

## Actions and meeting notes from the Bristol BID Advisory Board meeting

14 May 2026 – Hotel du Vin

	Attendees
<b>Present:</b>	<p>Charlotte Raynes-Wood, ARAG UK (Chair)            Alex Hearn, Bristol City Council            Cllr. Ani Townsend Bristol City Council            Ben Fisher, XPS            Ben Phillips, Bristol Hippodrome            Danielle Kirk, Lambert Smith Hampton            Frances Macadam, University Hospitals Bristol &amp; Weston            Laura Reynolds, JLL/Cabot Circus            Matt Birch, University of Bristol            Natasha Ruhomutally, Harvey Nichols            Sauri Walker, Business West            Cllr. Sibusiso Tshabalala, Bristol City Council            Simon Gorton, Boots            Trish Brown, St George's</p> <p>Steve Bluff, Bristol BID            Anna Farthing, Bristol BID            Tom Swithinbank, Bristol BID            Vivienne Kennedy, Bristol BID</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>James Laverick, Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel            Jenny Ablett, Business West            Kate Ward, Spike Island            Kathryn Davis, Visit West            Matt Grimwood, TLT LLP</p>

### Actions from this meeting

#### **Bristol Light Festival:**

- Board to forward suggestions for venues, artists, and funders to [vicky@bristolbid.co.uk](mailto:vicky@bristolbid.co.uk)
- Alex to make an introduction between Urbis Schröder and the BLF team.

#### **Safe & Supported communities:**

- Ranger review: Vivienne to proceed with arrangements for the new contracts.

#### **Sustainable & Green:**

- Board to advise Tom on potential projects for working group to consider.

- Bristol BID team to explore options for reconfiguring Broad Meadow as a matter of urgency to reduce ASB.
- Tom to connect with Josh Learner in BCC Transport team.
- Cllr Sibusiso to update Advisory Board on progress of Creative Growth Fund Place work to develop Redcliffe as a cultural corridor.

**Experiences & Promotions:**

- Anna to explore provision of busking spots in Broadmead.

**Finance & Monitoring Group:**

- Bristol BID Team, pre-Year Two billing, will advise in email comms that bills will be sent in October for 1 Nov payment.

**AOB:**

- Bristol BID to secure presence as part of the Bristol contingent at UKREiiF 2027 and other similar investment events.

**Standing agenda items**

- Quarterly updates on actual and forecast spend for the year
- Quarterly updates on levy billing and collection
- The BID leadership team to prepare statements to submit to the Council policy committee meetings to influence decisions including on the city welcome, cleansing and culture
- Quarterly performance report to be reviewed and improved (style and accuracy)
- Actions from last meeting

**Meeting Notes**

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>
	<p><b>1.1</b> Steve welcomed the attendees and read out the apologies.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> No conflicts of interest were declared.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> SB reviewed outstanding actions from January meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q4 QPR has been sharpened up and reformatted and published on the BID website resources page.</li> <li>• Update on Our Common Ground next steps is covered in AOB</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Q4 Performance Report</b>
	<p><b>2.1</b> All Advisory Board members received the Q1 report in advance of the meeting.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Steve asked the Board for feedback and observations and spoke about highlights of the report from across the BID's four themes.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Sauri passed on commendations on light festival and spring clean from Jenny Ablett. He queried the budget line for other income - is it revenue? Steve confirmed it was and that it includes grants for Dr Bike and Broad Meadow's upkeep as well as Cabot Circus's contribution to the light festival installation</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Frances commented that the Q1 report is great, a strong first quarter of activity.</p>

