

BRISTOL ONE CITY

Economy and Skills Board

Date/time	16.01.25
Location	City Hall
Co-chairs	Cllr. Andrew Brown – Committee Chair, Economy and Skills Committee Palie Smart – Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Civic Engagement, University of Bristol
Attendees	Victoria Matthews (Business West) Alex Richards (Western Training Provider Network) Laura Fogg-Rogers (University of the West of England) Lauren Gillis (Future Leap – deputising for Megan Gallagher) Tim Westwood (Kier Construction) Matthew Hatcher (NatWest Commercial Banking Business) Steve Bluff (Redcliff and Temple BID & Visit West) Phil Stott (YTKO) Dan White (Rovers Foundation) Stephen Bashford (West of England Combined Authority) Natalie Doherty (City of Bristol College) Danny Cox (Hargreaves Lansdown) Sam Holliday (FSB) Sue Cohen (Women's Commission) Anesa Kirtah (Head of Economic Development, Bristol City Council) Jane Taylor (Head of Employment, Skills and Learning, Bristol City Council)
Apologies	Heloise Balme (Bristol Food Network) Lis Anderson (Bristol Creative Industries) Joe Hensey (UpReach) Molly Byne (Bristol and Bath Regional Capital) Dominic Eliosn (WECIL) Melanie Monaghan (Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership)
Presenters & Observers	Judith Langdon (City Office), Karen Blong (City Office), Naomi Lynch (Board Support), Suhuur Kulmiye (Policy Apprentice), Paul Gauntt (Employment, Skills and Learning), Donna Woodland (Employment, Skills and Learning), Simon Cowley (Bristol Temple Quarter LLP), Caroline Bird (University of Bristol), Ed Atkins (University of Bristol).
ITEMS	
1) Welcome & Introductions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB welcomed board members – both new and returning – and explained his role as Policy Committee Chair of the Economy & Skills Committee. AB reflected on the high calibre of applicants to join the board as part of the recent board refresh, and also thanked Victoria Matthews for all her work as co-chair during her term. 	

- AB reminded board members of the One City 'Ask' and 'Offer' approach, and encouraged board members to be proactive in taking requests to and from the board to their organisations and wider work.
- Board members were invited to introduce themselves and their roles, with further opportunity for networking at the end of the meeting.

2) Tackling Education & Employment Inequality

- JT presented on the opportunity for businesses and employers to work together to address education and employment inequality in Bristol, drawing on a best practice case study from Sweden.
- Board members were asked to reflect on what role their organisation could take to address inequality
- AB reflected that Bristol City Council will play a coordination and facilitator role in trying to bring initiatives together to work more effectively and coherently for the benefit of the city.

ASK: Board members to email AB and JT with any ideas of how to take this work forward

3) City Office Updates

- **Induction:** An induction session was held for board members on the 9th January, a recording of this will be circulated
- **City Gathering:** planning for the next City Gathering is underway – it will be held in late April. Board members are asked to flag if there are any significant events around this time that we should be cognisant of when scheduling.
- **Governance & funding update:** following a meeting of the governance board in January, City Office will be reviewing their funding model and making some changes to their staffing structure. JL informed the board that this would be Karen Blong's final Economy & Skills Board and thanked her for her support over the last few years.
- **One City Plan:** JL informed the board of plans to refresh the One City Plan, which will involve a broad approach to make sure that work isn't siloed and that collaboration across boards is a key component of the plan. A working group will be established to steer the refresh, board members were asked to approach AB & PS to express their interest in being involved.

4) BCC Economy & Skills Policy Committee

- AB updated on the work of the Economy & Skills Policy Committee- the forward plan for which can be [viewed here](#)
- The February E&S Policy Committee agenda includes the new Economic Strategy (which the ESB was involved in the development of) and the Harbour Placeshaping Strategy – which will look at infrastructure in and around the floating harbour.
- Other work coming up for the Committee includes the Western Harbour Masterplan and a number of public hearings on the Local Plan.

5) Green Skills Updates

- Caroline Bird and Ed Atkins provided an update on their research around green skills, with a particular focus on supporting the community in Lawrence Weston to access green skills.

Asks: CB and EA to follow-up with NL (BCC) around how we can ensure the outcomes of this research are fed into the Severn Estuary Growth Zone, as part of the Local Growth Plan.

Offers: PS asked if CB/EA were connected with RetroFit West CIC and offered to broker a connection if useful.

