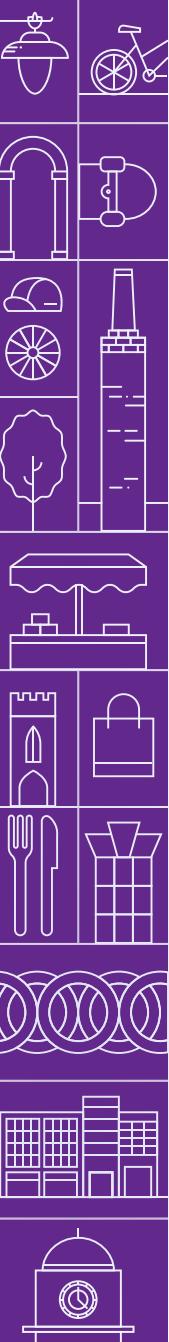


APRIL 2022



# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - IMPROVING OUR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

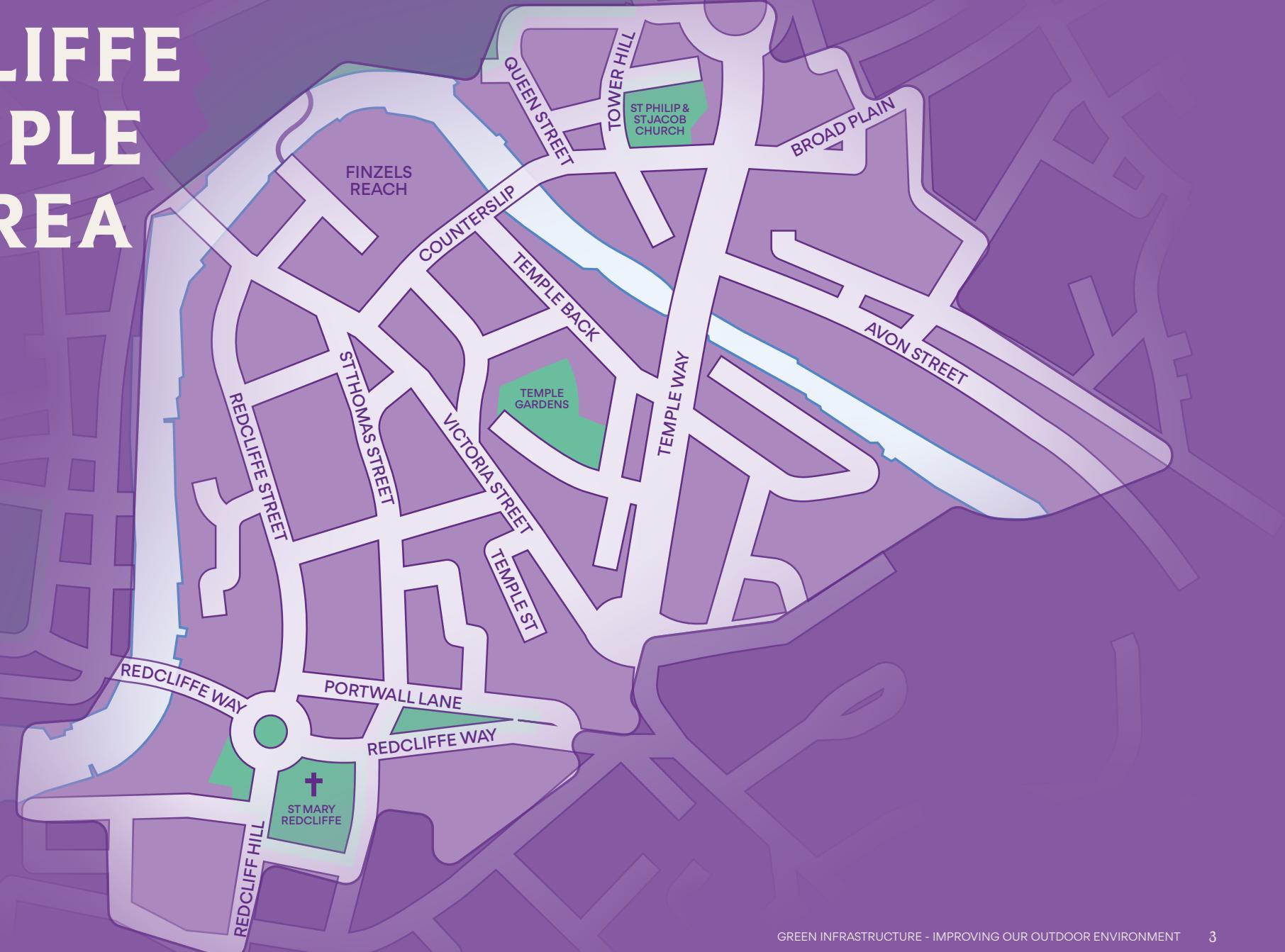
## ACTION PLAN

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# MAP OF REDCLIFFE & TEMPLE BID AREA