	<p><b>2.5</b> Danielle had a finance query: why has loan &amp; contingency amount been reduced; Steve explained this is because contingency is now included in the carry forward amount and that the loan &amp; contingency heading can be changed.</p> <p><b>2.6</b> Cllr Sibusiso asked if we are receiving Lloyds spend bank data - Steve responded that the pilot data was good, but too expensive, so we're going back to Visa spend data from Savills. Update in July.</p> <p><b>2.7</b> Matt Birch - levy income is £100K off budget - Steve said he is confident that we're on track to achieve 97% forecasted collection rate.</p> <p><b>2.8</b> Steve shared some more Q1 highlights: comedy festival in January, Love Bristol Gift Card +60% year on year for Q1, volunteer and youth work programmes well supported. Lots of BCRP activities, training and meetings, good attendance across sectors, not just retail.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Bristol Light Festival</b></p>
	<p><b>3.1</b> Anna delivered a summary of the 2026 festival survey:  <b>Economic impact:</b> £11.49m, +4% to 2025. ROI of £25 for every £1 spent.  <b>Footfall:</b> Estimated 200,000 attendees (consistent with 2025) Footfall peaked on Saturdays. RWA 1000 visitors a day, similar numbers at Circomedia on the days they were open  <b>Spend:</b> £30.48 average spend per person. Over 50% of attendees went for food/drink, 10% went shopping, 9% attended the theatre/gig. Two thirds only did so due to the festival.  <b>Audience satisfaction:</b> 88% rated the event as 'good' or 'very good'. 85% would be 'likely' or 'very likely' to attend again. This is a very high satisfaction compared to festivals of a similar scale such as Harbour Festival or Balloon Fiesta  <b>Civic pride &amp; identity:</b> Out of 5, civic pride scored 4.4 and the festival reflecting the city's identity scored 4.43, both up from 2025.  <b>Travel:</b> 78% travelled specifically for the festival, up on previous years. A further 5% stayed after work to attend.  <b>Press coverage:</b> Positive coverage in publications ranging from The Sun to Aesthetica (specialist art press)</p> <p><b>Full report sent to the board ahead of the meeting</b></p> <p><b>3.2</b> People commented that they found new places in the city because of BLF.  <b>3.3</b> Data shows women feel safer going out at night when the festival is on compared to when it isn't.  <b>3.4</b> BLF Plus and BLF Events were popular additions to the programme. 65% of all festival attendees engaged with this wider programme.  <b>3.5</b> BLF worked with 19 businesses.  <b>3.6</b> Collaboration with Clifton Suspension Bridge achieved national attention.  <b>3.7</b> St Peter's Hospice, first charity partner, very pleased with outcomes and exposure at light installations, charity shops, and at the Moments of Light event, staged in partnership with Bristol Beacon.</p>

	<p><b>3.8</b> It has been recommended that future festivals be planned further ahead, taking us up to the end of the current BID term in 2030, and will be led by location choices. First call out to artists and dates announced, w/c 18 May.</p> <p><b>3.9</b> Board asked for suggestions for venues, artists, and funders. ACTION: Board to forward suggestions to <a href="mailto:vicky@bristolbid.co.uk">vicky@bristolbid.co.uk</a>.</p> <p><b>3.10</b> Danielle was pleased to note that 57% of those surveyed knew it was produced by Bristol BID.</p> <p><b>3.11</b> Frances said she went to the festival three times.</p> <p><b>3.12</b> Cllr Ani said people had told her they preferred the venues being more spread out, it didn't feel so crowded.</p> <p><b>3.13</b> Ben F was supportive of the spread of locations, which made him visit new places in the city. He asked for the survey sample sizes (209 online and 200 in person completed surveys).</p> <p><b>3.14</b> Cllr Sibusiso mentioned that the 2026 Festival coincided with Ramadan (17 February to 19 March) and questioned whether Muslims could attend due to Iftar. He asked that this is considered when planning for 2027 when Ramadan will take place from 7 February to 8 March.</p> <p><b>3.15</b> Cllr Ani asked if we can we find an artwork that speaks to the Muslim community in some way. Anna said we could also explore how light is significant in other faiths.</p> <p><b>3.16</b> Sibusiso spoke about looking for external funding with other partners including developers.</p> <p><b>3.17</b> Danielle said we need to make it easy for businesses and organisations to sponsor and donate.</p> <p><b>3.18</b> Alex attended on a wet, windy night, bringing a guest from London (influencer, photographer) who loved it and had a good impression of the city. Due to the weather, they could only see three installations (College Green/Lite Series, Finzels Reach/Jelly Monster and Cascade Steps/Cat That Slept). Overall, he thought the festival was brilliant and has had lots of positive feedback. He suggested connecting with BCC Street lighting contractor – Urbis Schröder, saying they are incredibly innovative and see Bristol as a test bed for their technologies. <b>ACTION</b> Alex to make an introduction between Urbis Schröder and the BLF team.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Safe &amp; Supported Communities – Ranger review</b>
	<p><b>4.1</b> All Advisory Board members received a summary of the review process with Vivienne's recommendations for the retail support ranger service and safe space marshal.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> In order to support the nighttime economy, we also proposed that the BID funds a night ranger role, which was piloted with funding from the PCC. Two rangers will work eight-hour shifts on Friday and Saturdays, 8pm to 4am, focusing on late opening retail until midnight, then on hospitality. The cost will be £38K per annum, which can be absorbed within our budget. This ties in with our business plan commitments to deliver safety initiatives in support of Bristol</p>

