

Community Climate Action

Realising Our Inclusive Transport Vision:



October 2025

Table of contents

03

Introduction

07

How to use this toolkit

09

Knowledge is power

Understand how transport works in Bristol

The case for change

What could change look like?

21

Take action

Small actions, big impact

Make your voice heard

Say if something isn't right

Check your street

Understand others

Choose active travel

Give children and young people a say

Funding for community groups

55

Conclusion

56

Jargon buster

62

Activity cards



Introduction

In 2024 the **Inclusive Transport Vision** for Bristol was launched. The **Vision** champions the **sustainable transport** priorities in Bristol's first **community climate action plans**. Co-developed as part of the Community Climate Action project, through **engagement** with communities and people who work in transport, the **vision** advocates for the transport needs of Bristol's community of Disabled people, refugees and migrants, and people from parts of the city that are often left out of transport decision making.

What is the Community Climate Action Project?

The Community Climate Action Project is an ambitious, citywide programme funded by The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund, and co-ordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership. It demonstrates the important role communities can play in achieving the city's climate and nature ambitions, whilst also improving people's quality of life.

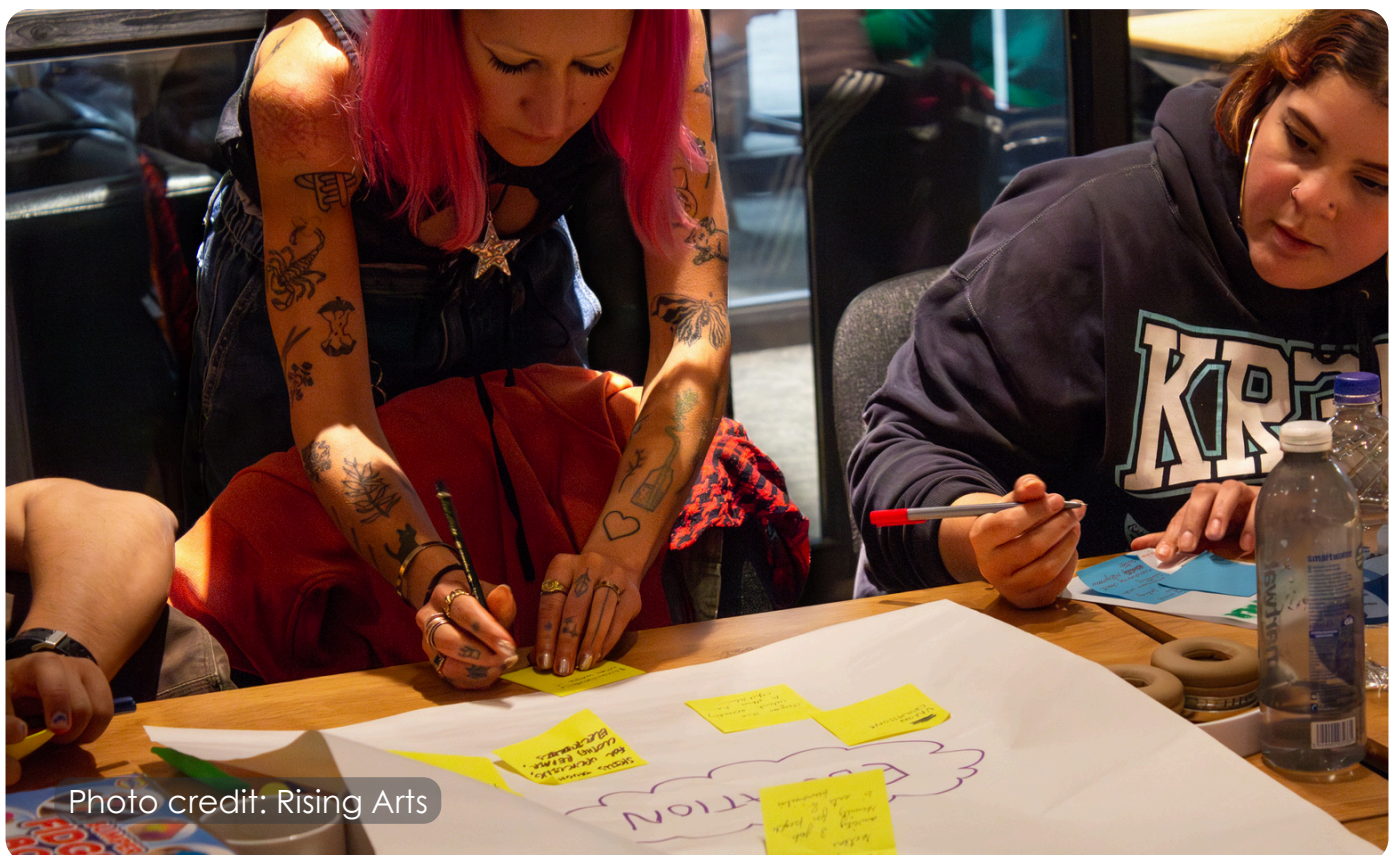


Photo credit: Rising Arts

In 2022, ACH, Ambition Lawrence Weston, Bristol Disability Equality Forum, Eastside Community Trust, Heart of BS13 and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust led an in-depth community **engagement** process to co-produce their own **community climate action plans**. The priorities in these plans were refreshed in 2024/2025, including the evolution of the plan for Bristol's community of Disabled people, through the Climate and Disability Forum.

Transport was a key issue for all communities, but they felt that it should be addressed at a citywide level, not a **local** level. As such, these community organisations took part in further discussions to produce the **Inclusive Transport Vision**, based on the priorities in their plans.

In spring/summer 2024 and in summer 2025, 11 more communities* launched their plans as part of the project's learning and mentoring programme. These also have transport priorities, some of which echo the issues raised in the **vision**, although they have not been explicitly incorporated.

[You can read the community climate action plans](#)



Why do we need this toolkit?

Whilst the **Inclusive Transport Vision** describes what residents and community groups would like Bristol's transport system to look like, this **toolkit** provides guidance on how to make this a reality. By using this **toolkit**, we hope you, as residents and communities, will feel more confident engaging with the transport system. Contained within these pages are information and suggestions on how to influence and make positive changes in your neighbourhood, to support the shift towards **sustainable transport** and a more **inclusive**, safer city for all. If you are a decision maker, we hope this **toolkit** will provide insights which you can use to support residents and communities to realise this ambition.

* Local people living in Bedminster, Southmead, Brislington, Hillfields, Knowle West, Shirehampton, Hotwells, Cliftonwood and Harbourside; older people; cricket fans; underrepresented young creatives; and women from marginalised communities.

Who is this toolkit for?

