from Bristol – reflective of Bristol's local diversity in terms of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, geography, deprivation, and employment¹ – in order to help shape the city's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The citizens' assembly was asked to make recommendations in response to the question:

“How do we recover from COVID-19 and create a better future for all in Bristol?”

The citizens' assembly met over four weekends from January to March 2021, with a total of 30 hours of meetings. In order to help answer the above question, they were asked to conduct deep dives into three topics that had been identified through engagement with residents as particularly important to the future of Bristol:

1. **Climate change:** How do we rapidly reduce the impact of our homes on climate change?²
2. **Transport:** What changes should we make to our neighbourhoods to make how we travel easier, healthier and better for the environment?³
3. **Health:** How should we tackle health inequalities in Bristol?⁴

For each topic, assembly members heard evidence from speakers, discussed their own views and experiences, and developed recommendations for the council and its partners.

This interim report outlines the recommendations that the assembly members arrived at under each of these topics. Each recommendation includes:

- A statement of **what** the recommendation is;
- A list of actions for **how** the recommendation should be implemented;
- A justification for **why** the recommendation is important.

The report also includes the results of a ballot of assembly members carried out after the final weekend, demonstrating their level of support or opposition to each recommendation, as well as a prioritisation of recommendations for each topic.⁵ At the time of preparing this report, the ballot had been completed by 93% of assembly members.

A full report will be published in May 2021 with final ballot results, further information about the process and assembly members' experiences. The assembly's recommendations will be presented to:

- The One City Economy Board, to help inform the city's recovery strategy; and,
- Bristol City Council's Cabinet, as a key input in shaping future strategy and actions.

¹ Find out more about how assembly members were selected:

<https://bristol.citizenspace.com/ycof-1/assembly-member-selection/>

² Find out more: <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/ycof-1/climate-change/>

³ Find out more: <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/ycof-1/transport/>

⁴ Find out more: <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/ycof-1/health/>

⁵ Note, some ballots total 101% due to rounding

Summary

The following table summarises the recommendations and level of support they received from assembly members.

Recommendation	Support	Oppose	Abstain
How do we rapidly reduce the impact of our homes on climate change?			
Recommendation 1: Council is to lead on training and upskilling the workforce by securing investment, ensuring high standards, harnessing innovation and making the most of local creativity and entrepreneurship such that the green industry is measurably prepared to carry out required improvements within 5 years.	100%	0%	0%
Recommendation 2: Council to take leadership and responsibility for meeting its emissions targets in the housing stock by working in partnership with the business, education and community sectors, creating a programme of implementation to drive community changes.	96%	4%	0%
Recommendation 3: Create innovative financing options including grants, and/or loans to support home owners and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of every home in Bristol.	94%	0%	6%
Recommendation 4: Reduce the fragmentation of all the different sustainability schemes and initiatives by creating and promoting an independent One Stop Shop that contains objective, trustworthy information, in order to provide support right through the process.	93%	2%	6%
Recommendation 5: The Council should introduce a set of tiered Bristol standards (tiers from minimum requirements to best practice aspiration standards) relating to energy consumption and efficiency for all retrofits, building improvements, developments and new builds (domestic and commercial) that are clear and well communicated, and linked to planning regulations.	89%	4%	7%
Recommendation 6: Develop a pilot programme for a street or neighbourhood to showcase what could be achieved if a citywide approach to reaching net zero was taken, with control, coordination and cooperation at a local level.	92%	2%	6%

What changes should we make to our neighbourhoods to make how we travel easier, healthier and better for the environment?

Recommendation 7: Create an inclusive, transparent and accountable process where the council engages together with citizens, businesses and stakeholders to better communicate our climate commitments through a sustainable transport system.	93%	4%	4%
Recommendation 8: Urgently reduce air pollution levels caused by vehicle use to safe and legal levels	95%	0%	6%
Recommendation 9: By 2030, make Bristol the best city internationally to travel around, by prioritising sustainable, safe, healthy, accessible alternatives to the car for all.	89%	4%	7%
Recommendation 10: Fundamentally reimagine the places we live so that they are people centred (i.e. create liveable neighbourhoods).	90%	4%	6%
Recommendation 11: Get people involved and engaged in the planning and implementation of transport initiatives. Make the process accessible, responsive and fun!	89%	4%	7%

How should we tackle health inequalities in Bristol?