	<p>Nights. We are seeking external funding, which would reduce the cost to the BID. If approved, this service will start as soon as officers can be recruited.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> The Advisory Board were asked to vote by show of hands - retail support, night ranger, and safe space marshal - unanimous support for the proposal.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> - Vivienne to proceed with arrangements for the new contracts.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Laura - happy to support the spend and hoped for quality recruitment.</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Natasha asked about supervision. Vivienne reassured that both Safe Space marshal and ranger roles would be from same contractor with improved supervision and some opportunities for mutual support and cover.</p> <p><b>4.6</b> Alex highlighted there are lots of nighttime economy staff working in retail, re-stocking etc. He asked about the geography of the work and advised retail staff to be considered.</p> <p><b>4.7</b> Frances highlighted shift workers in hospitals would also benefit from additional safety provision.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Safe &amp; Supported Communities – Safe Space Working Group</b>
	<p><b>5.1</b> Vivienne gave an update from the group, which meets monthly. Matt B and Frances also attend.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> The Safe Space is on target for launch on the first weekend of September. It will be positioned on the Centre Promenade and is in partnership with Buoy Events (market provider). Unfortunately, it looks like the container cafe, which will become its permanent home, won't be ready in time so a Plan B is being sought, either an old police vehicle or gazebos. Job descriptions are being prepared for the medic and marshal roles. Louisa, Bristol BID's project manager, had a very positive meeting with the community liaison team at UWE and there are plans for a similar meeting at UoB.</p> <p><b>5.3</b> Next meeting 21 May.</p> <p><b>5.4</b> Frances said that NHS colleagues hope the Safe Space will provide welfare support in the city centre to reduce the demand on A&amp;E for non-emergency support.</p> <p><b>5.5</b> Cllr Sibusiso mentioned that from a Harbourside safety perspective there tends to be more incidents involving men who have left their groups of friends, whereas women tend to stay together. He hopes learnings from the Safe Space can be used for some water safety work.</p> <p><b>5.6</b> Steve highlighted Bristol BIDs work on Bristol Rules nighttime safety campaign developed with retained creative agency (Plaster) the first of which is 'out together, home together' etc.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Clean &amp; Welcoming</b>
	<p><b>6.1</b> Vivienne gave an update on the new contract, which is ready to be signed pending confirmation of the start date, which is dependent on delivery of the new vehicle and staff recruitment - anticipated to be 1 June. Three teams rather than two will allow us to provide a more effective and responsive service for all levy payers, over the expanded footprint.</p> <p><b>6.2</b> Steve said the demand from businesses for the additional service is there; we are seeing increased demand on our existing operatives.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Sustainable &amp; Green – working group</b>
	<p><b>7.1</b> Tom gave a progress update on four projects:</p>

- The work of the Climate Action Programme continues to grow; a recent event started a year-long focus of support for the Visitor Attractions Sector. This was attended by almost all the big attractions in the city centre and was really valued by the attendees.
- The work of the Urban Gardener, Sophie, a new role for Bristol BID, contracted from Bristol Waste Company. Key projects so far have been Rupert St, Bond St and veg beds for La Panza. Conversations are ongoing with the council's parks department to see if there is anything she can support them with.
- The Green Infrastructure Consultation is progressing well with over 80 ideas put forward. A workshop will take place on 20 May to create a shortlist of ideas to create the Green Infrastructure Plan, 50 people signed up. Board members are welcome to attend.
- Paula and Tom have convened a group to discuss changes to Oxford Street behind 3 Glass Wharf, Temple Quay. A first stakeholder briefing has taken place with positive responses from all including Arch Co who own the arches. Tom shared images produced by The Urbanists.

**7.2** The Sustainable and Green Working Group has had two meetings so far. Tom asked the Board if there is there is anything they would like the group/Tom to work on.

ACTION Board to advise Tom on potential Sustainable & Green projects.

**7.3** Simon spoke about the Broad Meadow installation on Broadmead West being used as a public toilet and for drug and alcohol use, particularly bad in the morning. It improved when some benches were removed but it has got worse again. There is a conversation about the benches being moved to the outside. Five or six customer complaints a week. No problems reported with the sections on Merchant Street. Vivienne mentioned that the BID is working with Bristol City Council and the police to prepare an application for a PSPO for Broadmead, banning street drinking, and that this will hopefully help reduce the anti-social behaviour.