# INTRODUCTION

**Redcliffe and Temple BID appointed Landsmith Associates in Autumn 2021 to facilitate, guide and develop a Green Infrastructure Action Plan.**

The Green Infrastructure Action Plan (GIAP) explores and develops the BID's vision, business plan and survey outcomes from November 2019. The BID's vision includes the following five themes that emerged as the priorities for the vision:

1. Creating & maintaining quality spaces
2. Improving sustainability & the environment
3. Creating & promoting a vibrant place
4. Connecting & representing businesses
5. Building a safe & caring community

This report was informed by an outline site appraisal, various client and stakeholder meetings. The outcomes of the appraisal and vision informed the themes for the series of four online stakeholder workshops, three exploratory walks in different part of the BID area and an online survey:

1. Cities in Nature
2. Cooling Cities
3. Creating Social Spaces
4. Designing Spaces with Women

In response to the BID's vision, emerging ideas and suggestions from the stakeholder engagement, this GIAP also includes various interlinking ideas related to the built and natural environment (external and internal).

**The key purpose to this project are to provide:**

- Site appraisal overview appraisals and assessments that look beyond the BID boundary
- Any GI future proposals considered would be within the BID boundary only but connect with the wider area

**The BID would like to focus on:**

- Develop green infrastructure initiatives to provide short-, medium- and long-term ideas, pilot projects, activities, events, installations as part of cohesive proposals with precedents
- Provide a decision-making gateway or principles to filter future projects

The outcomes of these activities and interventions will help inform and guide a future green infrastructure strategy. The project's focus is on working together to shape the future of the area with stakeholders and interested parties (public and private) to develop the GI.





# OUTLINE SITE APPRAISAL

There are various international, national, regional (WECA) and local policies, guidance and aspirations as well as emerging research related to the BID area.

**'A LARGE AREA OF THE BID IS AT HIGH FLOOD RISK; ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY FLOOD ZONE 3.'**

- Primary GI spaces within the BID are:
  - The Floating Harbour
  - Temple Gardens
  - St Mary Redcliffe Churchyard
  - The Quaker Burial Grounds
- Hard landscape; car parks and roads dominate the outdoor environment
- The area is within historic Redcliffe Conservation Area

**'THE BID AREA HAS THE LOWEST TREE CANOPY COVER IN BRISTOL AT 10% TO 12.5%; BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL AIMS TO INCREASE TREE CANOPY TO 25%.'**

- There are several tree-lined streets (primarily London Plane trees), mainly to the east of the area and southern boundary

**'THE AREA IS OF VERY HIGH RISK TO HEAT VULNERABILITY INDOORS AND OUTDOORS ENVIRONMENTS WITH MAJOR IMPACT, SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY'**

From the emerging Heat Resilience Plan for Bristol

- Within wetland and river opportunities of improvement – for example WECA Nature Recovery Network
- Each organisation to identify its contribution to 30% managed for nature linked to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and funds (One City Ecological Plan)
- Portwall Lane, Victoria Street, Counterslip and Redcliffe Street are the most popular routes for runners and cyclists
- There are various on going projects, developments and events within BID. For example, Stitch Redcliffe Neighbourhood Development Plan, Temple Gardens and Festival of Nature