Recommendation 12: Prioritise a healthy and inclusive environment for all Bristol citizens and require businesses to act with corporate social responsibility	96%	0%	4%
Recommendation 13: Empower local communities in the decision making process to deliver the services and activities that they want in order to promote healthy lifestyle choices	95%	0%	6%
Recommendation 14: Increase access to diverse and high quality employment opportunities to close the gaps within health inequalities.	95%	0%	6%
Recommendation 15: Increase awareness and access to health information, education and services targeted according to local need	95%	0%	6%
Recommendation 16: All departments of the Council must take on the mandate to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of all citizens in the city with a focus on accountability, partnership and transparency when measuring and using public health data	91%	0%	9%
Recommendation 17: Invest in an equitable start to life from pre-birth to young adults (up to 25)	93%	2%	6%

“How do we rapidly reduce the impact of our homes on climate change?”

Recommendation 1

Council is to lead on training and upskilling the workforce by securing investment, ensuring high standards, harnessing innovation and making the most of local creativity and entrepreneurship such that the green industry is measurably prepared to carry out required improvements within 5 years

Actions

1. Support people currently in relevant industries (building, energy, advice, etc.) to reskill through accredited and subsidised training courses, on the job training
2. Prioritise support to local (focus within Bristol) companies and SMEs – incentives for training, with reskilled companies becoming ambassadors of change.
3. Collaborate with other organisations to set high quality green standards for companies and require approval/accreditation on retrofit/energy improvements
4. Encourage new people to come into the industry – 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)
5. 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

Rationale

The local industry and infrastructure needs to be scaled up to meet targets, so that more efficient options (e.g., air source heat pumps) become the default. To do this, we need to get more people into greener jobs, which will promote and provide opportunities for those industries affected by COVID, future-proof the housing stock and the economy.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
52%	48%	0%	0%	0%

Recommendation 2

Council to take leadership and responsibility for meeting its emissions targets in the housing stock by working in partnership with the business, education and community sectors, creating a programme of implementation to drive community changes

Actions

1. 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
2. Focus support in areas of high deprivation, fuel poverty and poor quality housing, to ensure fairness, while promoting successful schemes as good practice
3. Identify a singular, independent, existing non-profit agency to take on oversight
4. Monitor performance and publicly report on progress against targets, every 6 months, with the opportunity for Council scrutiny: reporting must be something visual and easy to understand.

Rationale

Council is the only authority in the region who can organise and take responsibility for the scaling and speed of change necessary to meet the ultimate 2030 emissions targets.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
50%	46%	4%	0%	0%

Recommendation 3

Create innovative financing options including grants, and/or loans to support home owners and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of every home in Bristol

Actions

1. Provide interest free loans for home sustainability improvements. With repayment over the long term, possibly linked to council tax. Principles should be similar to a student loan, only paid back when you earn over a certain threshold.
2. Provide grants for lower income households. Prioritize grants to ensure equality (means tested). Set clear and transparent criteria around the grant system. Assure safeguards are in place for fair accountability.
3. 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.
4. Provide a central channel/platform for tenants to communicate with council that they want to make sustainability improvements so that the council can require and support the landlord to do this.
5. BCC to explore establishing a centralised green housing fund to supply the above.