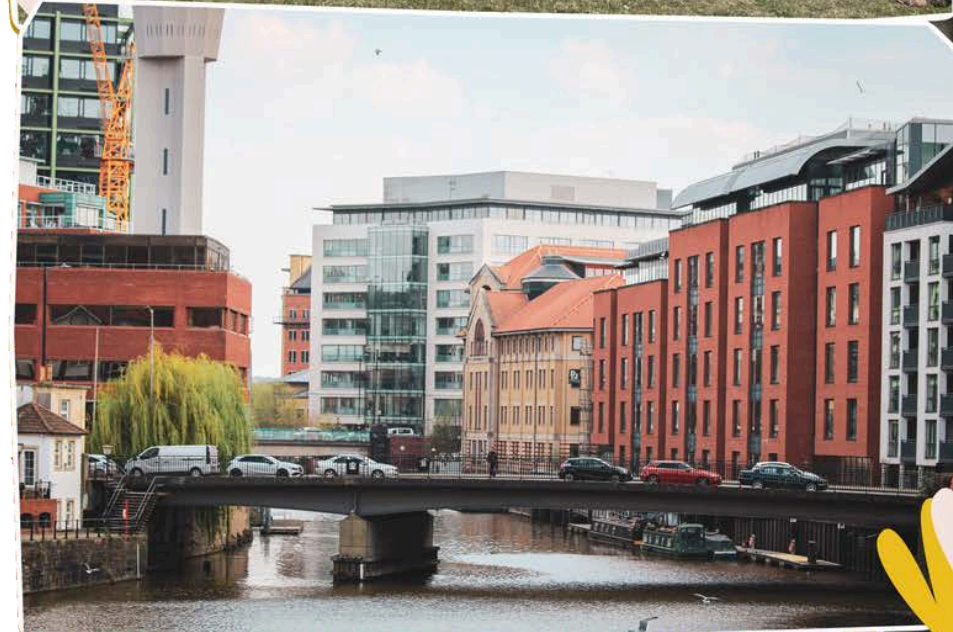
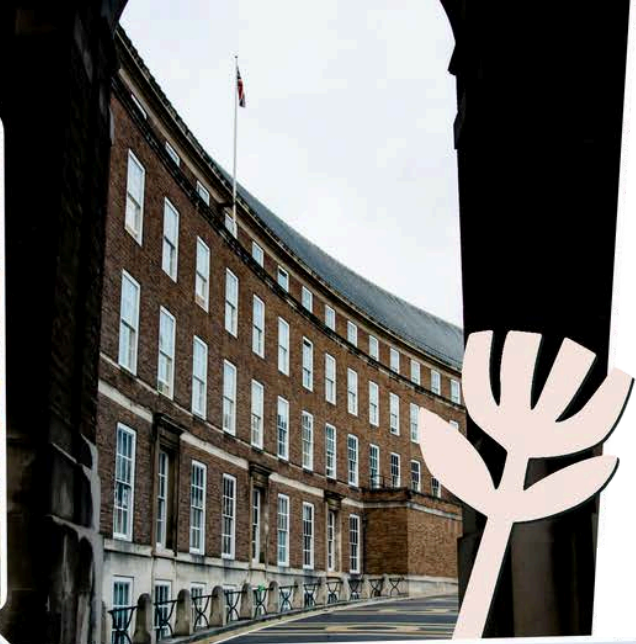
Achieving an **inclusive**, safe and **accessible** net zero transport future for Bristol means designing for everyone's journeys. Not just the 9 to 5 commuter who produces rush hour traffic, but also:

- 🌀 hospitality workers who need to get home safely late at night
- 🌀 factory workers who need to get to work early in the morning
- 🌀 carers who visit lots of homes across the city in one day
- 🌀 parents dropping off and collecting children, or needing to bring a buggy onto a bus or train
- 🌀 young people going to college or university, or on a night out
- 🌀 wheelchair users who want to travel together
- 🌀 tradespeople who have to carry tools in their van
- 🌀 older people who need clear and smooth pavements to feel able to walk to the shops
- 🌀 children cycling or scooting to the park to play with their friends
- 🌀 people driving lorries and cars delivering goods and parcels.

How did we develop this toolkit?

This **toolkit** was developed with input from representatives from 11 communities. The below illustration is from a co-development workshop held in January 2025, summarising some of the discussions.





Bristol, Greater Bristol and beyond

The **community climate action plans** that form the basis of this **toolkit** are from communities in Bristol. However, transport goes beyond unitary authority boundaries, and the residents of Bristol need to be able to get to and travel to and from destinations beyond the Bristol City Council boundary.

Similarly, people who travel into Bristol from other areas need transport that works for them and for neighbourhoods they travel through. This is why collaborating across city, regional and **national** boundaries on transport issues is key.



How to use this toolkit

This **toolkit** is structured in two parts, as shown in the diagram below. You may want to read it in order, or dip in and out of the chapters as required.

The first section, Knowledge is Power, starts with how the transport system currently works, it then goes through the case for change, and ends with a summary of what change could look like if the **Inclusive Transport Vision** was achieved.

The second section, Taking Action, can be used as a menu of suggested actions. They range in the amount of time, energy and people power they require, and so there is hopefully something in here for everyone. You will also find activity cards at the back of the **toolkit**.

Throughout each section of the **toolkit** you will find the following features:



Top tips – Extra information, hints and advice.



Spotlight on – These are **case studies** of individuals and organisations who are working in some way to make getting around our city more welcoming, **accessible** and safe.



Make it accessible – Reminders and advice on how to ensure our actions consider the needs of everyone.

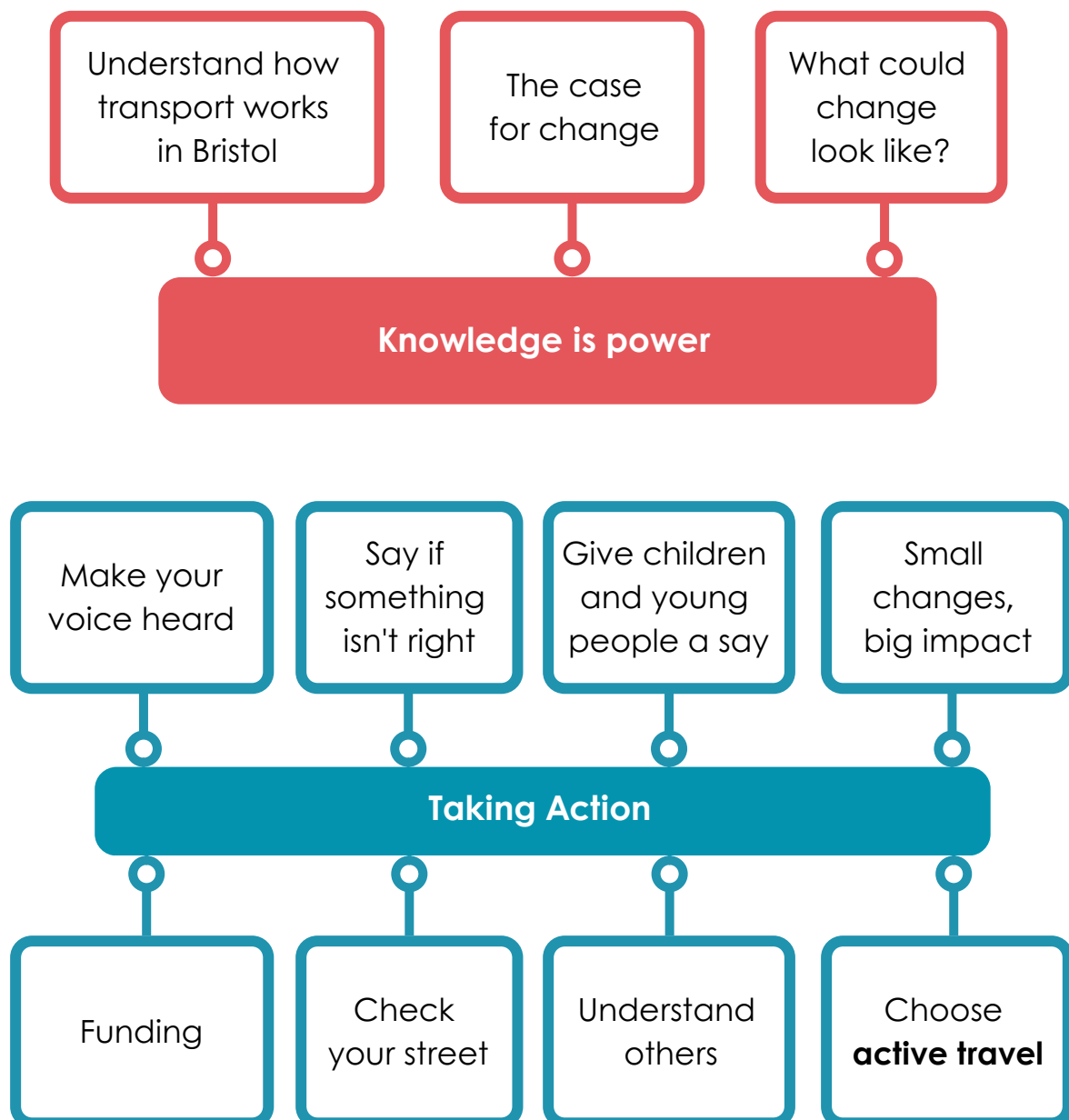


For decision makers – If you work within the transport system or have a position of influence, we have included extra advice and guidance on how you can support residents and communities in achieving the **Inclusive Transport Vision**.

