

Actions and meeting notes from the Bristol BID Advisory Board meeting

23 July 2026 – Runway East, 43 Queen Square

	Attendees
Present:	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, Bristol NHS Foundation Trust Kate Ward, Spike Island Kathryn Davis, Visit West Laura Reynolds, JLL/Cabot Circus Matt Birch, University of Bristol Natasha Ruhomutally, Harvey Nichols Sauri Walker, Business West Cllr. Sibusiso Tshabalala, Bristol City Council Trish Brown, St George's Steve Bluff, Bristol BID Vicky Lee, Bristol BID Vivienne Kennedy, Bristol BID
Apologies	James Laverick, Bristol Marriott Royal Jenny Ablett, Business West Matt Grimwood, TLT LLP Simon Gorton, Boots

Actions from this meeting

- **Performance report**
Harbour Festival - please complete the Harbour Festival feedback surveys: [Local Business Survey](#), [Attendee Survey](#)
- **Finance**
Procurement policy: please review attached updated policy (following the meeting) and send any comments by 31 August.
- **Statements prepared by the BID for submission to the Council policy committee meetings**

AB asked to consider the Electoral boundary change consultation by 7 September
[Electoral boundary review](#)

- **Upcoming BID and partner events**

Five places available for the Balloon Fiesta business breakfast - express interest by 29 July.

AB invited to attend Playful Broadmead launch on 5 August.

- **Christmas review**

Advisory Board asked to complete survey by 31 July:

<https://form.jotform.com/261833902000041>.

BID team asked to produce a proposal for Christmas curation for next meeting.

- **Next meeting**

Venue needed for meeting on 22 October. The restaurant at Harvey Nichols is a possibility but the meeting would need to be in the morning rather than 12-2pm.

Standing agenda items

- Actions from last meeting
- Quarterly performance report to be reviewed
- Quarterly updates on actual and forecast spend for the year
- Quarterly updates on levy billing and collection
- Statements prepared by the BID for submission to the Council policy committee meetings to influence decisions including on the city welcome, cleansing and culture

Meeting Notes

1	Welcome, introductions, apologies, and outstanding actions
	1.1 Charlotte welcomed the attendees and read out the apologies. 1.2 No conflicts of interest were declared. 1.3 SB reviewed outstanding actions from May meeting.
2	Q2 Performance Report
	2.1 All Advisory Board members received the Q2 report in advance of the meeting. 2.2 Steve asked the Board for feedback and observations and spoke about highlights of the report from across the BID's four themes. Experiences & Promotion Highlights include the on-going programme of activity in Broadmead moving from blossoming to global including the popular Broadmead Bites social campaign celebrating international food venues. 20 days of calm stress reducing events in April for 365 attendees. £13K record redemptions on LBGC in Q2. Future of Work seminar 150 attendees focus on intergenerational work forces at Bristol Beacon with stellar panels. Safe & Supported Communities Training hub online training goes from strength to strength and reaching new sectors R&H for H&S and Manual Handling.

	84 volunteers on our monthly programme. Youth Workers on the Street collaboration with BCC LPW CYN has seen 1000 youth engagements in the city centre. BCRP Night Ranger service 67 businesses and 154 incidents dealt with. Clean & Welcoming New cleansing contract with BWC started additional vehicle and resource, 86 business requests. Sustainable & Green Work on going on the green and blue infrastructure action plan from May's workshop update later in meeting. Dr Bike proving ever popular as is our work with Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership delivering events and resources. The BID supported Harbour Festival will feature in the Q3 report, but we can say initial feedback has been positive around the content and organisation and focus on the water, and we invite you to complete the surveys, one for businesses and one for attendees. Footfall was good. The BID team came second in the waiters' race. LR: lots of media coverage of Red Bull activity. BF: Thought it was a much better programme, plenty to fill two days, had guests staying specifically for the festival. SS: Play area in Queen Square was highly active and appealing for children – it could be seen from afar. This could be seen as a pilot for ongoing harbour activities. Boater communities being on the harbour was good. Balloon Fiesta launch event the next day was great too. AT: Good to see the Matthew going up and down and liked the pirate activities, which were also visible from a distance. CRW: Very thorough report. Asked if the team has any concerns and was reassured there is nothing major we are worried about but would flag some issues during this meeting.
3	Finance updates – actual/forecast spend and levy billing/collection 3.1 On track with spend vs budget by theme, there will be a carry forward into next BID year of circa £150K-£200K ~5% of income based on project phasing. 3.2 Levy Collection: as per May AB next update will be in October AB on track for 97%. Monitoring group meeting ahead of next bills going out. 3.3 Cash flow for Bristol Light Festival 2027 artist deposits is secure. 3.4 Contract renewal for Bristol Light Festival Production team of SC Productions for 2027 and 2028. The supplier has provided production services to BLF and for the past five years and has consistently provided an elevated level of service and delivered on each element of the required contract.