Rationale

Financial support to make home efficiency changes to meet net zero target is going to be essential as not everyone will be able to afford this. This needs to be fair whether you own or rent – it's about every home. Everybody in the city needs equal access to finance.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
70%	24%	0%	0%	6%

Recommendation 4

Reduce the fragmentation of all the different sustainability schemes and initiatives by creating and promoting an independent One Stop Shop that contains objective, trustworthy information, in order to provide support right through the process

Actions

1. Create a One Stop Shop for sustainability improvements that is both a website and physical shop with showrooms.
2. Create a staged approach to achieving sustainability improvements, beginning with a home survey (like the Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts thermal imaging survey). Results to be integrated into the One Stop Shop process.
3. Market the One Stop Shop through a city wide marketing campaign. Promote the One Stop Shop as part of the wider Net Zero brand/identity. Have an annual festival, or presence/stall, touring van with volunteers from each community at local community events.
4. Involve young people in the One Stop Shop through creating an education pack for information to bring the One Stop Shop and its principles into schools.

Rationale

All the information is simplified and available in one place making it easier and reducing the steps. Associated marketing creates a buzz around the topic so that more people will be engaged if it's fun and exciting.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
56%	37%	2%	0%	6%

Recommendation 5

The Council should introduce a set of tiered Bristol standards (tiers from minimum requirements to best practice aspiration standards) relating to energy consumption and efficiency for all retrofits, building improvements, developments and new builds (domestic and commercial) that are clear and well communicated, and linked to planning regulations

Actions

1. 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.
2. Implement a set of standards which are required of all landlords and rented properties; these should be higher than current standards i.e. to rent a property out it should have to meet a minimum environmental standard.
3. Establish a system for the council to conduct checking and signing-off that the standards have been met.
4. 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.)
5. 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.

Rationale

It would decrease inequality and promote energy justice and reduce fuel poverty, because landlords would have to improve conditions for tenants.

It would ensure homeowners would have to take reasonable steps towards meeting the new energy consumption and efficiency policies.

It will provide all the information the population needs to make these changes.

It would create jobs and help Bristol recover from Covid-19.

It would work towards the zero-carbon target for 2030. We are in a climate emergency, so this kind of action is needed.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
46%	43%	2%	2%	7%

Recommendation 6

Develop a pilot programme for a street or neighbourhood to showcase what could be achieved if a citywide approach to reaching net zero was taken, with control, coordination and cooperation at a local level.

Actions

1. Introduce an awareness campaign so that local people can understand what is proposed and can come forward and bid to be the pilot project – the enthusiasm and desire to do it has to come from them. Consult local people as a key element in getting everyone together and working with them, identifying small and big wins, and what is realistic for people, including clear information about the investment costs, running costs and savings.
2. Select a street / neighbourhood that enables a combination of owner occupied, social housing and private rental buildings to showcase what can be achieved across all of these types of property. Use existing methods of energy saving and have a clear timeframe for implementing the changes (e.g. 2 years). Provide financial assistance to make it affordable for people to participate to achieve this.
3. Appoint someone accountable with an oversight role, to avoid ‘contracts to mates’ and ensure there is learning from previous ‘renewal areas’ (e.g. Easton, Totterdown, St Werburgh’s.)
4. Go beyond energy to look at the wider environment, looking at on-street charging for electric cars, tree cover, with the aim of creating the ‘ideal environmental neighbourhood’ ‘future street’ and making it a visually stimulating, lovely, livable place.
5. Hold a big party and week-long open event at the end of every street improvement pilot, to celebrate and also open it up for others to come and see, create a buzz, ensure it is joyful and fun, people are excited to do it, and that these kinds of changes are ambitious but doable.

Rationale

It will create jobs; be fair and inclusive; be a good way to normalise making greener home improvements; reduce bills; and create healthier homes.