At the end of this guide is a **jargon buster**. A **jargon buster** is a list that explains the words that not everyone will understand. Words included on the **jargon buster** are in bold.

Different **formats** of the toolkit, such as an easy read version, are available if you or someone you know would benefit from it.

We are happy for organisations to use and share this guide. However, we cannot be sure the information will remain accurate and up-to-date and so if you are sharing it, we recommend checking links are live and information is in date.





Knowledge is power

- Understand how transport works in Bristol
- The case for change
- What could change look like?

Understand how transport works in Bristol



This chapter explains how the current transport system works in Bristol by describing who is responsible for each of the different parts.

Who's who ?

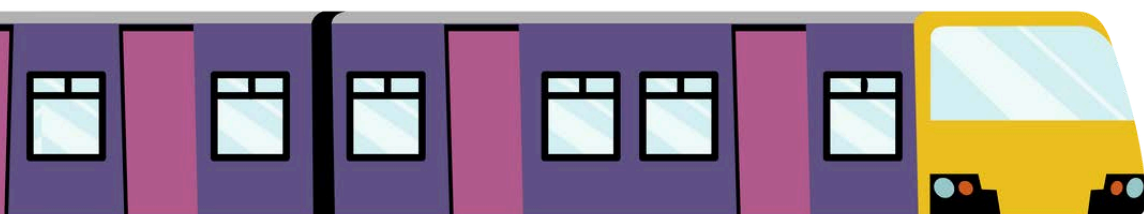
To understand the roles and responsibilities in Bristol's transport system, it is first important to understand the different organisations involved.

National government

Department of Transport is a government organisation that supports and checks the standards of roads, rail, buses, ports, air travel, and low carbon transport. They create the **national** transport policy framework, provide guidance to **local authorities**, collect and publish **national** transport data and allocate funding to **Combined** and **Local Authorities**.

Active Travel England is an **executive agency** of the Department of Transport. Its aim is to increase the number of journeys people walk, **wheel** and cycle. It does this by reviewing all large **planning applications** in England, creating guidance on the design of **active travel infrastructure**, providing funding for **active travel** and sharing case studies. They also check that **Combined Authorities** and **Local Authorities** are delivering high quality **infrastructure**.

Office of Rail and Road have a number of roles. They make sure that people's health and safety is met when using or working on the railways. They improve rail passengers' experience, including ensuring train journeys are **accessible**. They check the performance of National Highways (who look after the UK's major A-roads and motorways).

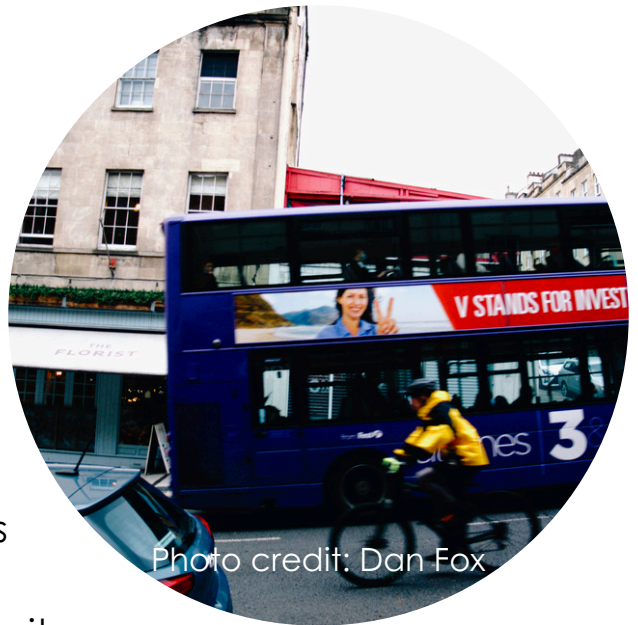


Local government

West of England Combined Authority

Set up in 2017, the West of England **Combined Authority** (WECA) is formed of Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and Bath & North East Somerset Council. It is led by the WECA Mayor (sometimes called the Metro Mayor), who is elected in **local elections** every four years.

The leaders from each of the three councils sit on the West of England **Combined Authority** Committee, which is chaired by the WECA Mayor. The West of England **Combined Authority** is the **regional transport authority**. This means it is responsible for managing and improving transport in the area. It does this through transport planning, subsidising **public transport** services, setting policy and working with operators and **local authorities**.



Bristol City Council

Since May 2024, Bristol City Council has been run as a committee system. Under this system there are eight policy committees who run the different parts of the council's work. There is an [easy read guide](#) which explains how the committee system works. Particularly relevant to Bristol's transport system is the Transport and Connectivity Policy Committee.

Bristol City Council is the **highways authority** for Bristol. This means it has a number of responsibilities including: building new **transport infrastructure**, maintaining roads, bridges and cycle paths, writing **local** policy and improving road safety.

Bristol One City Approach

The Bristol One City Approach brings together partners from the public, private, voluntary and third sector to work together to make Bristol fairer, healthier and more **sustainable**. The One City Plan describes what Bristol will be like by 2025 according to six themes: Economy and Skills, Children and Young People, Transport, Homes and Communities, Environment and Health and Wellbeing. You can find out more about the [One City Approach](#).

Public transport companies

Network Rail is the public body that owns, operates, maintains and develops Britain's rail network. They are responsible for the operation, maintenance and improvement of railway **infrastructure**, for example the track, signals, bridges and stations. Between 2025 and 2027 most private train companies will be brought under public ownership, this is called nationalisation. The new organisation that will run the trains, including absorbing the work of Network Rail, is called Great British Railways.

GWR (Great Western Railway) is a train company that serves South West England and Wales. [View a map of the GWR network.](#)

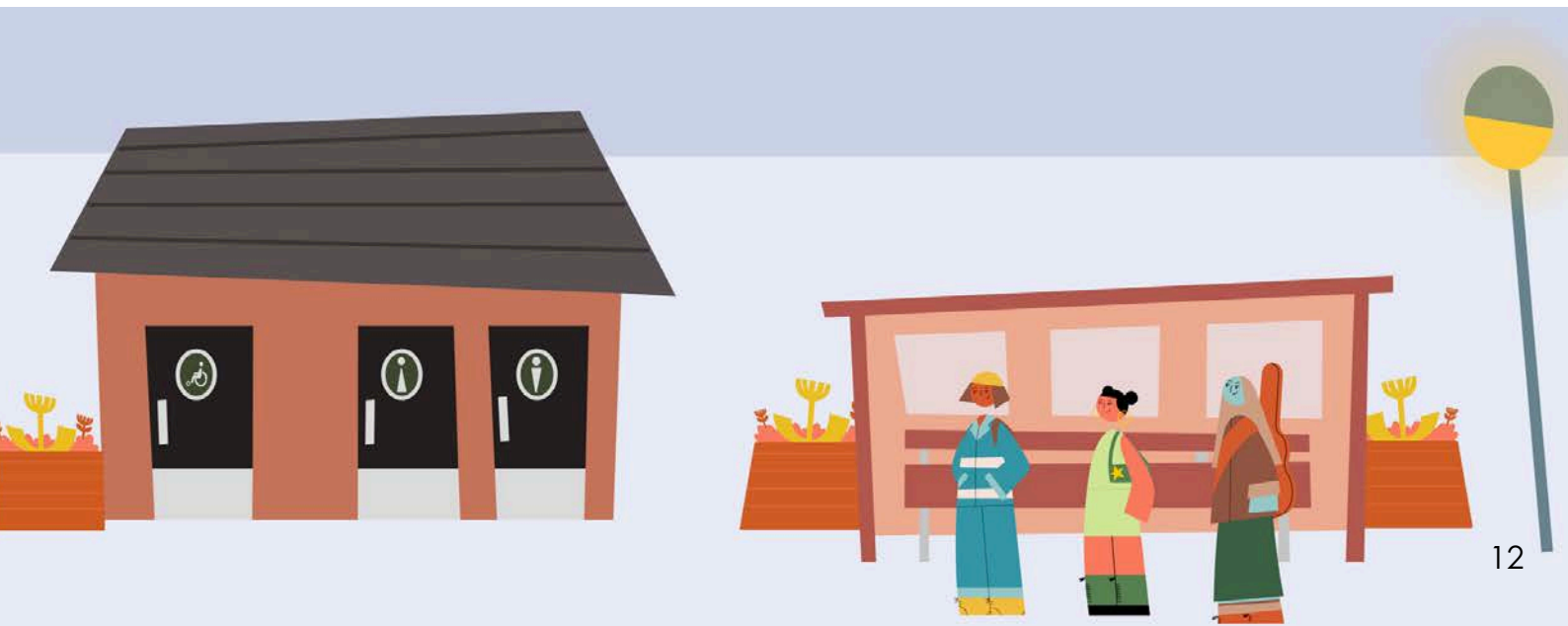
Cross Country is a train company that serves the length of England and east coast of Scotland. View a [map of the Cross Country network.](#)

Bristol Ferry Boats operate a daily [waterbus service.](#)

First Bus operate buses across the country, and they are one of the largest operators in the West of England, which means they run a lot of the bus services in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Somerset, North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset.

