



Bristol One City Economy and Skills Board

Date/time	14:00-16:30, Wednesday 7 th September 2022	
Location	Room 1D01, City Hall	
Co-chairs	Cllr, Craig Cheney, James Durie	
Meeting Attendees:		
Members	Victoria Mathews [VM] (Business West), Cllr. Craig Cheney [CC] (BCC), Sado Jirde [SJ] (Black South West Network - BSWN), Sue Cohen [SC] (Bristol's Women's Commission), Anesa Kritah [AK] (Economic Development - Bristol City Council), Danny Cox [DC] (Hargreaves Lansdown), Carly Heath [CH] (Night Time Economy Advisor - Bristol City Council), Jeremy Hayward [JHay] (The Lloyds Bank South West), Joe Hensey [JH] (upReach), Kathryn Davis [KD] (Visit West), Jane Taylor [JT] (Skills, Bristol City Council), Joanne Ward [JW] (City of Bristol College – CoBC), Susan Macmillan [SM] (Bristol Creative Industries), Dominic Ellison [DE] (The West of England Centre for Inclusive Living - WECIL), Donna Speed [DS] (We the Curious), Poku Osei [PO] (Babassa)	
Observers	Sarah Lynch [SL] (City Office), Octavia Clouston [OC] (City Office), Florence Okowa [FO], (University of the West of England), John Smith [JS] (BCC), Issy Comely [IC] (City Office), Martha Girling [MG] (Hargreaves Lansdown), Nathan Long [NL] (Hargreaves Lansdown), Peter Anderson [PA] (BCC), Lowri Hughson Smith [LHS] (BCC), Clem Teagle [CT] (BCC)	
Invitees		
Apologies	James Durie [JD] (Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative / Business West), Sam Holliday [SH] (Federation of Small Businesses), Nick Lee [NL] (Paragon Costs Solutions), Barra Mac Ruairí [BMR] (University of Bristol - UoB), Dan Knox [DK] (University of the West of England - UWE)	
ITEM	ACTIONS	
1) Welcome and City Office Update Presentation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Introduction from Chairs The Chairs gave Guillian Castle's apologies for the meeting and stated that the slide pack will be shared in full after the meeting Sarah Lynch gave an update from the City Office– (see paper 1) 		
2) Organisational Updates		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairs introduced the next agenda item – the Chairs asked the board members to each share a success, a challenge and ask. KD flagged that, in terms of visitor economy after summer, it is a mixed bag, they've seen the return of some international spend which is a lot of the leisure economy – September will include business events and conferences and the start of the trade season which is a pipeline of development of business. The big concern is business operation within COL – in the leisure economy it's the lack of spend for leisure activities – school trips being self-funded means a sharp decline in school visits which hits the cultural sector – investment is going to business events with a lighter touch in terms of domestic leisure. 		

- CH flagged that the Night Time Economy is in a similar place to the visitor economy due to energy rates and COL influencing consumer interest and engagement – the world cup is coming which should encourage patronage – Bristol nights has just launched an online course for tackling sexual harassment in the Night Time Economy– there are sessions in venues across the city and online drop-in sessions.
- JW stated that the College has completed the 16-19 enrolment period – their ask is ‘anything anyone can do to help learners with work experience, internships and apprenticeships would be welcome.’ They are facing similar challenges around COL.
- SC stated that the biggest challenge is affordable childcare and the focus this year is on the caring economy, partnering with the CoBC and the University of Bristol on a learning day focused on the Caring Economy, also supported by BCC and Women’s voice – event is on the 18th of October – SL asked SC to send this info for distribution
- JHay flagged the issue of inflation rates and stated that they are not seeing huge customer impacts but are seeing a lot of vulnerability. They expect the next 18 months to be a very challenging period and are working with debt management charities
- DC stated that the asset management industry is weak at the moment due to the macro environment and claimed that it’s a long-term problem of people reducing investment and savings
- SJ flagged the impact of the COL both on businesses and community organisations and stated that the BSWN have a survey out on this issue which they will be sharing shortly – they’ve just launched the second green skills pilot programme with UWE.
- JH flagged that they have supported 3000 students to get into graduate roles – a lot of students are being affected by the COL both in and immediately out of university (impacting their ability to relocate and their access to opportunities) – opportunities are becoming more local to address this
- SM stated that they have just launched a report based on 6 months of research called creative force to be reckoned with (which will be shared) responding to themes from research. The conclusions: we need to work more closely in partnership across the city – we need to foster the right environment for the sector to thrive – SM’s area is talent development and they need better access to talent training and skills at the college and university level – their challenge is supporting young people to develop these skills and training. Accommodation is a real issue for young people.
- John Smith [JS] stated that the biggest challenge is that the council is being affected by COL and inflation issues. They are trying to balance the budget and be creative to find solutions for support for key organisations in the city – success is having the One City Infrastructure as having communication, collaboration and converting this into action is key – his ask is for information about who needs support and what are the areas of greatest vulnerability.
- JT raised the COL and the uptick in take up of employment and skills services, particularly the One Front Door (homeless individuals, single and young parents, migrants and refugees) many of whom were experiencing hardship before this and are dreading the winter – a success is that there is a huge appetite in the city for action and innovation and addressing this challenge across all sectors.