	Their fee rate and structure are in line with industry standard for the variable charging of production co-ordinators, production managers, and company directors. In line with the BID's procurement policy section 5.3 for contracts exceeding £30,000 we are seeking Board approval for the spend of £39,325 for 2027 and + 2.5% for 2028. The AB agreed we should proceed with the SC Productions contract to ensure no delays or additional costs are incurred. DK: How do we compare with BIDs nationally for levy collection. Steve said the average is around 96% so we are slightly better. FM: Limit of £30,000 before needing board approval seems low, should it be raised? KD: Limit could be brought in line with Visit West Ltd.'s policy. Suggested checking with other large BIDs to see what their limits are. BF: A two-step limit could be used, with the chair agreeing spend up to a certain level with the advisory board asked about higher costs. KW: Spike Island have recently updated their policy and made some suggestions for clauses. Following further discussion and some research, an updated Procurement Policy with an increased spend limit of £50,000 will be adopted, subject to approval from the Advisory Board. Please review and comment on the attached policy.
4	Statements prepared by the BID for submission to the Council policy committee meetings
	4.1 Redcliffe Wharf supporting comment: "Bristol BID supports proposals for a high-quality, mixed-use scheme at Redcliffe Wharf. "As one of the last remaining development sites around the harbour, it is crucial that this site is delivered to a high standard, with a range of uses to animate the space throughout the day and evening." 4.2 We will provide a statement of support for the changes to the plans for the redevelopment of the former Debenhams building: Barr's Street by 31/7; the changes include a reduction in affordable housing, additional public realm (a pocket park) and maintains active ground floors. 4.3 We will be making additional comments by 28/7 on the St Phillip's Marsh master plan consultation in line with our initial feedback and broad support in January. ST: Consultation open for boundary reviews, for example Wapping Wharf might move into Harbour from Central – AB asked to complete survey. Regarding Debenhams, there is an architect firm who may be able to produce suggestions for

	how the ground floor should look. Will be launching Redcliffe area forum in a few weeks, with AB members with an interest invited to join. DK: Commented that Redcliffe Wharf could become part of Temple Quarter development. ST: raised that work is underway to ensure new retail and leisure spaces across new developments are curated and activated and that support is given to ensure units aren't left empty.
5	British Art Show 10 in 2027 5.1 Paper circulated and discussed. The BID is recommending for approval the £50,000 investment into BAS10 and confirms the spend can be accommodated within the BID E&P budget in BID year two. KW and TB declared conflict of interest but told their views would be welcomed by the group. TB: Relevance for BID businesses must be ensured if the BID is to contribute – take the art show to unexpected places. Make sure there is a cohesive offer – city curation. Money invested should leave a legacy. KW: Reassured the group that is the aim of the organisers. A touring exhibition for example will go to somewhere other than the four main sites, for example the Welcome Building in Temple Quay, which has accessible art space. The tour is going to other cities first, which will give a learning opportunity. Could something be done with the light festival to say this is the year of the British Art Show. FM: The hospital would like to be involved. KD: Visit West will be providing digital support to help ensure the entire city benefits. NR: How do venues get involved? VL: local artists can put forward pieces to be hosted in various venues as part of the wider programme. MB: Does the £50K displace any other spend – Steve assured him that it does not. There is budget each year for a summer activation and public art. ST: Creative Places Growth Fund (CPGF) opening soon. AH: Not yet clear how the CPGF will be distributed but it is creative industries rather than arts & culture. More details late summer and autumn. KD: Cultural Compact meeting in September – arts representation, local authorities, combined authority, Visit West, Culture Board. The AB agreed to proceed with the contribution to the British Art Show.
6	Upcoming BID and partner events

6.1 There was an update on Playful Broadmead, including the Fairy Doors project, which will be launched on 5 August and the installation of a new piece of commissioned public artwork at The Galleries.

KW: is there room for more fairy doors? Vicky will follow up.

CRW: is it a one-year event or will it become regular or permanent?

AH: could be linked with greening the city – fairy doors are often found in woodlands.