When it is successful and achieves its aims, it can demonstrate that as a city Bristol can achieve zero-carbon by 2030, it makes it realistic. It sets a standard for the rest of the country. It is a good vehicle to obtain national assistance/funding from central government. There will inevitably be challenges along the way, but we can learn from these, as the constant evaluation and reporting will be essential.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
44%	48%	2%	0%	6%

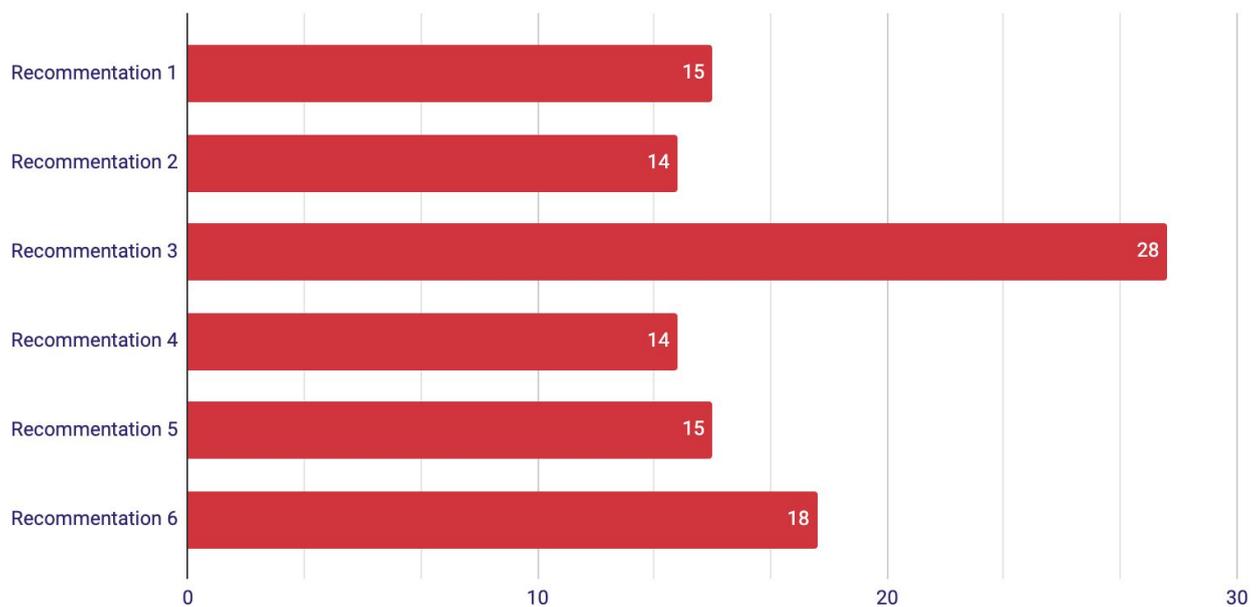
Priority recommendations

Each assembly member was asked to prioritise the two recommendations in the climate topic that they considered to be more urgent and/or important for the council and partners to implement.

The following table shows how the recommendations were prioritised across the assembly.

How do we rapidly reduce the impact of our homes on climate change?

Priority recommendations



“What changes should we make to our neighbourhoods to make how we travel easier, healthier and better for the environment?”

Recommendation 7

Create an inclusive, transparent and accountable process where the council engages together with citizens, businesses and stakeholders to better communicate our climate commitments through a sustainable transport system

Actions

1. Appoint a champion to work with the chair of the *One City* transport board to have responsibility for these recommendations, with a focus on accessibility in local communities.
2. 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.
3. Widen *One City* partners to include all employers with over 300 staff by promoting the benefits of being involved.
4. Establish a working group with key council services and utility suppliers e.g water, gas, broadband etc. to find ways of utilising maintenance budgets to focus on improving neighbourhoods.
5. Publish a clear and concise breakdown of how the transport budget is formed and what organisations contribute to it and how it is spent.

Rationale

Other cities such as Manchester and London have made similar appointments. In Manchester Chris Boardman produced his recommendations and the council were responsible and accountable for implementing them, with Chris Boardman being the public advocate for them. Need for them to champion walking and cycling.⁶

Targets need to be set and assessed regularly to help focus funding and ensure these recommendations are followed.

Currently *One City* partners don't include some of the biggest businesses in the city (e.g Ikea and Lloyds which have thousands of employees and customers). It's important that they are part of the conversation but they will need to understand the benefits.