Stagecoach operate buses across the country, including in Bristol and the surrounding areas.

There are a number of other, smaller private transport companies operating in the area as well, such as Transpora and Big Lemon.



Who is responsible for what?

Public transport

Buses

The majority of bus services are operated on a **commercial** basis by private companies. However, the West of England **Combined Authority**, as the **regional transport authority**, can fund **local** bus services which are considered to be socially necessary, these are called **supported bus services**. Without this funding these bus services wouldn't run. You can find a list of **supported bus services** on the [Travel WEST website](#).



Bus cards, which include the Disabled person's bus pass and the older person's bus pass are managed by WECA and issued by your **Local Authority**. If you live in Bristol this is Bristol City Council. Bus stops and shelters are owned and looked after by Bristol City Council. This means they install new bus stops and carry out any repairs that are needed.

Taxis and private hire vehicles

There are two types of taxi operating in Bristol, Hackney Carriages and private hire vehicles.

Hackney Carriages are taxis that you can hail in the street or get from a taxi rank. You can recognise a Hackney Carriage in Bristol because they are painted Bristol Blue and have an illuminated taxi sign on the roof.

Private hire vehicles must be pre-booked, they come in various colours, except for Bristol Blue. Examples of private hire vehicles include **local** private taxi companies, Uber and Bolt. Both types of taxi will display licence plates, Hackney Carriage licence plates are white and red, whereas private hire vehicles licence plates are yellow and red. All Hackney Carriages are wheelchair **accessible**.

Public e-scooter and e-bike hire

The **e-scooters** and **e-bikes** available in the West of England to hire as a 'hop on and hop off' service are part of a government trial currently planned to run until at least May 2026.

This is led by the West of England **Combined Authority**, and in Bristol this is in partnership with Bristol City Council. The **e-scooters** are operated by private company TIER-Dott.

At the moment, **e-scooters** and **e-bikes** are parked on the pavements. However, Bristol City Council are starting to introduce dedicated and marked parking bays on the road.



Car Clubs

Car Clubs allow you to hire a car or van for a short period of time, such as an hour or a day. There are over 300 cars available across Bristol and Bath, through different operators. Find out more at [Car Clubs - WEST.](#)

Train stations

Bristol Temple Meads is managed by Network Rail and staffed by GWR. This means Network Rail are responsible for looking after the building, the platforms, the railway lines that go through the station. They also oversee the shops and food outlets that hire space in the station. GWR look after most of the customer service of the station, this includes services like **passenger assistance**, the ticket office and ticket gates.

Other stations across Bristol are owned by Network Rail but managed by GWR. These stations include: Ashley Down, Avonmouth, Bedminster, Bristol Parkway, Clifton Down, Filton Abbey Wood, Lawrence Hill, Montpelier, Parson Street, Portway Park and Ride, Redland, Sea Mills, Shirehampton, Stapleton Road and St Andrews Road.

Streets and spaces

Roads, pavements, footpaths and cycle paths are maintained by Bristol City Council, if they are on land that the Council own or look after. Some roads, pavements, footpaths and cycle paths are on **private land**. This means they are owned by an individual or organisation.

There are 29 parks, green spaces and estates managed by Bristol City Council. You can find a list [on their website](#).

Road crossings, including zebra, toucan and pelican crossings, are managed by Bristol City Council.

Road signs are managed by Bristol City Council.

Car parks: Some are managed by Bristol City Council, and some are managed by private companies. Take a look [Bristol City Council website](#) for a list of car parks they manage.

Electric vehicle charging is available across the city through a mix of privately owned and publicly owned charging points. The Revive network is managed by the West of England **Combined Authority** and is available in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset, and North Somerset. You can find electric vehicle charging points on [the zap map website](#).

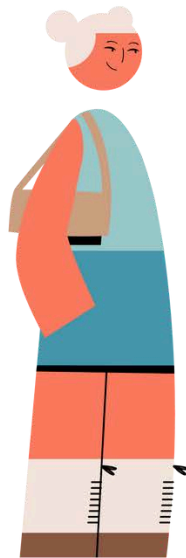


The case for change



There are a number of different reasons why residents in Bristol want to make changes to their streets and the city's transport system. The below statements are just a few of the reasons. Some or all of them might reflect how you feel too.


 Bristol is the third most congested city in the UK, drivers lost 65 hours to traffic in 2024. 29% of Bristol residents want to drive less.



'I want to be able to get around the city easily and reliably without sitting in, and contributing to, traffic.'



'I finish work late at night and I want to feel safe travelling home.'

 41% of working age adults in Bristol are on shift at some point between 10pm and 6am.

84% of women on shift between 10pm and 6am, say they feel unsafe using **public transport**, and 84% feel at risk waiting for a bus after dark.

Disabled people take 38% fewer trips across all modes of transport than non-disabled people. Disabled residents walk, wheel or cycle around Bristol less than non-disabled residents. 92% of Disabled people face barrier(s) on at least one mode of transport. 77% of Disabled people have said that transport **barriers** have a negative effect on their physical and mental wellbeing.



'As a Disabled person I need the city and public transport to be accessible so I can get around more easily.'

A quarter of Bristol's carbon emissions are from transport. If Bristol residents walked, wheeled and cycled more, it would save 30,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

'I want transport in Bristol to be sustainable to reduce my impact on the environment.'



Road transport is the biggest source of **nitrogen oxides** emissions in the UK. This is a harmful air **pollutant**. Around 300 deaths each year in Bristol are because of air pollution.



'I want the air we breathe to be clean for me and my family.'

42% of Bristol residents think the level of safety for children walking or **wheeling** is good. 72% of children would find it useful if there were slower speed limits for cars.



'I want my children to be able to enjoy travelling to school and playing outside, and for it to be safe for them.'



What could change look like?



The below statements describe what transport will look like in Bristol when the Inclusive Transport Vision has been achieved.

Public transport



All people in Bristol have access to affordable **public transport** that is easy to use and safe at all times of day and night. Transport projects are co-designed with Disabled people's organisations to ensure the whole journey is accessible.

Air quality

Good air quality throughout the city makes getting around, by walking, **wheeling** or cycling, safe and more enjoyable.



Active travel

All residents can access a joined up, **accessible**, and safe **active travel** network, so everyone can get where they need to go easily and safely. Pavements are good quality and people don't block them with cars or recycling boxes. This means it's easier for people to travel by walking and **wheeling**. People have confidence, access to kit and routes to cycle safely. This includes wide segregated cycle lanes, cycle training, bike maintenance workshops and secure storage to accommodate a range of cycles.



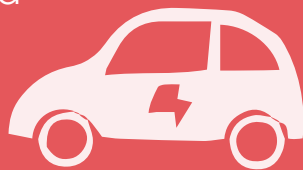
Disabled people have full mobility

Disabled people who need to drive can do so and are supported to do so in a way that is better for the planet. Mobility equipment and public toilets are available for those who need to use them. This supports some Disabled people to drive less.



Local mobility hub and car club

Joined up **public transport** is supported by other forms of transport. Community owned electric car clubs mean residents in one street share a car. At mobility hubs across the city, residents can change buses or get onto **e-scooters** and **e-bikes**.