NR: artwork for The Galleries – isn't it being knocked down? Alex Hearn said it is one of the most difficult buildings in the country to redevelop and it is likely to be at least five years before anything happens.

LR: Should that that be made public to improve public perception?

VL: Can we hold the narrative? Alex Hearn says not, at least not at this stage.

TB: How can BID funded artwork be protected and have longevity?

6.2 Balloon Fiesta 7-9 August, Business Breakfast on Friday small number of comp tickets available opportunity to network, learn and be inspired alongside a field of fabric and wicker. Taking place on Friday 7 August, from 5.30am to 9am, this year's event will be hosted in partnership with Albert Goodman and IOD Southwest, and sponsored by Woven Films, CAB IT and Bristol Business Improvement District, set against the magical backdrop of the Fiesta's first mass ascent, guests will first witness the 2026 Opening Ceremony while enjoying breakfast refreshments before engaging with two thought-provoking discussions. The theme this year will be, The Sky's the Limit, considering the wider role that culture, creativity, hospitality, and collaboration play in creating economic prosperity.

Panel 1 – Building a city of opportunity. How culture, creativity and placemaking create strong economies.

Panel 2 – The sky's the limit. How businesses can harness Bristol's cultural strength to create economic opportunity.

5x complimentary spaces let SB know by 29/7.

6.3 Old City Sounds

- Saturday 29 August 2026 (Saturday of August Bank Holiday Weekend)
- Fourth edition
- £30,000 grant supporting the delivery from Bristol City Council's City Centre and High Street Programme, the West of England Combined Mayoral Authority and the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Free city centre music festival across the Old City
- Venues include Old Duke and their annual Old Duke Jazz Festival, Bristol Old Vic, The Glassboat, Mr Wolfs, Mother Ruin, The Crown, Seamus

	O'Donnells, The Library Cocktail Bar, Franco Manca and St Nicholas Market. - Reef founder Jack Bessant and acclaimed singer-songwriter Chris Jagger leading a full day of free live music at Mr Wolfs. 6.4 Hospitality for Our Community – 8 September: - In collaboration with Bristol Food Network a panel discussion followed by a shared lunch, featuring Josh Eggleton (The Pony Group), Bristol Beer Factory, Hartcliffe City Farm and a local hospitality business, exploring how hospitality businesses can strengthen their connections with local communities while creating positive social impact. 6.5 Bristol Cocktail Weekend 24 -27 September - The city's annual showcase of mixology, celebrating the incredible cocktail venues that Bristol has to offer. Brought to you by drink and dining connoisseurs, Living For The Weekend. Ticket sales doing well. 6.6 Brazen 9-13 November - Bristol BID and Brazen Festival (previously Bristol Tech Fest) are working together on a 3-year partnership 2026-28. - The partnership will support greater activity during the festival period (9-13 November) in the BID boundary, including the use of levy paying businesses across all sectors, including education. - The partnership will also showcase the Bristol BID brand to new audiences, while strengthening our relationships with businesses. - Artwork commission as part of Brazen Bristol and BID partnership. £5,000 contribution to Brazen from Bristol BID in year one to build value and long-lasting impact through the commissioning or purchase of an artist made artwork (image, sculpture, public art etc). - The acquisition of this artwork object is in addition to the festival's programming and events schedule and will remain on display after the festival period.
7	Christmas review headlines
	7.1 The Experiences and Promotions working group is considering how the city can be more attractive, competitive, and successful over the festive season. Given where we are in the year this work will primarily focus on Christmas 2027/28. Christmas generates a significant economic boost for Bristol through increased retail spending, hospitality activity, tourism, and seasonal employment. Compared with similar sized UK cities such as Leeds,