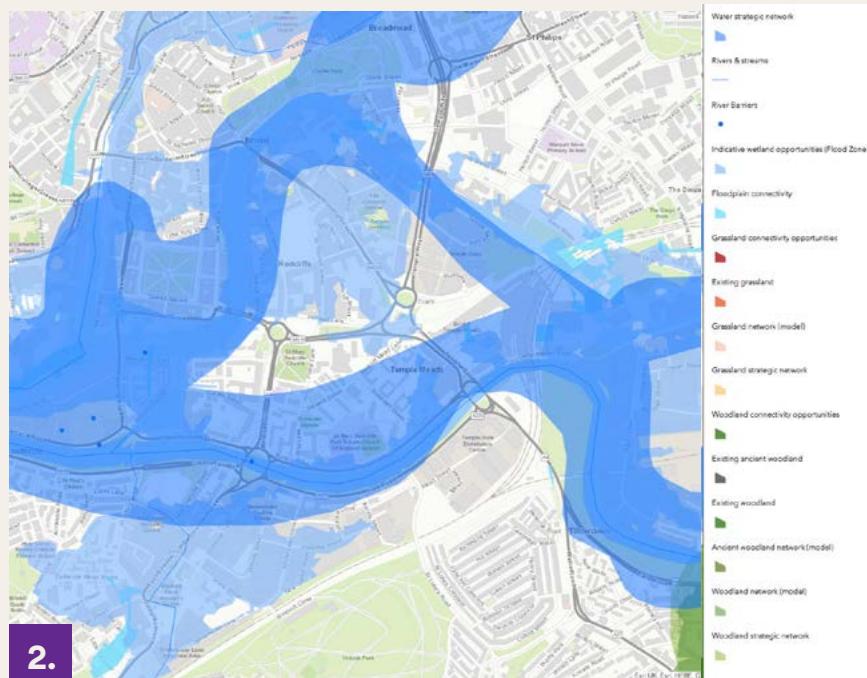
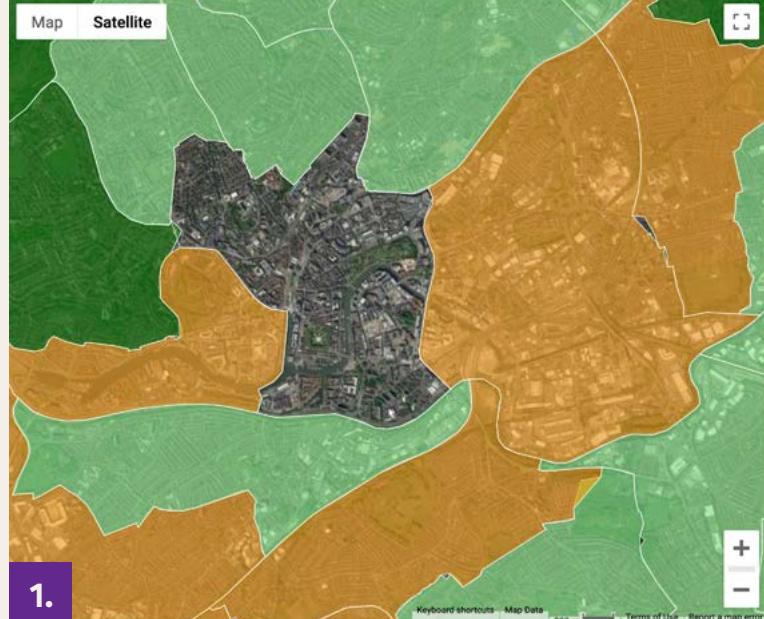
**'GIRLS AND WOMEN DO NOT USE A CITY'S PUBLIC SPACES TO THE SAME EXTENT AS BOYS OR MEN. FROM THE AGE OF EIGHT, 80% OF THE PUBLIC SPACES CAN BE DOMINATED BY BOYS, AND GIRLS FEEL SIGNIFICANTLY MORE INSECURE AND EXCLUDED.'**

Her City, UNHABITAT

## WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

Green Infrastructure (GI): a network of routes and spaces, waterways for wellbeing, water and wildlife. Including outdoor environment, buildings and activities. Green Infrastructure (GI) has no boundaries.

% canopy cover from 0 to 14 from 14 to 23 above 23



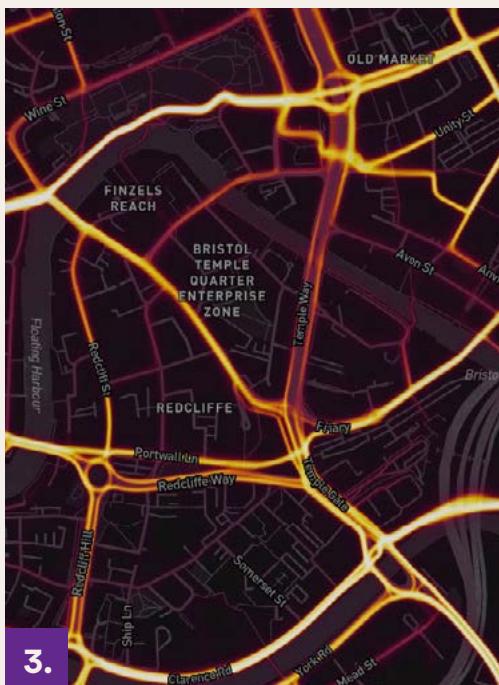
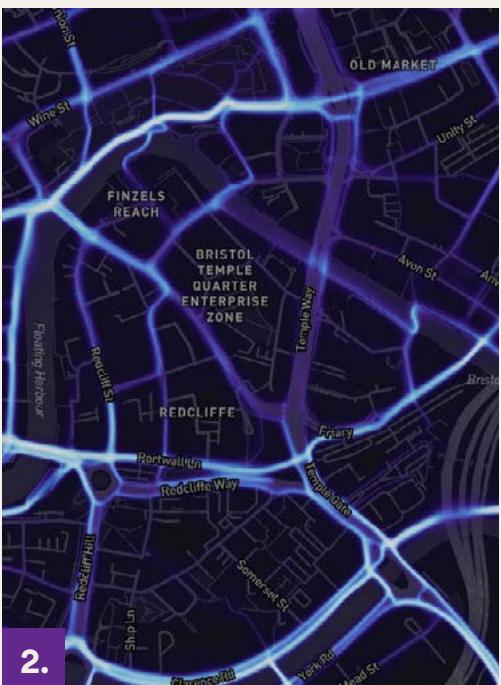
## Images:

### 1. Tree Canopy Cover

“Bristol ranks as the 5th greyest city in England”. This plan of the Central ward area and forms part of the BID area with data showing extent of tree canopy survey from Bristol Tree Forum, iTree Canopy Cover.

