



Working Together for Bristol

Our Civic University
Agreement | 2023-2030



**BRISTOL
ONE CITY**



BIG SAVER
OFF LICENCE
NEWSAGENT
TOBACCO

Premier
Off licence

Big Saver Convenience Store

THALI

THALI

THALI

EVRI
ParcelShop
SEND
RETURN
COLLECT

Digicel



Our Civic University Agreement for Bristol

The University of Bristol, University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), City of Bristol College, Bristol City Council and the City Office have created this Civic University Agreement (CUA) as part of a national and international movement for higher education institutions to better connect with, and be a positive benefit to, their cities and regions. Establishing a CUA, which sets out priorities for local engagement, was a key recommendation of the national Civic University Commission.



Steve West CBE

Vice-Chancellor, President and CEO
UWE Bristol



Evelyn Welch MBE

Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Bristol



Julia Gray

Principal & Chief Executive
City of Bristol College



Marvin Rees

Mayor of Bristol
Bristol City Council



Andrea Dell

Head of City Office
City Office

Our Shared Mission

In our Civic University Agreement, we commit to working in partnership in accordance with the Principles set out below, to leverage our combined resources and networks for the benefit of Bristol. In those Principles, we frame and articulate our collective wish to maximise our positive impact, building on many existing projects and the One City Approach, and acknowledging that in working together we will achieve more. Our institutions all have strategies in place to benefit our city, which have been produced via a series of consultation processes. This brings that commitment together into a shared mission, and sets out the Collaborative Initiatives we will work together on to fulfil this. We will continue to engage with a wide range of partners and communities as we move forward.

Bristol is a vibrant, fast-growing city with opportunities for many: the employment rate is one of the highest in the UK and it is internationally leading in several rapidly growing and innovative sectors. However, these strengths live alongside entrenched inequalities. A combination of long-standing structural factors are working against the most disadvantaged groups in the city. For instance, we know

there are stark differences in educational opportunities for Bristol's young people depending on where they live: progression rates to higher education range from less than 10 per cent in some areas to 100 per cent in others. Our city still has fewer young people accessing higher education than the national average.

Further and higher education institutions have great potential to enhance economic growth and levels of social mobility within their local places. As significant civic assets, they play a major role in helping to meet the projected skills needs of our local economy, equipping people from all backgrounds in the city with the skills they need for work and life. At the heart of this Civic University Agreement is a desire to ensure that our local population benefits from our thriving further and higher education sectors. It is in this context that the Civic University Agreement will be taken forward, embedded through our Collaborative Principles as we collectively build on opportunities and respond to challenges. We will continue to engage with a wide range of partners and communities as we implement this vision in the months and years ahead.



Our Collaborative Principles

These Principles identify the key areas of challenge and opportunity to help guide our Collaborative Initiatives and activities.

Economy, skills & employment

Together we will

- Share information and approaches to ensure a jointly planned approach to how we drive inclusive, sustainable growth in our city. We will use our combined enterprise and entrepreneurial support and activities as a catalyst to create new jobs, opportunities, and financial benefit to the wider city and region.
- Work collectively, as major employers in the city-region, to identify the skills needs of the area's future workforce, providing a diverse talent pipeline into regional priority industries.
- Drive increased growth and productivity through the development of co-created programmes and short courses, in partnership with industry, civic, community and educational organisations.
- Jointly identify and increase the scale of high-quality, high-impact research that addresses local, national and global challenges, with a particular emphasis on engaged research that has local impact of social value.

Equality, diversity & inclusion

Together we will

- Proactively lead on the improvement of equality and inclusion across the city by designing it into everything we do, recognising that equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and issues of under-representation and exclusion are not limited to legally protected characteristics. We will not only take action to help address existing inequalities, but will consider how to respond and tackle the root causes of these inequalities over the longer-term.
- Work together to ensure that more residents from Bristol are recruited into its universities and colleges, focusing on communities where participation in further and higher education is lowest, building on work around targeted offers. Learn from each other around supporting student transitions into, through and beyond education, recognising the diverse pathways and backgrounds of learners.
- Share knowledge, data and academic expertise about EDI issues in our city, so that we can take an informed approach to work in this area – including working collaboratively with Bristol's equalities groups. We will listen, support and provide active and joined-up solutions in promoting social mobility across the city-region.