	Liverpool, and Nottingham, Bristol benefits from a strong independent business sector, a vibrant cultural offer, and high local spend retention. However, its Christmas economy is constrained by a less distinctive Christmas offer and has significant potential to grow. The greatest opportunity for growth lies not in increasing footfall alone, but in attracting more overnight visitors, increasing visitor spending, and strengthening Bristol's unique Christmas identity, bringing together its creative, cultural, heritage and maritime opportunities. As part of this work, the AB is invited to share thoughts and experiences. Please think about what works well, what can be improved, and where we might look for fresh ideas. The responses will inform future conversations about how to improve Bristol's festive season offer. Bristol's festive offering: Have your say KD: one of the problems is that it has always been done too late in the past. Practical issues such as coach parking and drop offs need to be included. Council needs to be supportive. Christmas has become too fragmented so bringing it together is great. SB: This is one of the team's frustrations – there needs to be a joined-up approach to things like this. Asked AH for the best person at the council to talk to about Christmas curation. AH: events team sit in highways rather than culture, so it is a janitorial approach rather than curatorial. We should have a multi-agency working group for curation (place making) - happy to suggest people from the council who should be involved. KD: Could the BID hold the curatorial role? BP: How can theatre goers, especially coachloads, be persuaded to spend more time in the city. How can communication improve? KW: Do the One City boards have a role in this? How do all the various groups work together strategically. KD: Working on a events strategy, but that is regional. VL: Suggested updating the AB at the next meeting on the curation proposal.
8	Bristol Light Festival
	8.1 Vicky provided an update on the latest plans for 2027 BLF. TB: Will BLF+ return - Vicky said yes and it has a dedicated budget for the fringe activities. DK: For marketing, would an app be a useful addition – including wayfinding. ST: Ways to increase diversity, American Black History Month is in February, could the light festival to do something to mark this. There are also plans for a music mile.
9	Safe & Supported Communities update
	9.1 The Bristol Safe Space at Night project remains on track to launch the first weekend of September. A medic and marshal are being recruited by Bristol

	Ambulance EMS and CR2 Security Group and volunteers via Hope Against Suicide. 9.2 The popular night ranger service was launched in June and has full funding from the Knife Crime Concentration Fund from July until March (£31,600) 9.3 Bristol has retained its Purple Flag accreditation for the 16th successive year. The AB were given information about the areas the assessors' report say we need to focus on for next year's submission. 9.4 As per our business plan, Bristol BID has confirmed we will continue to support Bristol City Council's work to support the Nighttime Economy. We met with Anesa and others from the council this week to discuss the plans going forward. A report went to committee at the beginning of June, setting out plans for the establishment of a cross-party task and finish group to look at the revised shared vision with a view to refreshing the policy and portfolio of work. It will meet for the first time in September; the first meeting will be council members only with other partners and industry representatives invited in the future. A report will be submitted by 27 July to reestablish the funding of the NTE advisor post and to establish a NTE advisory board. A six-month secondment post is being advertised within the council for a programme manager, they will manage the website and brand, the task and finish group, and establish the advisory board. An immediate focus, before this post is established, is on the Bristol Rules campaign, due to launch prior to freshers' week – a working group, including the BID, will meet weekly from w/c 27 July and has deadlines to meet. Economic Development will continue to take the lead, but the public health team will need to take responsibility for Thrive at Night, Women's safety training, spiking, and harm reduction. The programme management approach will be – what is needed, how that is delivered, what is its impact. VL: Asked if the secondment is internal within the council. Alex said, initially, but it may have to go outside if nobody suitable applies. AH: Thanked the BID for their support. There is a desire to broaden the scope beyond NTE venues, supporting others working on the city at night. DK: How is the NTE supported by the BID Advisory Board? SB responded that the working groups and the BID led hospitality & leisure forum include nighttime economy representatives and that NTE should be seen as wider than hospitality, including everyone who works between 6pm and 6am.
10	Sustainable & Green update
	10.1 An update was given on the Green & Blue Infrastructure Action Plan and our Eco System collaboration. 10.2 Broad Meadow - working with BCC and the artists, the Broadmead West installation will be removed in Autumn with attention to be focussed on the Merchant Street installation. In the meantime, the watering schedule will be increased and the boxes moved to reduce opportunities for ASB.
11	Transport update

	11.1 There was an update on Oxford Street proposals, Cargo Bike event, Workplace Parking Levy consultation proposals. DK: interesting that engagement for the Oxford Street proposals has been so strong. AH: Does not recall being invited to cargo bike for business event.
12	Any Other Business
	12.1 Advisory Board vacancy, live on Bristol BID website, closing date 14 August. 12.2 The BID will be represented at the opening of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus and the new Eastern Entrance to Bristol Temple Meads railway station on 7 July. 12.3 High-level Harbour Festival feedback. Attendee and Business surveys are live. ST: Celebration of Victoria Street once roadworks have been completed will be looking for donation and venue support from businesses in the area. Probably mid-October. LR: Increase in vagrancy in past two weeks, which has resulted in more crime. This issue will continue to be escalated to the relevant authorities. ST: Recent homelessness strategy work did not look at the impact on the city centre. KW: Print Fair at Spike Island this weekend. AH: Aardman exhibition doing very well.
Next Meeting	Thursday 22 October, 12-2pm Venue TBC offers of a meeting space welcome.