### 2. West of England Nature Recovery Network

An excerpt of the strategic plan from West of England Nature Partnership (WENP,2018) of the BID area. The NRN is a joined up network of marine and terrestrial habitats where nature and people can thrive. More than a map, it is an active, adaptive spatial plan that identifies the best opportunities to deliver nature’s recovery.



## Images:

### 1. Flood Risk Zone

The Environment Agency's plan shows the BID within a large extent of high Flood Risk Zone 3. For a future resilience against flooding, for example, retrofit Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) on streets, green roofs for storage etc.

### 2. Strava Heat map for cycling

### 4. Strava Heat map for runners

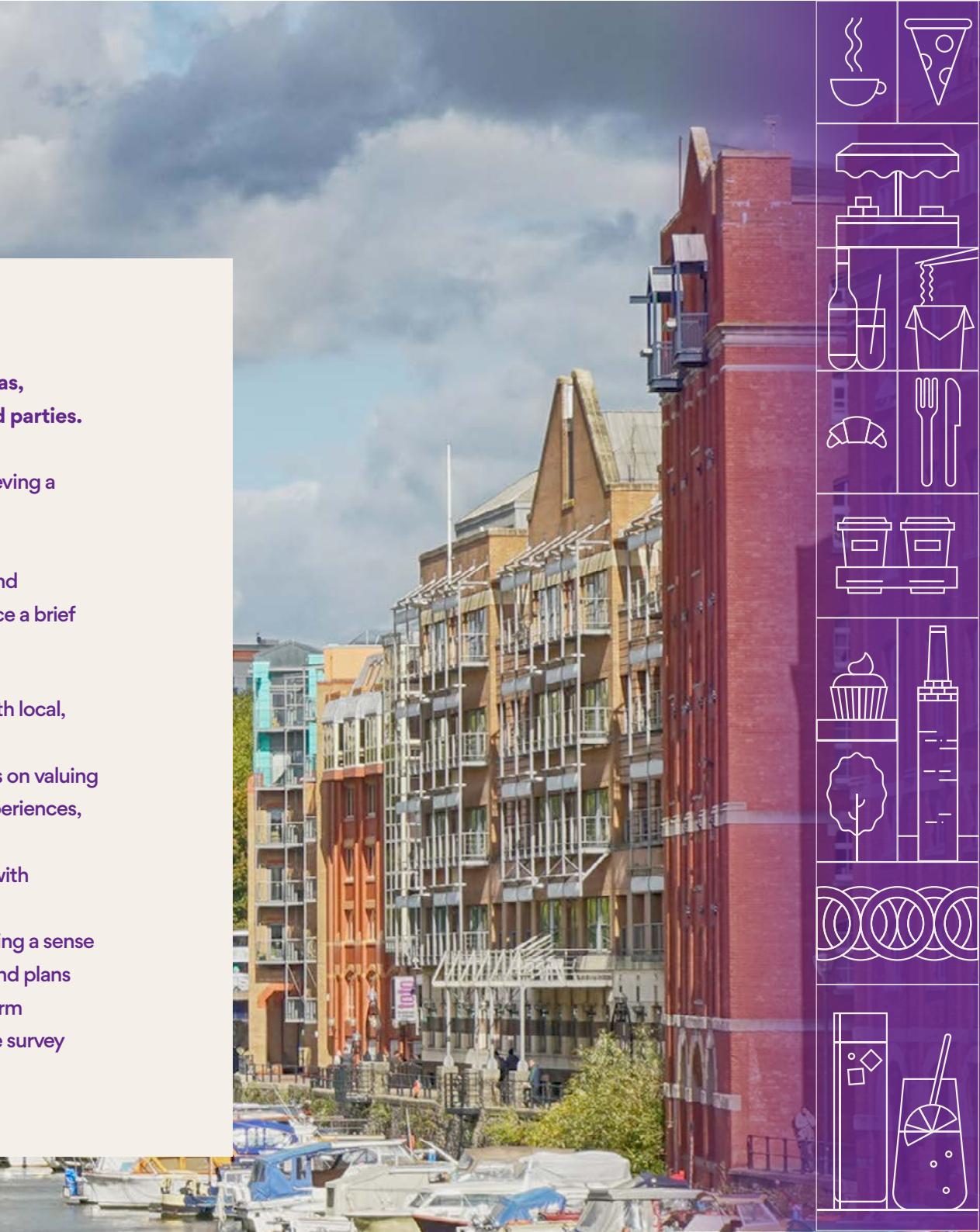
# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A major part of this project's process was seeking view, ideas, partnerships and learning from stakeholders and interested parties.

A collaborative approach leads to a higher success rate of achieving a common goal and longer-term stewardship.