SC to send information about the learning day to the City Office for distribution.

SM to send the ‘Creative Force to be Reckoned With’ Report to the City Office for distribution.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LHS (senior project manager on the Temple Quarter Project) stated that their biggest challenge is inflation and resourcing which they are hoping to address that with a funding bid to WECA – in terms of success the programme has secured £95mil of funding which helps deliver significant enabling infrastructure which unlocks the potential of the programme (new homes, employment and skills opportunities) - the key is to make the most of the opportunity • CT, focusing purely on the Comms side, stated that the biggest challenge for the Temple Quarter project is reaching the right people at the right time. Success is the major opportunity that the project represents. Their ask is: how do we best engage with you as the project goes on, to leverage your networks etc.? • PO flagged that the OurCity2030 initiative is making a bold move to support at least one young person from each inner-city household to achieve a median salary by 30 years old. The success is that resource has been found in partnership with ARUP, The Princes Trust and the University of Bristol. Information about the launch date will be sent out shortly. The challenge is that they need a programme manager to design the implementation, as well as the impact of the COL on talent retention and acquisition – when Babbasa release the initial report, they will be looking to do roundtable events and are keen to call on board members. • DE stated that next month WECIL is launching a new sub-brand which is spinning out of the existing economy and skills board work on existing organisations to be more inclusive – they will also be delivering a new membership model to support this. The ask of those organisations will be providing opportunities for disabled job seekers. Challenges – COL – they’re having to restructure where their work is going, from services to help people thrive to services to help them survive. They are trying to link up with services that provide funding direct to citizens to allow individuals to fund the services their disabilities require. A lot of the current demand is about bringing disabled people back to work – they’re doing a lot of consulting work to create accessible and inclusive work environments – the demand is so high that they’re looking into cohort support and would welcome linking up with board members on that. Additionally, there’s only one accessible conference space in the west of England and it’s to be re-developed. However, Legal and General are developing a conference space in Temple Quarter and he would like to link in with the relevant project manager on making that accessible. • DS stated that their challenge has been water damage after the fire which has meant that We The Curious has been closed. Alongside the COL, this is having a significant impact on the staff which is having an impact on wellbeing. A success has been that they’re insured! They’ve taken their activities off-site and proven that they’re not just a venue and they’ve been able to deliver free services. They’re now focusing on supporting deprived schools. No clear ask yet but stand by. • VM flagged that Business West have their quarterly economic survey out which feeds into the British Chamber Network and encouraged businesses to fill this in to shape Business West's National Activity. • CC reiterated what JS reported and flagged the impact of construction cost inflation on the ongoing capital projects. 	<p>PO to send information about the Launch event for Our City 2030 to the City Office for distribution.</p> <p>City Office to facilitate a link between DE and the Temple Quarter Team</p> <p>VM encouraged businesses to fill in the Business West quarterly economic survey to shape Business West's National Activity.</p>
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3) People and Labour Markets - Martha Girling [MG], Nathan Long [NL]

- MG and NL gave a presentation on financial resilience from Hargreaves Lansdown (see paper 1)
- MG explained that Hargreaves Lansdown is a Financial Services firm headquartered in Bristol. They are focusing on financial resilience and the idea of democratising the knowledge that financial advisors have in order to drive better financial planning decisions for everyone.
- Their goal is to ask employers to use their framework – between now and Christmas the plan is to engage with employers to see how they can adopt this framework
- The ask is: advocate this tool to your wider networks

Discussion

- CC asked that this could be presented at the next COL webinar
- SC asked about disaggregated statistics on gender, ethnicity, single parenthood etc.
- NL answered that they try and cut across as many data types as possible and unfortunately gender doesn't feature as the data is collected by household. They weren't authorised to collect data by ethnicity. Single parent status is included.
- FO asked: are you looking at using citizen generated data? – NL answered not within the next 12 months but there is a long-term goal to collect as much rich data as is possible.
- SJ asked for access to the presentation, SL confirmed that it will be sent out after the meeting.