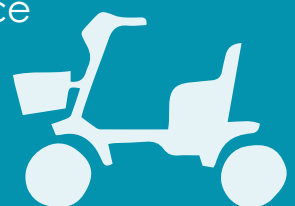
People centred communities and less traffic outside schools

Our neighbourhoods are people-centred rather than car-centred. Residents can chat to their neighbours on benches in street parklets. It's easier to walk, **wheel**, cycle or scoot the school run and it's safer for kids to play out on the street.



Deliveries management to have fewer lorries and cars moving around the city

Co-ordinated deliveries are easier for drivers and reduce unsafe parking which is a hazard for pedestrians. **E-cargo** bikes and electric vehicles improve the air quality.



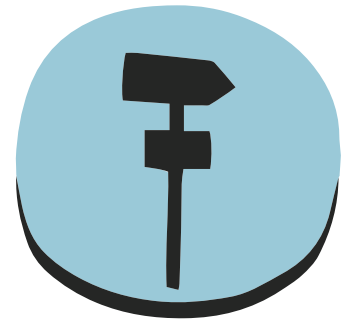


Take action

This section is a menu of suggested actions. They range in the amount of time, energy and people power they require, and so we believe there is something in here for everyone.

- **Small actions, big impact**
- **Make your voice heard**
- **Say if something isn't right**
- **Check your street**
- **Choose active travel**
- **Give children and young people a say**
- **Funding for community groups**

Small actions, big impact



Achieving our **Inclusive** Transport **Vision** is not something that can be done by one person. There are lots of small steps you can take to make a difference today.

Spread the word

If you like the **Inclusive** Transport **Vision**, share it - with your colleagues and family, with members of your community, with your councillors and MPs. Let's make sure people know what communities want for our city's future!



Make your voice heard

Sign a **petition**, speak to your **local councillor** or MP. Feedback your thoughts on **consultations**. See 'make your voice heard' on page 24 for more suggestions.



Learn more

Learning from others can help inspire action by sharing ideas.



Swap car journeys for active travel options

See 'Choose **active travel**' on page 40 for tips and tricks



Sharing is caring

- Car sharing
- Parent pick up clubs
- Co-ordinate deliveries with neighbours



Park responsibly

- Switch off the engine when stationary
- Don't block dropped curbs or crossing points
- Avoid parking on the pavement





Click and collect

Delivery vans blocking the pavements around your home?

Try reducing the number of home deliveries by using click and collect.



Suggestion for community groups

Set up a place for click and collect in your community centre.



Make it accessible

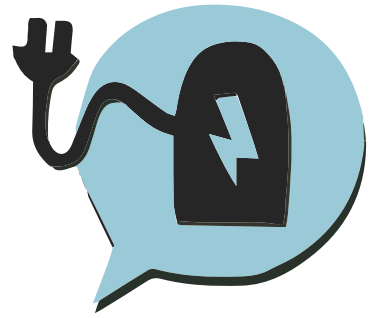
Some people might not be able to make these switches and they shouldn't be judged for not being able to. Reasons might include:

- Time
- Cost
- Access needs

But there are lots of ways to get involved, look out for the make it accessible logo within this **toolkit** for suggestions.



Make your voice heard



There are many ways that you can make your voice heard about what happens in your **local** area. This could be on your street, in your neighbourhood, citywide, or on a regional or even **national** level. Take a look at the suggestions below.

Vote in elections

Make sure you are registered to vote. This is a way to have your say on what happens in your **local** area or in the country. We have the following **elections** in Bristol:

- **Local elections**

This is where you vote for the **councillor** you want to represent you in the area where you live (called a '**ward**'). These are held every four years.

- **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Avon and Somerset election**

This is where you vote for the Police and Crime Commissioner of the Avon and Somerset Police area ([learn more about this role](#)). These are held every four years.

- **West of England Combined Authority Mayoral election**

This is where you vote for the WECA Mayor (sometimes called the Metro Mayor). This is the person who leads the West of England **Combined Authority** (see page 11 for an explanation). These are held every four years.

- **UK Parliamentary (General) elections**

This is where you vote for the Member of Parliament (MP) who will represent your area of the country (called a '**constituency**') in Parliament. [Learn more about the Bristol constituencies and the current MPs representing them.](#)

Sometimes we also have:

- **Referendums**

This is where you will be asked to vote on a specific question. These can be **local** or **national**.



Top tip - We know that making your voice heard takes energy, time and commitment. It is therefore important to take care of your wellbeing.

- Prioritise sleep, exercise and eating well
- Spend time in nature
- Take breaks
- Limit how long you spend on social media
- Do something creative
- Practice mindfulness or meditation
- Make time to see friends and do activities you enjoy
- Be an ally to others.

For further support with your wellbeing and mental health, take a look on the Mind website.



[Call for support and information | Helplines | Mind - Mind](#)

Raise an issue with your local councillor or Member of Parliament

A **councillor** is an elected person who represents the people living in a certain area (called a '**ward**'). Once you know which ward you live in, you can find your local councillors.



You can speak to your **councillors** or MP about issues. They can be contacted by post, email or phone. Most also run surgeries which you can attend to discuss issues face-to-face.

Attend or watch a council meeting

Public attendance and participation is welcomed at Full Council and formal committee meetings. Public meetings are held at City Hall, you will need to sign in when you arrive and you will be given a visitor pass. When attending public meetings it is important to behave with courtesy, tolerance and respect to everyone who is attending.

To find a meeting, take a look at the [calendar on the Bristol City Council Website](#). For transport related issues, take a look at the upcoming agendas for the [Transport and Connectivity Policy Committee](#).

You can also watch council meetings on [YouTube](#).



Ask a question or make a statement at a council meeting

During Full Council and policy committee meetings, 30 minutes are set aside for **petitions**, statements, and questions. For each council meeting, you can submit one statement or up to three questions.

Questions and statements must be about topics or issues which affect Bristol and are within the council's areas of responsibility. When you submit a **petition**, statement, or question, it is reviewed to check it is relevant and then it is published online and sent to **councillors**.

If you submit a statement or **petition**, a written reply will be sent to you within 10 working days of the meeting. If you submit a question, written responses will be published on the Bristol City Council website within 10 working days.



For more information about asking a question or making a statement at a council meeting, [Bristol City Council have a guide](#).

Respond to a consultation

A **consultation** is a formal process where an organisation asks for views to make a decision about a specific topic.



You can respond to Bristol City Council **consultations** through the [Ask Bristol website](#). Sign up to the [Ask Bristol ebulletin](#) for a fortnightly email about new **consultations** and other opportunities to have your say.

Start a petition

A **petition** asks the government or **local** council to do something and people sign their names to show their support for it.

Submitting a petition to the government

1 Create a **petition** on the [UK Government and Parliament website](#). You have to be a British citizen and a UK resident to create a **petition**.




2 You will need to get 5 people to support it, your **petition** will then be checked to ensure it meets the standards for **petitions**, and then it will be published.

3 After 10,000 signatures, **petitions** get a response from the government.

4 After 100,000 signatures, **petitions** are considered for debate in **Parliament**.

Submitting a petition to Bristol City Council ([further instructions can be found on the Bristol City Council website](#))

1 Create a **petition** one of the following ways:

-  on the Bristol City Council website
-  on another **petition** website, such as change.org
-  a paper **petition**.

2 People who sign the **petition** must live or work in the Bristol City Council area.

3 After 20 signatures, **petitions** can be submitted to a council meeting (see above 'Ask a question or make a statement at a Council Meeting').

4 After 200 signatures, **petitions** are debated at an Area Committee.

5 After 1,500 signatures, **petitions** are debated at a Policy Committee.

6 After 3,500 signatures, **petitions** are debated at Full Council.



Top tip - Petitions are most effective if the number of signatories is very large. Sometimes if an issue is specific to a particular area, such as a single street, it is less likely to be supported by a large number of people. But there are lots of other campaigning approaches that might be effective. Alternatively, you might need to attract support for your campaign before launching a **petition**, for example by holding a public meeting.