Our approach is to develop various co-creation engagement and activities as people respond to different methods to co-produce a brief and goals. Also to;

- Align the BID around environmental visions and actions with local, national and international policy and guidance
- Encourage an active, meaningful engagement that focuses on valuing perspectives, quality over quantity, gathering collective experiences, perceptions and interests linked to the themes
- Explore opportunities for partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders, including forming working groups
- To co-create with over 50 participants and stakeholders, bring a sense of ownership and value to the process and future actions and plans
- These workshops' key priorities and outcomes were to inform subsequent activities; three exploratory walks and an online survey



Four key themes were developed to guide the engagement process. These are directly linked to United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG'S), national and local policies and guidance, and the BID's business plan. These four workshops were completed in November 2021.

### COOLING CITIES

Average city temperatures could increase as much as 4°C by the year 2100. Cities are already up to approximately 10°C hotter than surrounding areas; this is called the 'Urban Heat Island Effect'. Cities need to cool down to save lives and reduce the impact on the economy and nature.

### CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

For people to enjoy cities and spaces, they need to feel safe and have a right to a healthy environment. The success of businesses depends on many things, and one of these is providing a safe and secure environment for all.

### DESIGNING SPACES WITH WOMEN

Research shows that girls and women do not use a city's public spaces to the same extent as boys or men. From the age of eight, 80% of the public spaces can be dominated by boys, and girls feel significantly more insecure and excluded.

### CITIES IN NATURE

There are various opportunities for cities to become stepping stones for nature and to enable wildlife to thrive in urban areas. Nature also supports the health and well-being of the people that live in cities, offering benefits like stress reduction and opportunities for social connection.



# KEY OUTCOMES: ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The key outcomes have assisted in informing future projects, schemes and activities, forming new partnerships and the ongoing online survey.

## COOLING CITIES

- Develop green living walls (climbers)
- Improve access to the river by adding places to sit and enjoy the water
- Improve communications, awards and events about the scale of the urban heat island effect challenge and highlight good practices to local businesses
- Design a range of places to sit, especially in summer

## CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

- Add more trees to make the area more attractive and welcoming
- Activate the street facing windows; create a Window Wanderland event to bring life to the area after dark
- Develop cultural and community partnerships to curate a sense of place and identify passions
- Plan a range of temporary interventions to test ideas e.g. seating and parklets
- Work with key landowners to develop an agreement regarding use of public space, e.g. London Public Space Charter

Over 40 stakeholders participated in the four online workshops in November 2021. The images are a selection of some of the pictures submitted by attendees as part of the workshop process and workshops virtual white boards.

Below are some quotes from the workshops:

'Spaces may need to be used/have activity to give a safer feel  
-CCTV gives no confidence'

'Make a place feel welcoming to diverse cultures'

'Reach out to businesses in terms of impact they're having on the area - energy bills and temperatures are going to rise'

## CITIES IN NATURE

- Connect people with nature via the City Nature Challenge and signage to highlight species
- Create a pilot or demonstration project to show how we can increase diversity
- Map and highlight our local green spaces
- Organise volunteer days in our local parks and greenspaces
- Clean up our river via community litter picks
- Create floating reed beds to encourage nature

## DESIGNING SPACES WITH WOMEN

- Develop a range of inviting, fun street furniture and spaces to sit
- Identify and promote safe, well lit, attractive routes around the area and improve signage
- Promote Bristol's Community Toilet Scheme and encourage cafés and offices to sign up
- Create a series of fun art and cultural installations, and Improve street lighting



# KEY OUTCOMES: EXPLORATORY WALKS ENGAGEMENT

Building on the themes from the workshops, exploratory walks took place to further explore the BID area with stakeholders.

Increase biodiversity and variety of planting species in existing green spaces and under trees - 'Nibble' at reducing hard landscape and create shade, make the area more visually pleasant, diversify surfaces of high rise buildings, increasing planters / green walls and structures, encourage residents to contribute to greening, e.g. by making a balcony competition.

Introduce lighting in Temple Gardens similar to Victoria Street to make it feel safer and interesting lighting to ground floors of buildings.

Play and artwork to make people smile and add identity to the area, sculpture, interaction and identity.

The ambiguity of access, ownership and identity e.g. Cheese Walk, reveal hidden places and alleyways. Lack of defined entrances and gateways and a sense of destination also needed linking to identity

Over 25 stakeholders participated in the three exploratory walk in three parts of the BID area in February 2022. The images are a selection of some of the pictures from the walks. Below, are a series of quotes from the walk:

'It's nice to be in this part of the city early in the morning, a different experience'

'If I walked down this area, I'd feel like I am trespassing'

'It would make me want to walk down here if the space felt more green'

character - creative signposting, local walks and heritage.

Maximise use of the waterfront - an under-utilised asset. Making the most of the waterfront and riverwalk, which are enjoyable for pedestrian footfall and events.

Importance of permissive culture to allow mixed, spontaneous and organic uses of the space.