Health & wellbeing

Together we will

- Ensure that we recognise the wider determinants and drivers of good health in all our planning and activities, and collaborate on health programmes, sharing best practice including in evaluation. We will give active consideration to adopting health-focused municipal policies.
- Work in partnership to reduce health inequalities in the city through our educational offer and partnerships. This includes working as a city to ensure that our students' mental health and wellbeing is supported.
- Co-create innovative and research-based solutions that address health and wellbeing inequalities in the city-region and beyond.

Climate, sustainability and the built environment

Together we will

- Use our convening capacity to address global climate and ecological challenges. Engage with city-wide planning and strategies to maximise positive environmental impacts and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Understand the impact of our physical presence within the city (including our assets, staff and student populations), and work collectively to ensure this impact is a positive one.
- Raise awareness of climate change via our education programmes and research, and champion sustainability and a just transition to net zero – bringing in other partners through city engagement and advocacy work.
- Work together to ensure a plan-led and proactive approach is taken to meet the housing, and infrastructure needs of students, graduates and staff. This will be done through the development and delivery of the updated Bristol Local Plan and its associated policies.

Effective leadership & advocacy for the city

Together we will

- Make use of our expertise and professional experiences to share good practice and contribute to the learning and development of city leaders across anchor institutions.
- Take a collective approach to advocating for the city, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Contribute to maintaining and strengthening Bristol's civic links with our twin cities, supporting initiatives such as educational, trade and cultural exchanges.
- Actively participate in, and contribute to, Bristol's One City Approach alongside other key city partners, helping to develop, evaluate and iterate innovative models of city-wide collaboration and governance, including equalities commissions.

Enabling through partnership & community

Together we will

- Collectively shape our response to city issues through engagement with partners, community groups and citizens, working together to develop and evaluate new and innovative forms of partnership and engagement for maximum mutual benefit.
- Engaging and working closely with residents in communities in which our staff and students live, and take proactive steps to ensure community cohesion.
- Be an active contributor to the diverse cultural life of our city-region by diversifying our rich programme of public events, our partnerships with cultural organisations, and increasing access to our collective assets.



Delivering on the Civic University Agreement: Collaborative Initiatives

This section outlines some civic initiatives the partners are working on together.

Supporting the **creation and running of the City Office** via ongoing funding (2021-2024) as well as extensive input – in particular its One City Approach and Plan.

Forming a joint vision and commitment to **develop the University of Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus (TQEC)** which, via a wide and diverse range of collaborative initiatives, ensures benefits for local communities and the wider city.

Collaborating on the University of the West of England led Future Quest. This is a participatory model that fosters long-term relationships with individuals aged four to 18 where young people are guided to imagine and progress towards their desired future.

Developing the strategic Bristol Health Partners collaboration that supports all those in the city and region to live longer and healthier lives and improve how services are delivered.

Building on previous programmes to improve staff and student mental wellbeing, **seek to develop a community of practice** between the CUA partners to share support and good practice across the city.

Facilitating the Bristol Race Equality Strategic Leaders Group;

the group considers issues raised in the Bristol Manifesto for Race Equality and has undertaken work looking at the diversity of employees in the public sector and the ethnicity pay gap.

Forging the Social Mobility Innovation Partnership (SMIP).

The SMIP brings together community partners, policy makers, city leaders, local industry and researchers to analyse barriers to social mobility, establish which barriers can most effectively be tackled in a local context, co-create interventions, and evaluate the impact of these solutions.

Opening up the City of Bristol College estate and infrastructure to wider communities,

with a particular focus on South Bristol. Working with partners to provide additional support to those who have barriers accessing, or progressing through, education.

Working with partners to **develop and grow a strong apprenticeship offer in the city** which is promoted and available to all, thereby seeking to address equality, diversity and inclusion barriers.

Developing and being core **partners of Bristol Future Talent Partnership**, whose mission is to end the longstanding multiple inequalities and underrepresentation faced by people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds in the city, particularly in education and employment.

Collaborating on a raft of initiatives to address participation inequalities in further and higher education and learn from each other around supporting students from various and diverse backgrounds to transition into, through and beyond education.

Continue to **build on Bristol's collective successes in sustainability**, including as the UK's first European Green Capital, the first UK city to declare a climate emergency and to publish a Voluntary Local Review of implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The partners will work together to build on this rich legacy to ensure we stay at the forefront of climate and environmental policies and action.