Become a Councillor

Anyone can become a **councillor**, you don't need any specific experience or **qualifications**. You will just need to be a British or Commonwealth citizen, at least 18 years old and registered to vote in the area, or have lived, worked, or owned property there for at least 12 months.

To be a **councillor** you have to be elected in **local** government **elections**. You can either stand for a political party or be an independent candidate.

It is important that our **councillors** represent our communities. In 2022, across the UK [Local government facts and figures: England - LGiU](#):

- the average age of **councillors** was 60, and only 16% were under 45,
- 92% described their ethnic background as white,
- 59% were men and 41% were women,
- 84% described their sexual orientation as heterosexual or straight,
- 16% had a long-term health condition or disability.

To find out more, take a look at the [Becoming a Councillor guide](#) from the Local Government Association.

Spotlight on: Becoming a Councillor

Councillor Kirsty Tait, Heart of BS13's Climate Action Programme Manager during the Community Climate Action Project, shares her reflections on becoming a **councillor**.

I'm Councillor Kirsty Tait, Labour **Councillor** for Hartcliffe and Withywood.



Why did you become a councillor?

I became a **councillor** because I believe decisions that shape our daily lives should be led by the people who live here. Hartcliffe and Withywood are rich in community spirit but face significant challenges — we rank in the top 10% most deprived areas in the UK, have the third lowest living wage in the city, and some of the lowest female life expectancy. I wanted to bring our voices into the rooms where decisions are made, ensuring our priorities — from better housing and transport to green jobs and climate resilience — are heard.

My work at Heart of BS13 showed me how community-led projects can tackle both inequality and the climate crisis, and I wanted to take that same approach into **local** government.

Why is transport an important issue in our local area?

Transport is a lifeline — and in Hartcliffe, poor **public transport** has left many feeling cut off from the city. We have limited bus services and long, expensive commutes, which restrict access to jobs, education, healthcare, and cultural opportunities. In some cases, residents have described living in a “food desert”, where even supermarket access is a struggle without a car.

Better, more affordable, and **sustainable transport** isn't just about convenience — it's about fairness, opportunity, and reducing isolation. That's why residents' voices are critical in shaping transport plans — they know the **barriers** and the solutions better than anyone.

What is your top tip for residents who want to make their voice heard?

Be specific, be persistent, and share your lived experience. Whether it's responding to a **consultation**, attending a council meeting, or joining a **local** campaign, your perspective matters. Personal stories backed by facts are powerful — for example, when we worked with young people to address abandoned shopping trolleys, we tied it directly to **local** transport and food access issues, and the community designed the solution. Small actions can create ripple effects, and when we work together, we can make lasting change.

Spotlight on: People's Voice

Our campaign for fair and inclusive bus travel

We are People's Voice, a user led organisation run by and for people with learning disabilities and/or Autism, and in May 2024 we launched a campaign to be able to use the Disabled person's bus pass 24/7 in our area.

What made you start this campaign?

The Disabled person's bus pass is available across England but the **local authority** in each area decides the times at which it can be used. In Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset, and North Somerset the bus pass could only be used after 9am on weekdays. We rely on our bus passes but many of us begin work at 9am or sometimes even earlier, and so these time constraints posed a significant challenge. And it isn't just for work that Disabled people need to use their bus passes before 9am, we also have school, medical appointments, social and recreational activities that we need to get to. Therefore, our campaign called on the West of England **Combined Authority** to allow Disabled people to use their bus pass 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

What did you do?

We set up a **petition** on the website change.org. We chose this platform because it was **accessible**, easy to share and understand and provided a free platform to enable change. We shared the **petition** with our networks including the WECIL newsletter, social media and in person events. The **petition** got 1,289 signatures which showed that this was an important issue to lots of Disabled people in Bristol.

The campaign gained momentum, other organisations and people across the region shared their support for our **petition**.

The **Inclusive Transport Vision** showed decision makers what residents wanted the city to be like. A Golden Motion was raised to Bristol City Council in October 2024 calling for Bristol to be a more **accessible** city and one of the actions included was to make the Disabled people's bus pass 24/7.

What was the result?

The West of England **Combined Authority** changed the rules from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026. This means that for a year, the Disabled person's bus pass can be used any time of day on journeys starting with Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. This is a success and we are already feeling the benefit of being able to use our bus passes to get to where we need to be by 9am in the morning. However, we need this to continue beyond 31 March 2026 and so we will continue to campaign for this to be extended and for the change to be made permanent.

You can sign up to the [People's Voice newsletter here](#) to stay up to date with our campaign.

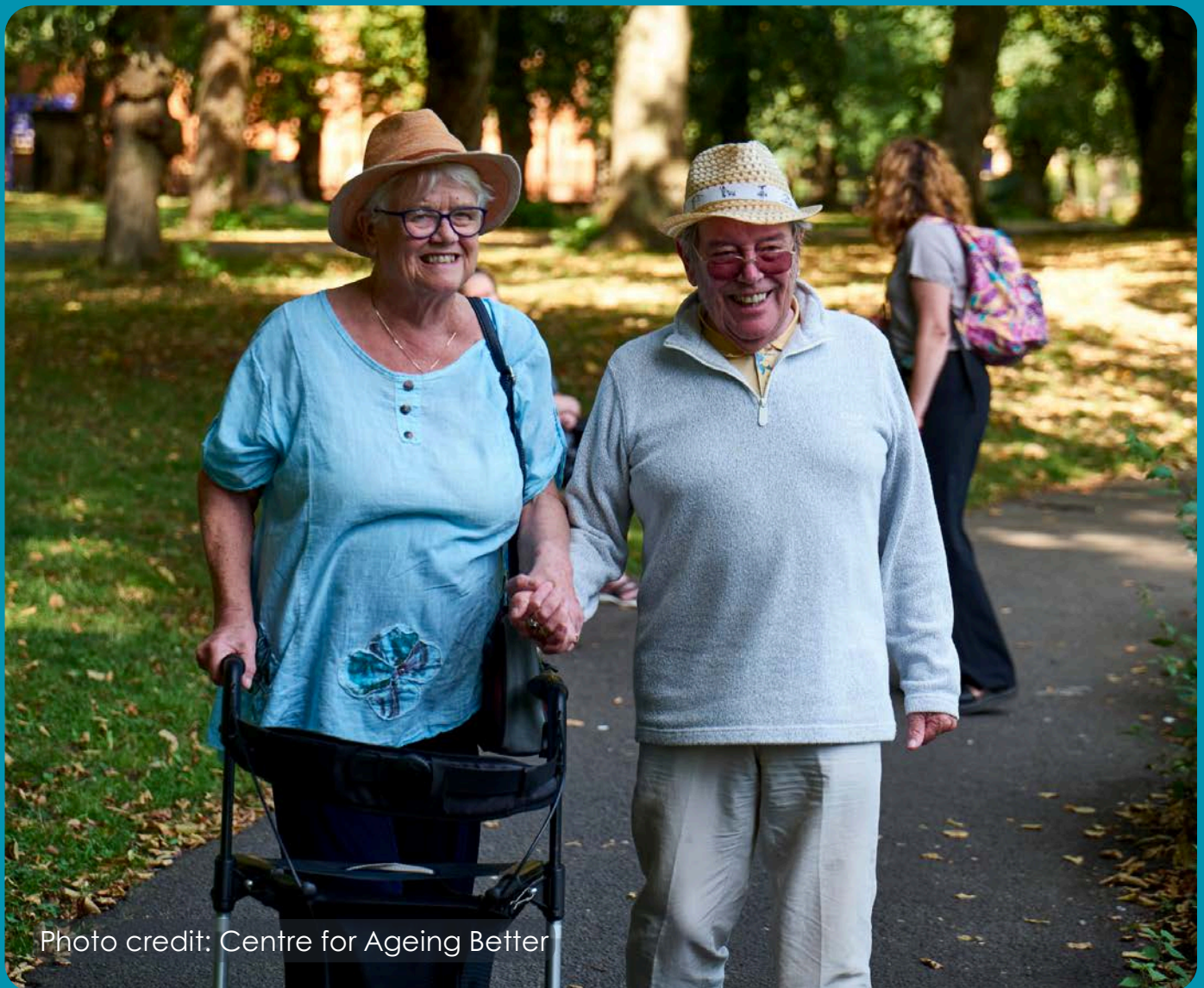


Photo credit: Centre for Ageing Better

Say if something isn't right



If you can, it is important to report any problems on your journey so they can be fixed and so you can get the support you need. Problems could include: a broken bus shelter, an electronic display not working, an incident on **public transport** or a blocked pavement.