Create more places to sit and visit during the lunch hour - work with local businesses and seek sponsorship for seating. Trial temporary seating area via pop-up seating solutions in public spaces and parks

Deliver larger scale ambitious projects working with Bristol City Council landowners/businesses.

# KEY DECISION MAKING FACTORS

The success of a project, event or activity could be impacted by decision-making factors.

## Achieving BID vision and aims

The BID's vision has a framework of aims and objectives that any new project needs to support and link to.

## Land ownership and permissions

Clarity on who site ownership and control of land; detailed mapping of request would be advantageous and speed up the process. Projects that require input from various parties, particularly planning, highways or permanent structural changes, will take longer to deliver and be more costly. However, it will more likely have a long-term impact.

## Existing activities and projects

Link and support existing GI projects and initiatives that will support the BID's goals.

## Stewardship and management arrangements

Primarily for physical interventions. BID to check existing arrangements and responsible parties and obtain in-principle support from critical stakeholders for taking schemes forward.

## Local political context and permissions

BID and team to consult with Bristol City Council and councillors to understand any likely significant support or opposition to taking a project to site or activity forward.

## Finances

Finance is a crucial factor in delivering any project. However, public and political support can assist in progressing the project and obtaining funding for change; more defined elements could be part of fundraising schemes.

## Site context

Consider site history, ground conditions, and designations, e.g., listed building designations. It also includes landscape character and broader site context.

## Project type and scale

In general, the larger in scale, the longer it will take to be delivered. Sites that are within only soft landscape tend to be easier and quicker to deliver.

## Identity and character

Future projects need to positively contribute, enhance, and create the BID's identity, culture, and character related to the wider surrounding area.

## Benefits and value

Positive social, economic, and environmental benefits and value of any project is crucial to build climate resilience, improve biodiversity and well-being, for a thriving BID, city and wider surrounding area.

# NEXT STEPS

Actions can be taken forward are identified in this report, short, medium and long term. The BID has already begun to develop and deliver linked to the outcomes of the engagement.

The BID will form a working group to prioritise the proposals outlined in this action plan. GI is an evolving, iterative process; actions and information will need to be reviewed annually by the working group over the next five years. The BID has already started to action outcomes (March 2022) from the stakeholder engagement and other drivers. Key projects the BID is working on are as follows:

- Sponsoring the City Nature Challenge and helping to promote the challenge and accompanying activities
- Organising volunteer sessions via the council's Park Work offer. 15 local employees and residents attended our first session in February to plant bulbs in local parks
- Working with Sustain IT, sustainability consultants, on a Net Zero Charter for the BID area
- Investigating potential for improved lighting in Temple Gardens
- Making CIL funding applications for Portwall Lane Open Space and Temple Way Underpass
- Partnering with English Heritage on enhancements to Temple Gardens
- Working with local businesses on Church Lane to encourage them to request outdoor seating
- Lunchtime walks using Healthy Street Assessment as a guide
- Seeking opportunities to add more planters

An informal mechanism is required through which proposals and projects are quality checked to ensure they meet the precepts of the vision and aspiration for the area and City.

**Six key questions to be asked for any project:**

1. Does this support the BID's vision and the city's aspirations?
2. Would it benefit health and well-being, climate resilience (UN SDGs) and assist nature to thrive?
3. Can the project link, support or partner with existing neighbourhoods, groups, projects, events and activities?
4. Does it strengthen the identity and character to the area?
5. Does it require permission and who are the landowners?
6. Are there funds and resources short, medium or long term to deliver, manage and maintain long term?



# SHORT TERM

Following the engagement a series of events, activities and projects were suggested for the BID to take forward over the next three years. In this context, potential short term is in operation between a day to six months, could also occur annually.

## POSSIBLE RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Interactive web-based mapping to input information and open data
- Programme for tours, events and talks
- Public art curator from windows to features
- Volunteers, landscape architects, furniture designers, comms., graphics, transport / highways engineer, etc.

### DEVELOP A COMMUNICATION STRATEGY ON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION FOR BUILDING OWNERS AND BUSINESSES

For example, explain what businesses can do and highlight best practice through tours, events and talks.



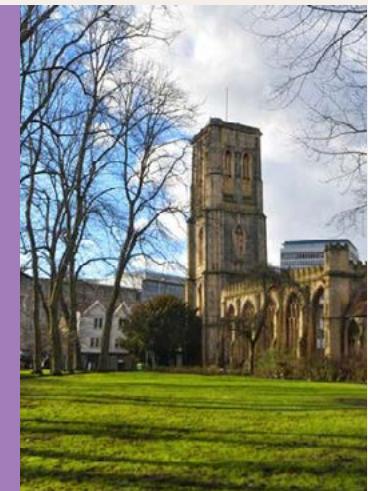
### CREATE A SERIES OF VOLUNTEER DAYS AND LINKS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS TO ENHANCE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

Sessions could include litter picks, gardening, bulb planting and 'big picnic' events. Volunteer sessions should include opportunities to help the local community neighbouring the BID area.