ACTION Bristol BID team to explore options for reconfiguring Broad Meadow as a matter of urgency

**7.4** Alex has met with the Arch Co; it was a positive meeting. Creating attractive, safe new routes into St Philips, Temple Island and Cattle Market Road is important, as is making sure new student population feels safe. The council doesn't have a team working on public realm projects but there is funding for transport projects (seen as investment into public realm). Danger of transport led schemes being over-engineered. There's a move away from shared spaces to more segregation for cyclists and pedestrians. There is a Transport committee meeting on 14 May, with a paper on designing healthy streets. Strategic point, there is a masterplan in the DDP but owing to global economic factors and national viability crisis, development is stalled. All partners to consider what can be done to avoid stalemate. Alex recommends Tom connects with Josh Learner.

	<p>ACTION Tom to connect with Josh Learner in BCC Transport team.</p> <p>7.5 Cllr Sibusiso said there is a need to join some work up. There is lots going on and Redcliffe could become a cultural corridor. He mentioned there being a £25m creative growth place fund and developing the idea with UWE, Alex French Architects and Temple Island. How do the businesses see themselves within a cultural corridor?</p> <p>ACTION Cllr Sibusiso to update Advisory Board on progress.</p> <p>7.6 Sauri said Business West would support our PSPO application and really value the BID's work to improve public realm in the city centre, a really important element of Civic Pride.</p> <p>7.7 Frances asked if HMRC are involved in the Oxford St plans? Tom confirmed they are part of the discussion.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Experiences &amp; Promotions – working group/s</b>
	<p>8.1 Anna gave an update on working group priorities following its first meeting on 13 May.</p> <p>Working Group members who attended first meeting are Kate Webb, Suzanne Rolt, Lottie Kirby and Pramod Shaw. A second introductory meeting will be held for other members, Alastair Currie, Ben Phillips, Becky Peters, Maria Crayton, Debbie Wiltshire. Ben Fisher and Trish Brown confirmed they would also like to join the group at the second introductory meeting.</p> <p>The priorities have been developed in line with the BID business plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curating the city - how to ensure joined up programming competes nationally - E&amp;P WG will contribute to drafting of paper</li> <li>• Seasonal activations across the city and within designated areas</li> <li>• Bristol at Christmas - a review of the critical 'golden' trading period (November to January) to include culture, events, retail, markets, hospitality and Love Bristol Gift Card</li> <li>• Bristol Light Festival - review 2026 and discuss plans for 2027 to 2030</li> <li>• Harbour Festival - review 2026 and discuss plans for 2027 and beyond</li> <li>• Place focused and area specific activities - Love Bristol, Love Broadmead, - Park Street, Queens Road and Triangle - Spike Island - Temple Quarter</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Experiences &amp; Promotions – Love Bristol, Love Broadmead</b>
	<p>9.1 Anna gave a summary of the Big Broadmead Spring Clean. Reminded group that the objective was connection to place rather than cleaning achieved, and that success was to be measured in changing visitor sentiment in line with recent placemaking discourse on loveability v liveability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer-led week of action (23-29 March) in partnership with Bristol Waste</li> </ul>

- Bristol Waste provided PPE and completed five overnight deep cleans of Broadmead.
- 250 volunteers (aged 3-87), 500+ hours of volunteering, estimated value of £7,500 (at £15/hour).
- 113 bags of litter collected. 52 bins in the Broadmead area cleaned and painted.
- Volunteers cleaned street furniture, removed stickers, painted bins and railings, litter picked, and tidied Broadmead planters.
- Volunteers included local businesses, residents, university and college students, families, and partners including police and Bristol City Council. Majority were corporate groups.
- Volunteer hub located at Shredenham.
- Culture workers hired to animate and activate the space and explore new uses. Ambling Band, M&M Acro, Jump Street Band, Gospel Choir, AE Dance, Bristol Samba. The cultural content costs a relatively small amount of money but has a big impact, attracting positive attention to the work of the volunteers and shifting the narrative for the public. Pro-social and playful performance drives back ASB very effectively and makes the space safe for the volunteers to work in.

Anna showed a short film summary showing activity by volunteers, Bristol BID staff, Bristol Waste staff and culture workers.

Unexpected outcomes included increased community connection, particularly between people from different languages and cultures. Lots of conversations around loneliness and companionship, gratitude and giving back, feeling part of something positive.

Anna also shared a selection of slides showing social media posts from participants indicating positive experiences in Broadmead and encouraging people to get involved.

**9.2** Love Bristol, Love Broadmead continues to Blossom in May, with a strong partner programme and multiple activities across both bank holidays. A distinct focus on young people is emerging in the locality, and this is being supported across teams and themes.

**9.3** June and July will focus on Global Broadmead, the International Festival and a renewed focus on hospitality and retail.

**9.4** In July and August the theme will be Playful. We are looking for activities that attract families, particularly three generations. We also hope to install a dance floor to encourage community groups to use the space for music, dance, play and joyfulness.