During a presentation from Walthamstow they highlighted how they make best use of the maintenance budget to help improve neighbourhoods. For example, if a road is being resurfaced, what other work could the council do while they are there to make use of

⁶ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1176/made-to-move.pdf>

resources to benefit the area. Definite need for utility companies to work with council on planning works to limit disruption and share resources.

Across all the presentations, it was clear that funding for different transport projects came from a variety of different organisations, on both national and local level. While lots of this information is in the public domain, it is not collated in an accessible way. Also need to look at how information can be shared on a more local level e.g improvement to a local bus stop.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
41%	52%	2%	2%	4%

Recommendation 8

Urgently reduce air pollution levels caused by vehicle use to safe and legal levels.

Actions

1. Focus funding to areas with high air pollution levels.
2. Publish air pollution levels in neighbourhood's in clear, concise and accessible way e.g signs with pollution levels on.
3. Promote innovative ways to increase carbon effective planting by investing in existing green spaces and better utilising available space in all buildings businesses and houses, etc (e.g living roofs on bus stops).
4. Work with all schools to implement 'Bristol School Streets' - roads being closed during pick up and drop off times.

Rationale

Illegal levels of air pollution are killing people in Bristol. In order to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 there needs to be urgent change. The implementation of a Clean Air Zone is only the start and more needs to be done.

We are aware that there are other contributing factors to air pollution, such as wood burning stoves, however our focus has been on transport.

Implementation of 'Bristol School Streets' would need to be thoroughly assessed to avoid unintended consequences, such as displacement.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
65%	30%	0%	0%	6%

Recommendation 9

By 2030, make Bristol the best city internationally to travel around, by prioritising sustainable, safe, healthy, accessible alternatives to the car for all

Actions

1. Reduce the number of car journeys in Bristol, with year on year targets, so that at least 80% of journeys in 2030 are by active travel and public transport by:
 - a. Increasing provision of affordable buses;
 - b. Establishing a city wide bike, e-bike and cargo e-bikes, e-scooters scheme and car share schemes;
 - c. Transferring 3-5% of road space to cycling, walking and green space every year;
 - d. Transferring 3-5% of street car parking spaces in the city over to cycle parking and shared green space every year;
 - e. Developing a school transport scheme (e.g. yellow school buses, e-scooters and more secure bike storage in schools).
2. Bring the buses back into public ownership e.g Reading buses to improve provision for everyone including a single flat fare (regardless of peak or off peak times) that covers all public and active transport (e.g. funding for bike storage) in West of England Combined Authority (WECA) by 2023.
3. 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.
 - a. Funding for segregated cycle lanes,
 - b. Subsidised bikes (free to people on low incomes/benefits), secure bike storage (residential and in the centre),
 - c. training people to ride bikes safely,
 - d. and maintenance and continued improvements of active travel infrastructure
4. 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.
5. Bristol City Council and WECA to establish a disability and mobility working group, with the aim of increasing provision to all areas of the city and ensuring that transport is truly accessible (e.g enforcing Equality Act compliance).

Rationale

The urgency of the climate crisis demands radical change.

The right to healthy, safe and affordable travel options.

Reducing road traffic fatalities among children must be a priority (globally, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death in 10–19 year olds).

Current situation is negative for (all road users) pedestrians, drivers, cyclists and public transport users, who should be able to travel around the city with ease.

Other cities are leaders in alternative transport initiatives and no reason why Bristol shouldn't be (Oslo, Melbourne).

Progress is being made in other areas to reduce carbon but not private vehicles so we need public and active transport to rival the cost and convenience of car use.

Bringing public transport into public ownership will allow us to improve provision by making it more accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
52%	37%	4%	0%	7%

Recommendation 10

Fundamentally reimagine the places we live so that they are people centred (i.e. create liveable neighbourhoods)

Actions

1. Demonstrate the benefits of liveable neighbourhoods by implementing 5 pilot schemes in the most deprived neighbourhoods in place by end of 2021
2. Implement a city-wide community consultation plan which educates about liveable neighbourhoods so that by the end of 2022 all residents have the opportunity to commit to make their neighbourhood a liveable neighbourhood and to define their neighbourhood's particular priorities (e.g. reducing through-traffic, parks and green spaces, play streets).
3. Introduce, by law or through policy changes, a presumption that all neighbourhoods should be liveable to allow communities to make the changes they would like to see, for example through removing bureaucracy to closing streets for playing out or street gatherings and through streamlining planning and consultation processes and training community liaison officers to.
4. 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.
5. 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).