### ACTIVELY SUPPORT EXISTING PROJECTS-AND FOSTER LINKS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

For example, create short films from residents and workers about nature in the area, run expert talks, install bird and bat boxes (with web cams). Support the Temple Gardens Project and City Nature Challenge.



### DEVELOP A SERIES OF PUBLIC ART EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Collaborate with key stakeholders which have the potential to be part of the innovative displays e.g. Winter Wonderland.



# MEDIUM TERM

Medium term projects could be in operation between six months to three years, could also occur annually. The duration of these projects will vary related to political context, permission and resources.

## CREATE SIGNAGE, VIDEOS AND PILOT PROJECTS TO HIGHLIGHT THE NATURE ALREADY EXISTING IN THE CITY CENTRE

Encourage each business to identify their contribution to nature in the city. (All businesses asked to contribute 30% of their space managed for nature: One City Plan).



## INSTALL TEMPORARY STREET FURNITURE AND PLAY EQUIPMENT. CREATE A SERIES OF POP UP GREEN SPACES, PARKLETS, LUNCHTIME SEATING AND CAR FREE STREETS

Identify and develop a programme of interventions including a variety of different types of furniture, planters and ideas. Involve local businesses and residents to bring life to the spaces.

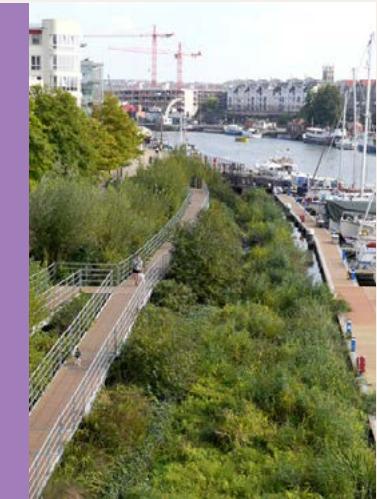


“There could be fold-up tables and chairs here that people can help themselves to, placing them where they wish.”

“Nurture a sense of ownership so people can feel more welcome and care for the space”

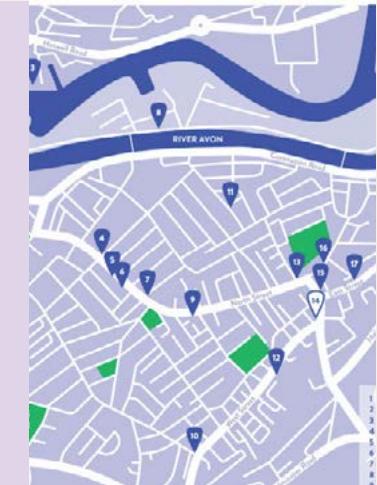
## ENCOURAGE LANDOWNERS TO SIGN UP TO A CHARTER OF LAND ACCESS AND USAGE AND DEVELOP A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP WITH BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Develop principles that owners and managers need to follow to ensure that public spaces are safe, accessible, attractive and inclusive. E.g. Public Space Charter, London.



## WORK WITH OFFICE BUILDINGS AND LOCAL HOSPITALITY VENUES TO CREATE A 'BID COMMUNITY TOILET MAP', EXPANDING ON THE EXISTING COUNCIL SCHEME

Encourage cafes, office buildings and hotels to be part of the scheme. Promote the initiative explaining the importance, especially for women and children.



# LONG TERM

Longer term projects may exist beyond the five year BID term, however, would have a lasting legacy. In this context, the planning of long term projects could start now.

“Don’t think just for 5 years: think 30,50.Think of actions for future generations”

“More could be done with the waterfront within the BID area generally, providing cool areas for people to enjoy”

## WORK WITH BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL TO HELP INCREASE BRISTOL'S TREE CANOPY BY 25% BY 2035 (ONE CITY PLAN TARGET)

Identify opportunities for tree planting on public and private land and encourage businesses to sponsor or adopt trees in the area.



## INSTALL A RANGE OF GREENING INTERVENTIONS, CONSIDERING STREETS CURRENTLY LACKING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND THOSE MORE LIKELY TO BE IMPACTED BY FLOODING AND EXCESS HEAT

Include living walls, street gardens, tree lined streets, sustainable drainage systems and biodiversity interventions.



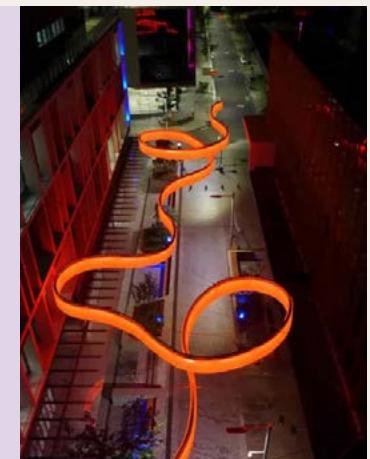
## CELEBRATE AND ENCOURAGE PLAY CREATE FUN, DIVERSE AND INTERESTING SPACES TO SIT AND ENJOY

Following the testing of different ideas, commission a series of permanent and temporary seating in different locations. Use latest thinking to develop ideas that encourages play and encourages women and young people to enjoy the space.