Buses

Report a problem with a bus stop or shelter to Bristol City Council.

Report a problem on a First Bus service via their online form or by calling them on 0345 646 0707 (phonenumber open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday).

Report a problem on a Stagecoach service via their online form or by calling them on 0345 241 8000 (phonenumber open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday).

If you have made a complaint to a bus company and you are not happy with the response, the charity Bus Users UK can help. Visit their website to find out how they can help.

Trains

Report a problem on a GWR train via their online form or by calling them on 03457 000 125 (phonenumber open 6am to 11pm).

Report a problem on a Crosscountry train via their online form, by calling them on 03447 369 123 (phonenumber open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 4pm Saturday), or via BSL interpreter (video relay service).

Taxis and private hire vehicles

Drivers must let **assistance dogs** in their taxis and private hire vehicles (PHV), unless they have a reason not to and have been allowed not to. If they have been allowed not to, this is called 'an exemption' and they will have an **exemption** certificate in the taxi or PHV and a yellow card in the taxi or PHV's windscreen. When you take a taxi or PHV, you should not be charged extra if you have an **assistance dog** or if you are a wheelchair user.

If you experience a problem whilst booking or taking a taxi licensed by Bristol, you can [report this through an online form to Bristol City Council](#).

Make sure you write down or take a picture of one of the following numbers, as you will be asked for this when you make a complaint:

- **Taxi's registration number** (the number plate on the outside of the taxi, at the front and the back)
- **Taxi's licence number** (displayed inside the taxi and on the plate at the front and back of the taxi)
- **Driver's badge number** (drivers have two badges, they must wear one and display the other on the dashboard inside their taxi).

If you have a problem with a taxi licensed by another area, you will need to report this to the **local council** for that area. For example, you might take a taxi in Bristol that has been licenced by another area. Most taxis and private hire vehicles have to display a plate on the outside of their vehicle which will also have the name of the **council** that licensed them. Bristol have [an example](#) of what the plates look like for their area. For example, if you experience a problem with a taxi licensed by South Gloucestershire Council, you will need to [report this to South Gloucestershire Council](#).

E-scooters and e-bikes

To report an issue with an **e-scooter** or **e-bike**, including a badly parked **e-scooter** (such as one blocking the pavement), using the [Dott app](#), find the scooter on the map and select 'report issue'.

Blocked pavements

Blocked pavements are a problem for Disabled people. For example, they can stop wheelchair users or **mobility aid** users being able to get past.

If a pavement is blocked, for example by large bins or rubbish, and you can't get past, you can report this to Bristol City Council. [Report an 'obstruction blocking access' on Fix My Street.](#)

! **Hate crime** - Hate crime is described as: crimes carried out against someone because of their race, religion, sexuality, disability or gender. For example, threatening behaviour such as verbal abuse or rude gestures.

There is information on [Bristol City Council website](#) about how to report hate crime to the police. You can also get free support from [Bristol Hate Crime and Discrimination Services](#) and [SARI](#).



Check your street



Why check your street?

Imagine the street you live on, work on, or regularly travel down. Can you access all areas of the street? Are there any **barriers**, such as missing drop curbs or obstacles on the pavement? How does walking or cycling down the street make you feel? Is it noisy? How clean does the air feel? Are there places to rest? Can you cross the road easily? Is there shade on a sunny day? Can you find shelter on a rainy day?

There are surveys that help you think about these questions and summarise your answers to be able to share with other people. Take a look at the spotlight on Healthy Streets below to find out more.

What can you do with this information?

If you think your street needs to be improved, you can use the information you've gathered from the survey as evidence when speaking to decision makers or applying for funding.

 **Make it accessible** - When you are checking your street, be aware that everyone who travels down the street will experience it in a different way.

We experience streets differently depending on how we are travelling down them, for example walking, cycling, carrying heavy shopping, pushing a buggy or using a **mobility aid**.

We experience streets differently depending on how we are seen by others or whether we see people who look like us also using the street.

Therefore, to get a full picture of how welcoming, easy to navigate and safe the street is, it is important to gather the views of a range of people.

Spotlight on: Healthy Streets

Healthy Streets is an approach to creating fairer, **sustainable** and attractive **urban spaces**. This is based on ten 'Indicators' which are each describing a different aspect of the experience of being on a street.

These ten things are important to ensure our streets are welcoming to everyone. By improving them we can make our streets better places to live, work and spend time.

The ten **Indicators** are:

- Everyone feels welcome
- Easy to cross
- Shade and shelter
- Places to stop and rest
- Not too noisy
- People choose to walk and cycle
- People feel safe
- Things to see and do
- People feel relaxed
- Clean air



There are free tools to help you measure a street you are on against the ten Healthy Streets Indicators and create a score out of 100.

1. Feelings survey - answer questions about how a street makes you feel.
2. Measurement survey – answer questions about the features of the street by counting and measuring them.



For decision makers – guidance on inclusive design – Decision makers have a responsibility to ensure that designs meet standards for accessibility. There is a range of guidance for designing **accessible** and **inclusive infrastructure**, as a starting point please see the list below:

- [Local Transport Note \(LTN\) 1/20 - Cycle Infrastructure Design](#)
- [The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016](#)
- [Manual for Streets 1 and 2](#)
- [Traffic Signs Manual](#)
- [Inclusive Mobility](#)
- [Guidance on the Use of Tactile Paving Surfaces 2021](#)
- ILP Technical Report 12 'Lighting of Pedestrian Crossings'
- Design for the mind, neurodiversity and the built environment, PAS 6463:2021.

Further reading:

- [Outdoor accessibility guidance, Paths for all and Sensory Trust](#)
- [A guide to inclusive cycling, Wheels for Wellbeing](#)
- [Resource collection, National Centre for Accessible Transport](#)
- [Cycle for everyone - a guide for inclusive cycling in cities and towns.](#)



Understand others



Be an **ally** – an ally is someone who supports and advocates for others, particularly those from **marginalised groups**. Consider how your actions might impact how other people can get around. For example:

- Make sure that your bins don't block the pavement on rubbish collection day. Blocked pavements stop **mobility aid** users from getting past.
- Make space for a wheelchair user boarding the bus by moving bags, luggage, pushchairs, or yourself, out of the way.
- Stand up to discrimination and harassment on **public transport**, if you feel safe and able to do so.

It's okay to ask if you are not sure.



Top tip - Creativity is a great way to understand experiences different from our own. This could be by reading a book, watching a film or TV show, listening to a podcast or looking at an artwork. You can harness creativity to raise awareness and spread your message. Read more about the power of creativity in the [Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership's Climate and Creativity Insights Report](#).

Understand more about how Disabled people experience getting around our city

Follow the links below for a range of creative expressions of Disabled people's experiences in Bristol and across the UK.

Forum theatre on buses



This short film shows a forum theatre event held by Emma Geen where participants explored accessibility issues with Bristol buses for Disabled people. Forum theatre is an interactive theatre form where audience members can explore different outcomes.

Through this format, participants shared **barriers** to getting on, and using the bus, as well as potential solutions. This film was a creative commission as part of the Community Climate Action Project's Climate and Disability programme.

City of Threads Podcast



In October 2019 a team of visually impaired and sighted artists and collaborators took journeys together around the city of Bristol with the aim of uncovering the usually unheard stories of visually impaired citizens and sharing how they navigate the city.

Unfiltered Women, Episode 3: Travel



An ITVX chat show with Samantha Renke, Fats Timbo and Jay Howard. In this episode the trio share their experiences travelling as Disabled people both in the UK and abroad.

Then Barbara met Alan



A BBC drama telling the story of two Disability rights activists who led a campaign, including protesting against inaccessible **public transport**, which resulted in the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act.