Rationale

There are many benefits associated with the reduction of through traffic and the giving back of space to pedestrians.

These benefits include better air quality, more social connection, more exercise, better health outcomes, reduced car usage and increased pedestrian safety. Importantly, there is no evidence that reducing through traffic simply displaces it, nor that local businesses suffer.

40% of UK emissions are from transport, and many car journeys we make are unnecessary. Liveable neighbourhoods will reduce our emissions and put the interests of residents back at the heart of our neighbourhoods.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain/DNV
57%	33%	4%	0%	6%

Recommendation 11

Get people involved and engaged in the planning and implementation of transport initiatives. Make the process accessible, responsive and fun!

Actions

1. Offer multiple options, modes and levels of participation in the process in order to promote engagement with diverse opinions.
2. 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).
3. Introduce a city-wide reduced-traffic festival closing road networks in local high streets, with linked funding for communities to implement their own road closures and associated car-free events (e.g. street parties, community gardening) in order to promote reduced car use.
4. Engage businesses in alternative transport initiatives, using data and examples of schemes implemented elsewhere in the UK to demonstrate the benefits; pedestrianisation is good for business.
5. 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.

Rationale

People feel that they have no say over transport decisions, and it is therefore not meeting their needs. There needs to be a refresh of the model of engagement to create an active and healthy dialogue with and between citizens, and listening and responding faithfully to the views expressed, rather than appeasing the vocal dissenters.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain/DNV
44%	44%	4%	0%	7%

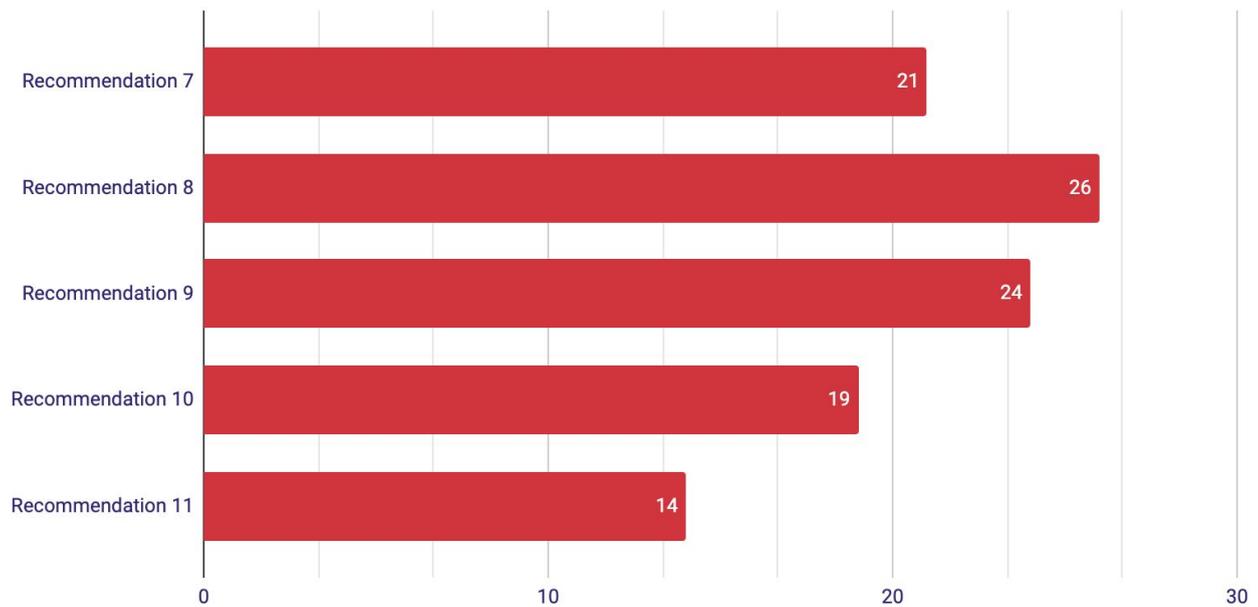
Priority recommendations

Each assembly member was asked to prioritise the two recommendations in the transport topic that they considered to be more urgent and/or important for the council and partners to implement.