Mock COP 28, A-level student workshop

Oversight and Progress of our Civic University Agreement

A Civic University Agreement Steering Group will be formed to oversee our activities and initiatives, identify opportunities, and review progress. Setting up later in 2023 and meeting quarterly, we will update relevant stakeholders and share case studies publicly. The CUA partners will also continue to collaborate more widely across the city with many communities and partners, and convene agile groups to work on specific projects.

This is not a legally binding document, but rather a live and ongoing collaboration to deliver on our shared Principles and Mission. The partners will review the document after one year. We welcome any feedback and offers of involvement - please email community@bristol.ac.uk

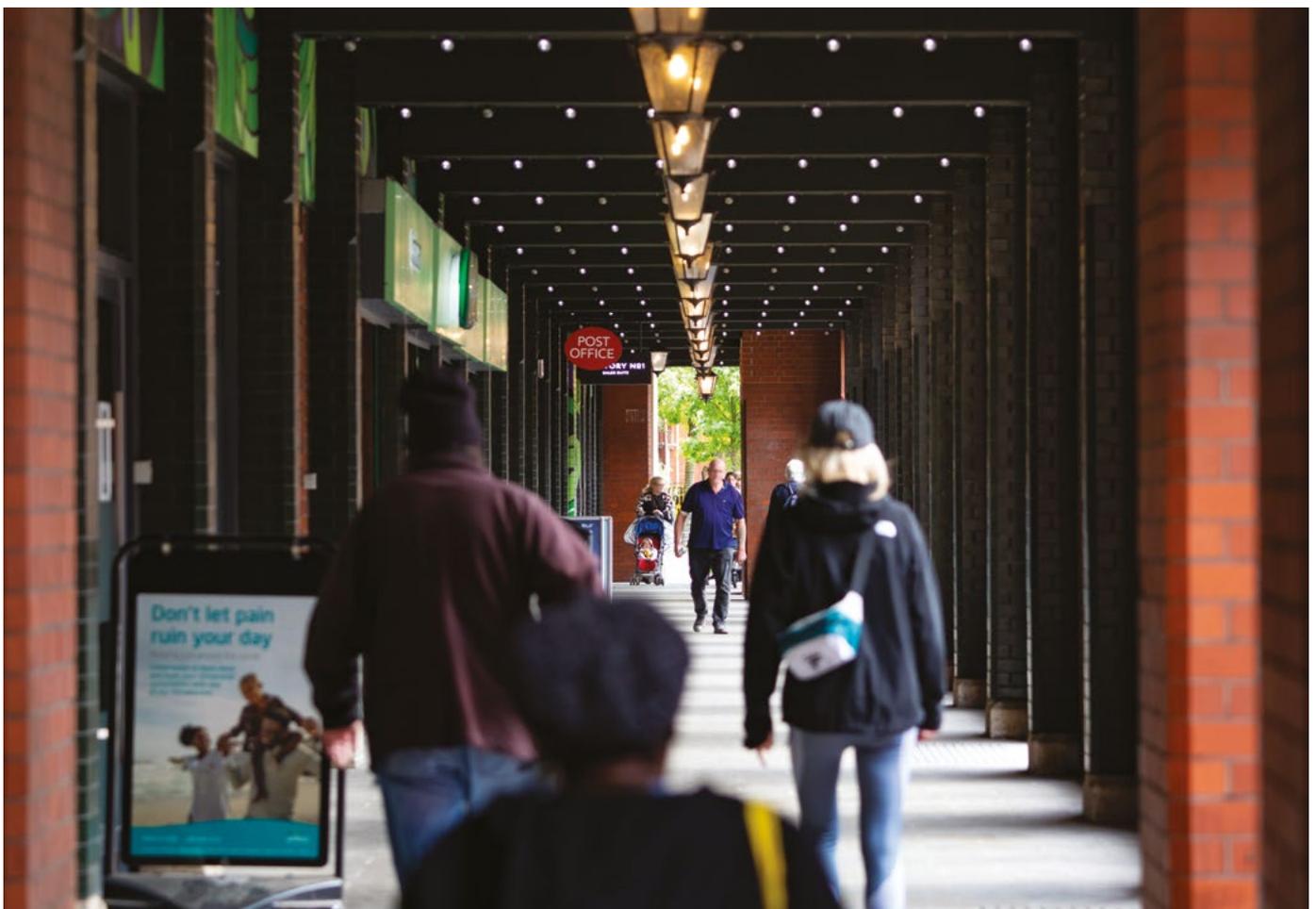




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Design: Sam Bryant, University of Bristol Print Services