**9.5** Natasha said she likes the idea of using good quality busking to discourage ASB. Anna shared an example from Exeter.

	ACTION Anna to explore provision of busking spots in Broadmead.
<b>10</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Monitoring Group</b>
	<p><b>10.1</b> Steve gave a finance update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year One, forecasted income and expenditure is in line with expectations and the business plan. Spend by themes of work is broadly in line with the budget and approved increase to Safe and Supported Communities budget by the Advisory Board in the January meeting.</li> <li>• Levy income collected new areas 95% (87K o/s), CCB 93% (71K o/s) Broadmead 93% (29K o/s)</li> <li>• £3,395M billed 94.5% collected (£3.2M)187K outstanding as of 1 April</li> </ul> <p><b>10.2</b> The BID and BCC Monitoring Group was formed as per the Operating Agreement and met on 23 February to agree data sharing protocols, levy collection reporting schedules, and enforcement activity. We are now receiving information in line with the Operating Agreement.</p> <p><b>10.3</b> Next Monitoring Group meeting will be in September</p> <p><b>10.4</b> Steve mentioned that some new buildings should have rateable values, and therefore be liable to pay the BID levy, before the next bills go out. Tom and Danielle both agreed this should be the case.</p> <p>ACTION Bristol BID team, pre-Year Two billing, will advise in email comms that bills will be sent in October for 1 Nov payment.</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p><b>11.1</b> Anna gave an update on Our Common Ground. Bristol City Council colleagues are consulting with Bristol Legacy Foundation to find a solution. Alex suggested that Patsy Mellor should be engaged with that process.</p> <p><b>11.2</b> Nighttime Economy - Bristol Nights Bristol City Council Extraordinary Committee meeting held on 8 May regarding the ongoing city support of the Nighttime Economy under the Bristol Nights brand. Bristol BIDs have part funded with UoB and UWE the Bristol Rules partnership since 2021. Bristol City Council's Economy &amp; Skills Committee resolved to instruct all relevant officers to take the necessary steps towards setting up a Nighttime Economy Advisory Board, comprised of sector representatives, an independent Chair, and cross-party councillors. A report to formally establish the new Nighttime Economy Advisory Board will be taken to a meeting of the Economy and Skills Committee for approval no later than 30 September 2026.</p> <p><b>11.3</b> Cllr Ani said the board could be a subsidiary of the One City Culture Board.</p> <p><b>11.4</b> Alex said there will be a meeting in June, to which Bristol BID will be invited.</p> <p><b>11.5</b> Bristol BID is financially supporting Brazen, a city-wide festival that brings together technology, creativity and culture. It will combine large-scale</p>

	<p>conversations with hands-on demo's, grassroots activity, and cultural moments, Brazen will showcase the best of the Bristol and the West of England. 9-13 November 2026. 4.6M reach. 100+ events.</p> <p><b>11.6</b> Danielle mentioned it would be good to have an easy way to talk about Brazen sponsorship opportunities – website and form require too much detail. ACTION Steve to liaise with festival organisers.</p> <p><b>11.7</b> Meet the team social and networking with Advisory Board, Working Groups, and BCRP Board. This will be an evening with food and drinks on the Bocabar terrace on 17 June. Invitations will be sent.</p> <p><b>11.8</b> Cllr Sibusiso said Neighbourhood forums are gathering momentum for action. He will send information to Steve about how businesses can take part in action as part of their corporate social responsibility work.</p> <p><b>11.9</b> Alex stated UKREiiF takes place next week; the Bristol contingent includes Bristol City Council, Business West, and the universities. Steve requested that the BID be involved in future. This point was unanimously supported. ACTION BID to secure presence as part of the Bristol contingent at UKREiiF 2027 and other similar investment events.</p>
<b>12</b>	<b>BID Advocacy and Representation</b>
	<p><b>12.1</b> Vivienne is standing for election in Association of Town &amp; City Management (ATCM) BID Steering Committee representing England's BIDs. There are nine candidates for three positions as England representatives. The ballot opened on 4 May and ends on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Update: Vivienne has been appointed as one of the England representatives.</p> <p><b>12.2</b> We have submitted two ATCM award entries for Outstanding Partnership (Love Bristol, Love Broadmead) and Best Climate Action Contribution. The shortlist will be announced next week and awards presented at the ATCM summer school on 10 &amp; 11 June, which Vivienne is attending.</p> <p><b>12.3</b> Tom submitted supportive statement for the council's healthy streets work (committee meeting 14 May).</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Thursday 23 July, 9am - 11am, venue tbc