The following table shows how the recommendations were prioritised across the assembly.

What changes should we make to our neighbourhoods to make how we travel easier, healthier and better for the environment?

Priority recommendations



“How should we tackle health inequalities in Bristol?”

Recommendation 12

Prioritise a healthy and inclusive environment for all Bristol citizens and require businesses to act with corporate social responsibility

Actions

1. Require local planning agreements such as Section 106 and Master Plans to prioritise communities health needs.
2. Investigate scandinavian housing models and conduct a feasibility study to ensure inclusion, address homelessness and improve the efficiency of poor housing stock where necessary.
3. 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.
4. Legally protect, maintain and commit to increasing green spaces and community facilities (such as toilets) and create an affordable bus route to join communities to green spaces.
5. 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.

Rationale

Urban planning and neighbourhoods should encourage engagement between the generations to build communities and reduce social isolation.

The local environment is important for everyone's physical and mental health.

In Sweden they have a way of making sure the generations interact by the way the houses are designed. In Denmark, everyone has access to a green area, shared green space.

These actions will improve and impact people's mental health.

Ensuring access to leisure facilities for youth will improve mental health, physical health and wellbeing.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
57%	39%	0%	0%	4%

Recommendation 13

Empower local communities in the decision making process to deliver the services and activities that they want in order to promote healthy lifestyle choices

Actions

1. Create a support plan made available for all Bristol citizens who require one based on a person centered approach.
2. 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).
3. Fund and support existing community led organisations that are getting results and mirror their effective practices with new areas and communities.
4. Create a child and youth panel to include young people in the decision making process in establishing drop-in centres and re-establishing youth clubs. Provide support from professionally trained youth workers and relevant young people from the community to share their experience.
5. 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.

Rationale

Trying to fit people's needs into existing services and doing, not asking, doesn't work.

Listen to communities needs because they know what they want/need and developing resources in the area can help communities take ownership for where they live and reduce inequality across communities.

This local community democracy will drive engagement and promote a sense of belonging.

Youth having a place they can call their own gives young people a sense of belonging, ownership and empowerment and a refuge from potential family problems which could contribute to mental health problems.

Establishing something for the youth to reduce health issues in the future and educate young people on healthy choices for long term impact.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain/DNV
56%	39%	0%	0%	6%

Recommendation 14

Increase access to diverse and high quality employment opportunities to close the gaps within health inequalities.

Actions

1. Incentivise businesses with good quality, accredited apprenticeships, training and career pathways through match-funding of wages, contributing towards training/college, support with access costs, and strengthening what currently exists, target areas of high deprivation with rent subsidies to create hubs where needed
2. Initiate PR exercise around different types of jobs – better promotion of jobs that are seen as lower skilled (e.g. carpenter vs desk jobs) but aren't
3. 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
4. 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
5. Language barrier: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

Rationale

We know that employment is one of the indicators for better health outcomes.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
54%	41%	0%	0%	6%

Recommendation 15

Increase awareness and access to health information, education and services targeted according to local need

Actions

1. Put in place local and direct management of health needs utilising existing data (e.g. target GP funding based on local area need, instead of per capita).
2. 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.
3. Replicate and communicate good practice. Identify which services and organisations are already out there and doing a good job and what more is needed then replicate good practice.
4. Utilise 91 Ways as a facilitator of good nutrition through the sharing of food heritage-embed into school curriculum (One Bristol Curriculum).⁷
5. Individuals with complex needs: provide funding for homelessness organisations for post-COVID-19 recovery strategy.

