



The 'One City' Thematic Boards - background and key points 02 May 2019 v1.0

What is a Thematic Board?

Thematic Boards are strategic city-wide boards. Each board is responsible for one of the six themes that make up the One City Plan. These include:

- Health and Wellbeing Board – a statutory board
- Bristol Homes Board
- Learning City Partnership
- Bristol Transport Board
- Environmental Sustainability Board – call of expressions of interest until 20 May
- Economy Board – to be established

The Background

The structure for the One City governance framework was launched in January 2019 as part of the [One City Plan](#) launch (see pages 38-41). The intention was to:

- Bring people together across organisational boundaries to lead the themes in the plan
- To support different sectors to work through their inter-dependencies
- To help build upon the great partnership working already occurring in the city

Prior to January 2019 four boards were already operating in the city that aligned to the six One City themes: Health and Wellbeing, Learning City, Homes and Transport. The intention is that One City does not alter their terms of reference nor change their already agreed priorities (which were used to inform the content of the 2050 One City Plan) instead it makes it easier for those boards to engage with the others. Over 2019 work will be down to develop and embed a shared set of principles across all of the boards and to support the boards to align their activity to achieving the 2050 thematic vision and priorities.

Each board will continue to have its own operating model in response to the needs of their particular sector/theme and where there are statutory obligations (e.g. Health and Wellbeing Board) these will take precedent.

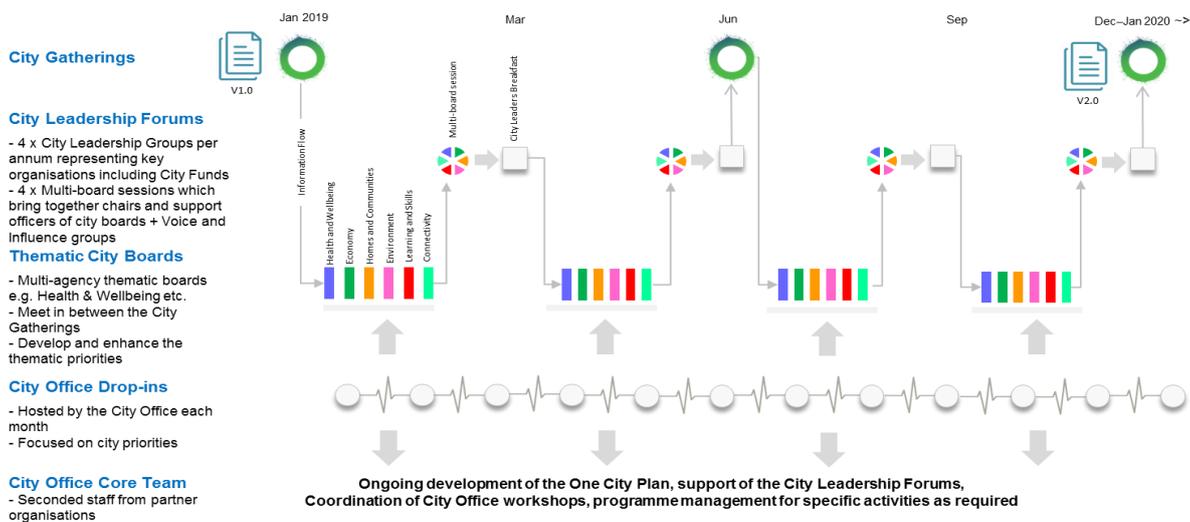
The Boards and the One City Plan

The Boards will be responsible for:

- The refresh of the plan each year and taking contributions, opportunities and challenges from city partners on the plan
- Making offers and asks of each other and key institutions in the city
- Presenting the result of their work at the City Gathering and to the city breakfast group

The One City Governance Structure

One City Leadership



Decision making authority

It is intended that the Boards make informed and evidenced recommendations to decision makers in the city but that individual organisations follow their own decision making processes regarding committing resources and/or changing or adopting policy. This is particularly important for the City Council who must make decisions regarding city-wide policy and/or expenditure of public money in accordance with its constitution and national legislation (e.g. citywide policy decisions must be made in public with 28 days' notice) as well as for the other organisations such as the NHS and the Police for example (non-public organisations however may enable their members on the board to take decisions on their behalf at the board but that is at the discretion of individual organisations).

It is worth noting that some of the boards do have historic delegated authority to make decisions (Learning City, Homes Board and Health & Wellbeing) as set out in the council's constitution however it is not intended that any new boards will have this authority.

What scope is there for change?

Part of a key principle of the whole One City Approach is the ability to learn, adapt and evolve. As a new framework it is the intention that for the first few years it will be regularly reviewed with partners to see how it is operating. This includes identifying any lessons learnt from the setting up of the new boards but also ensuring the existing boards are getting the maximum amount of benefit from the model and making any changes to enable this.

Membership

The membership of the boards and how that membership is decided is a decision for each board. The One City Approach is underpinned by the need to enable inclusion and champion diversity and the City Office will encourage/support all boards to ensure that this continues to be key priority for them in terms of membership. Please note that some boards, like Health and Wellbeing, have a statutory requirements regarding membership.

Wider Engagement

The City Office is currently out to recruitment for an Operations and Stakeholder Engagement Manager and one of their priorities for 2019 is to develop, with partners and community groups, a detailed engagement strategy, a programme of events and to expand the One City communications tools to include podcasts, radio, social media etc.

This work will in turn support the thematic boards with their engagement with different neighbourhoods and communities in the city and particularly in the next iteration of the One City Plan.

This document is intended to be a 'live' document and will be updated as required in response to any questions raised and available on: <https://www.bristoloncity.com/news>