4) Economic Development Briefing - John Smith [JS], Anesa Kritah [AK]

- JS reported on the takeaways from the webinar this morning: inflation and the energy crisis are crippling for SMEs though impactful for all – and we need to better incorporate charitable organisations into these conversions and support packages
- JS reported that Bristol City Council is still dealing with the impacts of COVID and their efforts to mitigate those.
- AK gave an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Living Wage. One of the key challenges facing the delivery of council services is the limited funding sources (See paper 1)

Discussion

- KD asked about the training for hospitality in high streets and flagged the training they offered for businesses to access international markets and suggested linking up.
- SM asked about future workforce development – AK answered that there is an existing programme that they are looking to extend across the region.
- SC asked what support there is for charities and in particular for smaller groups who find it difficult to put in an application, and are the LEPs closed down? - VM and AK answered that the LEPs are still in existence but acknowledged that there is some uncertainty over this. AK answered that any support for business includes any volunteer and third sector organisations – SC asked if this is in communication – AK confirmed that it will be once the investment plan has been approved by central government.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JHay asked if the numbers on the first slide indicating is available everywhere – AK answered no, 10M and 3M is regional money and flagged that we need to make sure the money is focused on grassroots. • DE asked if the ERDF is being appropriately reported on? AK answered that it will be light touch this year but likely to intensify. • AK reported on the Living Wage (see paper 1) • AK stated that their Ask is, if you think you're paying living wage then inform BCC so they can get you accredited. • CH asked if this living wage data is broken down by sector – AK answered not yet. • DE asked if there are projected losses to the Living Wage Accreditation as the COL increases – AK confirmed • AK encouraged Board members to email her with any questions: anesa.kritah@bristol.gov.uk 	
5) Business and Investment – Pete Anderson [PA]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Anderson [PA] introduced himself as the director for property assets and the Director of Management of Place for the Council and gave a presentation on City Leap – (See paper 1) <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JW raised the point of 1000 new jobs, apprenticeships and work placements and asked: does the contract have a breakdown of this target (in Bristol vs elsewhere etc) and what's the plan for linking in with other employers – PA answered that Ameresco is updating their business plan at the moment, but those figures are relevant to Bristol and they will be held to account for them. • DE asked if WECIL can consult on the KPIs associated with this project – PA confirmed, and SL flagged that the City Office will make those links after the meeting. • SM asked: are there specifics about the sort of projects that can apply to the available funding – PA agreed to send through that info when he has it but confirmed that it is very broad. • FO asked: when you are doing this transition to net zero, do you look at how it will impact the most vulnerable in Bristol – PA answered that this is a priority • AK flagged that the high-level stats around the number of apprenticeships and jobs are relevant to the two Board task and finish groups, particularly around the demand for green skills, meaning that the details about the green skills pipeline are really important to the conversation. AK asked if PA would come to the next task and finish group to detail this further – PA agreed and flagged the ethos of the two partner organisations within City Leap which are very focused on green outcomes. • CH asked how City Leap addresses buildings that are already built – PA answered that this is something to address further. 	<p>SL to link up PA and DE regarding WECIL's offer of consultation on the KPIs for the City Leap Project.</p> <p>GC to invite PA to the green skills task and finish group.</p>
6) Bristol Places Presentation - Lowri Hughson Smith [LHS], Clem Teagle [CT]	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LHS and CT gave a presentation on the Temple Quarter Project – (see paper 1) • LHS explained that the Temple Quarter Area is everywhere seen on the map within the pink line • LHS flagged that the team welcomes opportunities to give externals a tour of the site • CH flagged that the last time there was business consultations in the surrounding area was late 2019 and highlighted that there has been significant development to that area since then. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD flagged that the coach park for the city is in that site and is incredibly important to many businesses in the culture sector • AK suggested a separate session to ask all these questions and potentially visit the site. 	<p>AK and SL to explore setting up a Q&A between Board Members and the Temple Quarter Project Team.</p>
<p>7) Innovation Presentation - Issy Comely [IC]</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC introduced herself as the Bristol Innovation Group Intern and gave a presentation on her Global Research report and thanked SL for administrating - (see paper 1) • IC flagged that her assignment has been a global horizon scan of innovation research. • IC shared her email address and encouraged Board Members to get in touch with any questions. 	