## IMPROVE THE WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTES IN BOTH KEY ROUTES AND BACKSTREETS

Work with Bristol City Council to improve the safety of key routes and add signage, art and heritage information. Work with local groups and residents to create a range of interesting features and trails highlighting local history and architecture.

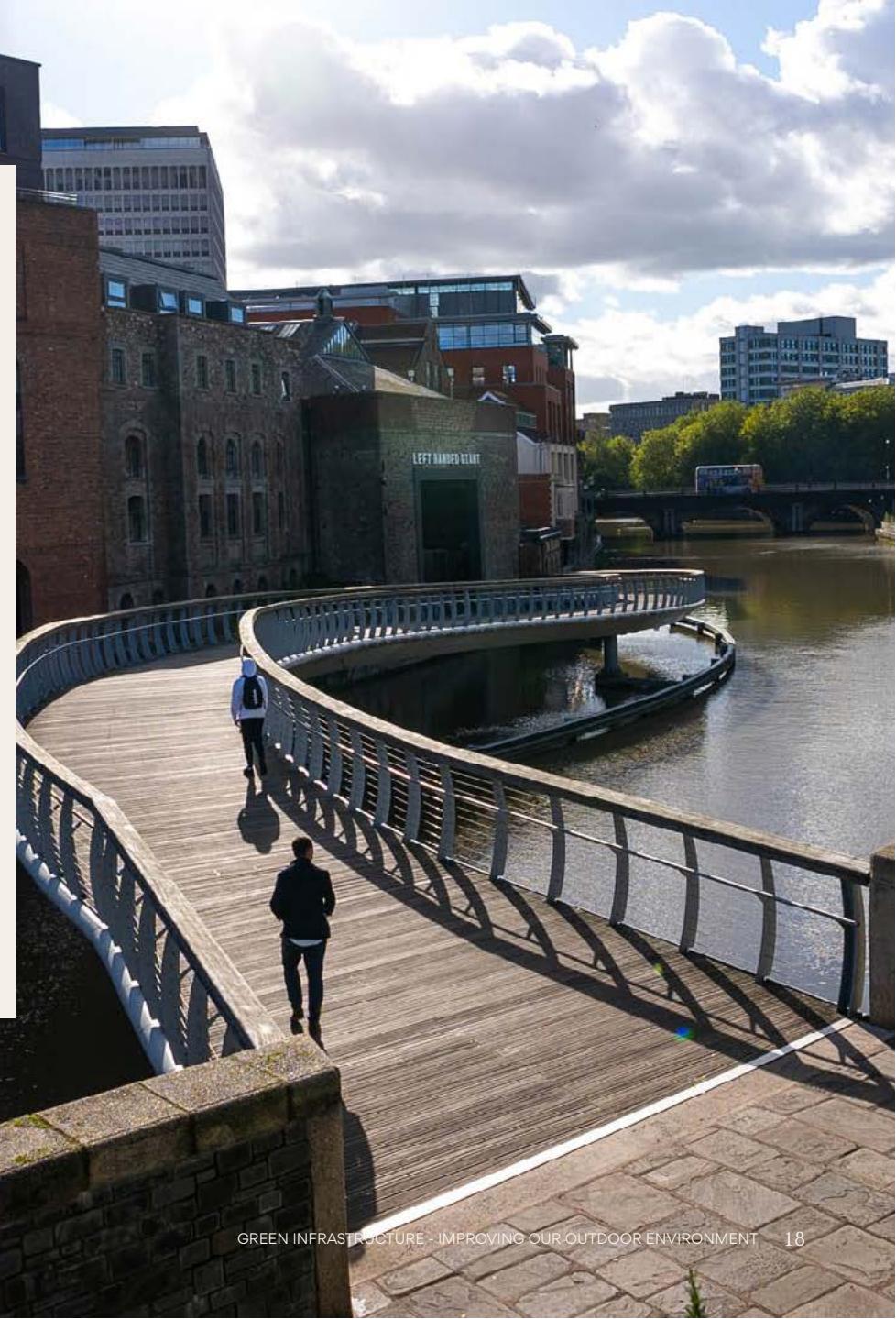


# THANKS AND NEXT STEPS

Redcliffe & Temple BID and Landsmith Associates would like to thank all participants for their time and input.

A working group will be formed in summer 2022 to progress the ideas in this report.

If you would like to join this working group or have any questions about this report or the next steps please contact Tom Swithinbank; [tom@redcliffeandtemplebid.co.uk](mailto:tom@redcliffeandtemplebid.co.uk)



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**Issue Date April 2022**

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