Rationale

Understanding the different needs of different groups for an inclusive and targeted approach because we know this is the most effective approach from the data provided.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
43%	52%	0%	0%	6%

⁷ <https://91ways.org/>

Recommendation 16

All departments of the Council must take on the mandate to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of all citizens in the city with a focus on accountability, partnership and transparency when measuring and using public health data

Actions

1. Every Council department takes responsibility for the health of Bristol citizens – where necessary budgets and resources need to come together to facilitate such decisions.
2. Establish an information network relevant to all stakeholders and users, (including those with protected characteristics⁸), using faster, better data. Use a flow of information which is available to as many people as need it, including community groups. This will promote holistic decision-making and joined up budgets.
3. 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.
4. Allocate funds to preventative measures – we recognise that prevention and small actions now pay dividends later.
5. Establish an independent body to review health inequality information. Use information such as the One City Plan to provide data metrics, and in combination with the citizens assembly reflect and report on health inequalities – disseminate information on relevant media and audiences.
6. Ensure that Bristol continues to improve its inter-racial coherence and fairness in health provision by ensuring meaningful BAME representation and where necessary over-representation in all quarters of health research, data use, management and information dissemination.⁹

Rationale

We have seen examples of good solutions but for nought if we can't have objective criteria and see how things get better, giving evidence for sustainable future plans across the council as a whole.

If we have both bottom up information and opinion (from communities) and data such as costs and use, we can link what people feel and say, for example about shutting swimming pools, with data and 'value'. If shutting a swimming pool was only under one silo its true

⁸ All protected characteristics – (gender, minority groups, sexualiy, disability LGBTQ+) children and young people, adults and the elderly. (We object to the word vulnerable, by the way – we are not incapable or weak)

⁹ Following on from the Runnymede report on racial inequalities – where we were 7th from bottom.

'value' is not apparent. Its value for physical (eg exercise, recovery from operations, obesity), education and mental health (eg bringing families together, fitness) may be missed.

We want oversight of "health" which is not solely the council and NHS and is widely recognised to exist and have citizen input using appropriate media by – age and ethnicity and can include BCFM, Ujima, BBC, Tiktok, facebook, community centres and other physical, audio, visual and social platforms and networks.

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
50%	41%	0%	0%	9%

Recommendation 17

Invest in an equitable start to life from pre-birth to young adults (up to 25)

Actions

1. Address food poverty in children by increasing access to and awareness of culturally diverse nutritional food throughout the school year to avoid attention and learning deficits and improve mental and physical health. A strategy should be in place to achieve this by Christmas 2021.
2. Make existing charities and youth organisations the first point of contact for young people and families. Fund these local and grassroots groups to provide well trained youth leaders to build relationships in the community and deliver a wider range of joined up services.
3. Invest in children and young people's mental health using technologies appropriate to them, which are easily found and advertised digitally, which have an immediate response, and use local organisations to deliver.
4. Advocate to educate parents and train teachers, support staff and peers in schools (or home-school settings) to recognise challenging lives and have difficult conversations about mental health to catch issues early.

Rationale

A focus on early life has the most benefit over a lifetime. Harm has been done to young people through Covid which needs attention through a holistic approach.

We note the very successful holistic examples such as St Paul's nursery, an ex Sure Start centre which now feels like a community hub with a food bank, nutrition training, prenatal, parenting courses, financial advice work etc. For the evidence base in early years and children's health over Covid look at emerging studies like "Born in Bradford".¹⁰

Ballot result

Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Abstain
65%	28%	2%	0%	6%

¹⁰ <https://borninbradford.nhs.uk/>

Priority recommendations

Each assembly member was asked to prioritise the two recommendations in the health topic that they considered to be more urgent and/or important for the council and partners to implement.

The following table shows how the recommendations were prioritised across the assembly.

How should we tackle health inequalities in Bristol?

Priority recommendations