Offers: SB noted that the MCA have been involved in this work and are interested in the results of the research. The MCA are keen to ensure that this work is taken forward as part of the LGP development.

6) Discussion: How do we support Bristol job seekers into work or better work?

- Jane Taylor and Paul Gaunt gave a presentation on current levels of unemployment in Bristol and the existing programmes and initiatives that are available. Board members were asked to consider what they could do to help spread the word and get more employers on board, as well as think about their own work and opportunities to create inclusive training and career pathways.
- PS shared that the University Court recently had a meeting focused on future skills and thinking about revitalising a learning environment, this work could link in with work to support job seekers into work/better work.
- LFR shared that UWE are currently running a project with WPTN and the City of Bristol College involving schools, communities and job centres. They are planning to organise a 'green and healthy future fair' in community centres (including in Lawrence Weston, St Pauls, Glenside, Docklands and others) over the next few months. The fair will include family-oriented sessions in the day (including STEM engagement) and then evening sessions focus on people not in employment/education/training.

Ask: Board members were asked to follow up with Jane Taylor outside of the meeting if they had any ideas that could be taken forward.

7) Building Bristol: support employment and skills outcomes through major developments (including Bristol Temple Quarter)

- Simon Cowley presented on the development at Bristol Temple Quarter, including next steps. Donna Woodland updated on the Building Bristol programme.
- DW informed board members that all major planning applications in Bristol are required to have an Employment & Skills Plan – often they need two (one for the construction period and one for the end-use of the site)

Offer: DW will share resources with board members around the Building Bristol offer, including the support available to help small to medium businesses, who play a key part in the supply chain, to meet their social value objectives.

Ask: Board members asked to sign-up to share opportunities for work experience, careers events or other opportunities through the Building Bristol programme.

8) AOB

- Next meeting: 24th April 2025

Summary of Asks, Offer and Actions

ASKS

From	To	Overview
Jane Taylor	All board members	Board members to email AB and JT with any ideas of how to take this work forward
Judith Langdon	All board members	board members were asked to approach AB & PS to express their interest in being involved.
Naomi Lynch	Caroline Bird / Ed Atkins	CB and EA to follow-up with NL (BCC) around how we can ensure the outcomes of this research are fed into the Severn Estuary Growth Zone, as part of the Local Growth Plan.
Jane Taylor	Board Members	Board members were asked to follow up with Jane Taylor outside of the meeting if they had any ideas on supporting jobseekers into work that could be taken forward.
Donna Woodland	Board Members	Board members asked to sign-up to share opportunities for work experience, careers events or other opportunities through the Building Bristol programme.

OFFERS

From	To	Overview
Stephen Bashford	Caroline Bird / Ed Atkins	SB noted that the MCA have been involved in this work and are interested in the results of the research. The MCA are keen to ensure that this work is taken forward as part of the LGP development.
Palie Smart	Caroline Bird / Ed Atkins	PS asked if CB/EA were connected with RetroFit West CIC and offered to broker a connection if useful.
Donna Woodland	Board	DW to share resources with board members around the Building Bristol offer, including the support available to help small to medium businesses, who play a key part in the supply chain, to meet their social value objectives.

Economy & Skills Board Goals 2023/24

2023/24	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The city is supporting Bristol's early years and childcare sector by ensuring any national government legislation changes are most effectively benefitting Bristol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender, race, ethnicity and disability pay gaps are decreasing due to improved skills pathways and mentoring with routes to access senior employment opportunities (part-time and flexible)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">There is an ongoing upward trend in employment opportunities for young people, care leavers, older people and adults with learning difficulties and disabilities through local coordination and support for appropriate paid work experience and trainee / apprenticeship programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following work in 2023, Bristol's skills provision reflects our economy's required skills (e.g. jobs which address the climate and ecological emergencies) and builds career opportunities for those traditionally underserved and/or living in our most deprived communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A major events and festival programme celebrating the 650th anniversary of Bristol becoming a city is part of a refreshed campaign (including the Bristol Homecoming Campaign) to increase sustainable tourism, in line with the findings from the International Year of Sustainable Tourism 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide increased business start-up and scale-up spaces with strong digital access to grow industry clusters and broaden entrepreneurship participation, particularly among underrepresented groups and sectors impacted by the pandemic and/or Brexit e.g. the care sector and hospitality