Then Barbara Met Alan (BBC, 2022)

Choose active travel



What is active travel?

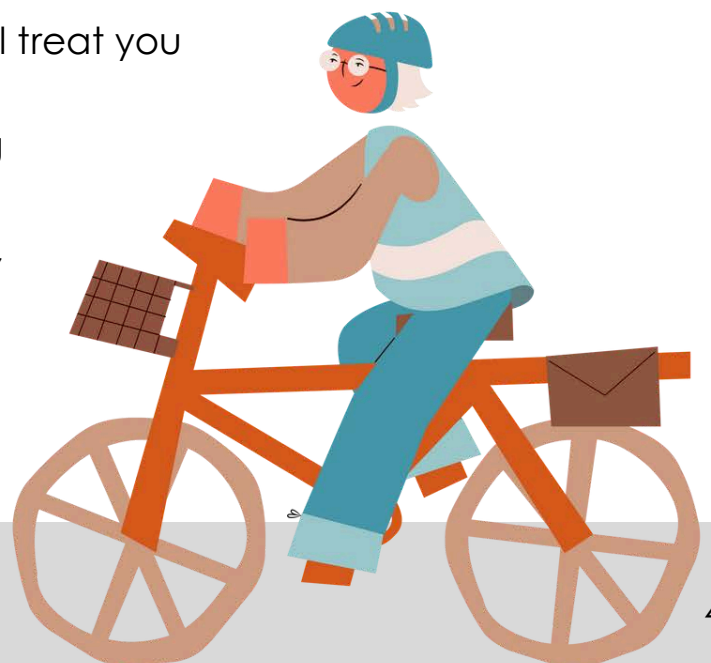
Active travel is when we make journeys in physically active ways, such as by walking, **wheeling**, and cycling. **Active travel** can also include using **mobility aids**, such as a mobility scooter, scooters, or **e-scooters**.

Active travel is good for:

- ⚙️ Our physical health
- ⚙️ Our mental health
- ⚙️ Connecting with others
- ⚙️ Exploring our communities
- ⚙️ Reducing traffic from cars and vehicles
- ⚙️ Reducing air pollution.

But not everyone has equal access to **active travel**. **Barriers** include:

- Not having safe, **accessible** and welcoming places to walk, **wheel** or cycle
 - Pavements blocked by parked cars, bins, **e-scooters**, **e-bikes** or signage
 - Not having dedicated cycle lanes to safely navigate traffic
 - Poor lighting at night
 - Fear of how other people will treat you
- Not knowing how to cycle
- The cost of buying and **maintaining a bike** or **adapted cycle**
- The cost of equipment – lights, lock, helmet, banners
- Not having a safe place to store your bike or **adapted cycle**.





Make it accessible - Some people need to use cars, due to certain Disabilities and medical conditions, and they should be supported to do so. Therefore, the information in this section does not assume that **active travel** is possible or the right option for everybody. However, other people have to use their cars because **active travel** is not **accessible** for them. For example, if someone needs to use an **adapted cycle** but it is too expensive. This is something we want to change.

Read on for suggestions on how to walk, **wheel** or cycle, and make it more **accessible**. You can also find more information and guidance on the [Walk Wheel Cycle Trust \(formerly Sustrans\) website](#).

If you are a business, there is specific guidance at:

- [For Businesses - WEST](#)
- [Active Travel: Getting people back to work safely, Business in the Community](#)
- [Active Travel Toolkit for Workplaces, Active Essex](#).

If you are a school, there is specific guidance at:

- [Education - Walk Wheel Cycle Trust \(formerly Sustrans\)](#)
- [Travel to school - WEST](#)
- [Active Travel Toolkit for Schools, Active Essex](#)
- [Creating an effective Active Travel Action Plan: A guide for secondary schools, Wiltshire Council](#).

Get started

Benefits of active travel

- Community – join one of the many walking groups in and around Bristol
- Discover new places
- Good for your physical and mental health
- Learn as you go – listen to a podcast or audiobook as you walk

Ways in to walking

- 🌿 Bristol Walk Fest – see page 43
- 🌿 Steppin Sistas – see page 44
- 🌿 Walk and Talk – see page 45
- 🌿 Walking bus for children – see page 47
- 🌿 [Go Jauntly app](#) – A free app to find walking routes and challenges
- 🌿 [Ramblers](#) – Have 500 walking groups across the UK
- 🌿 [NHS Active10](#) – A free app to track your steps, set goals and record your achievements.

Ways in to cycling

- 🚲 Bristol Cycling Centre – see page 46
- 🚲 [Life Cycle](#) - Life Cycle UK offer **inclusive** cycling projects, including cycle training and tandem rides for blind and partially sighted people
- 🚲 [Warmley Wheelers](#) - Specialist equipment and a safe, friendly environment to support people who would normally find it difficult to ride a bike
- 🚲 Bristol Bike Project – If you are experiencing long-term involuntary unemployment, you can get a bike for £25 through the '[Earn a Bike](#)' [scheme](#). You will work with a volunteer or co-ordinator to refurbish a second-hand bike, the bike is then yours to take home.



Top tip - If you would like to try out a new way of getting around the city, Travel WEST allow you to try different types of transport for free. For example:

- Bus **taster tickets**
- Train **taster tickets**
- Portway or Brislington Park & Ride **taster tickets**
- Borrow a bike (pedal bike, folding bike or electric bike) for up to four weeks
- Cycle training.

You can also get bike maintenance from Dr Bike – a qualified mechanic will do a safety check and minor repairs to your bike. These offers are subject to **eligibility**, visit the [Travel WEST website](#) to find out more.

Spotlight on: Bristol Walk Fest


We are Bristol Walk Fest, an annual walking festival that takes place in and around Bristol. We have been running for over 10 years and our festival attracts over 3,000 walkers each year.



Photo credit: Juliane Liebermann on Unsplash

What is on offer?

Every year we have a range of walks and events on offer covering art, environment, nature, history, architecture, wellbeing, walking sport, wildlife and much more. Most events are free and cater for all ages and levels of ability. Joining one of our events is a great way to get fit, make new friends and have fun!

 **Top tip** – To keep walking all year round, check out [our booklet](#) for some top tips to get started, and a selection of 16 walks around Bristol.

Who is behind Bristol Walk Fest?

Bristol Walk Fest is coordinated by Active Ageing Bristol and hosted by our lead partner Age UK Bristol with funding from Bristol City Council. Our sponsors are Bristol Ramblers, and we are supported by Bristol Walking Alliance, Doveton Press, Go Jauntly, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans), Your Park and Visit Bristol. We are very lucky to have so many varied groups and organisations within the city who provide walks and walking related activities. During the 2025 festival we had walking activities organised by 78 organisations, including bookshops, charities, churches and faith groups, community groups, grassroots organisations, libraries, **local** councils, museums, music venues, sports groups, theatre companies and walking groups.

Want to find out more?

For more information visit the [Bristol Walk Fest website](#).

Spotlight on: Steppin Sistas

We are Steppin Sistas, a walking group for black women and women of colour, which started in 2021. We aim to break down **barriers** and create a safe space for walking in and around Bristol.

We have weekly walks across various locations in Bristol and beyond. Sophia is a trained walk leader and is sharing that passion with others. Steppin Sistas has run training for members around staying safe and first aid. The group also have an annual Windrush celebration event.

Steppin Sistas has a reach of 1,700 people. Walkers have reported feeling more confident and being physically healthier. Sharing experiences with walkers has improved the mental health of walkers.



Sophia Brown, founder of Steppin Sistas

Walkers have experienced racism. Walking together has built solidarity to overcome these experiences and grow walking for everyone.

What's next for Stepping Sistas?

The group is now reaching out to men in the community to start walks to improve health. New for 2025, Bristol Steppin Bruddas is a group for men to walk and talk.

If you want to find out more about Steppin Sistas, or our new group Steppin Bruddas, you can visit [Bristol Steppin Sistas website](#).

Spotlight on: Walk and Talk

We are Walk and Talk, a weekly service set up around Bristol which offers an opportunity for people to meet in a group, take a leisurely stroll around a **local** park and connect with others. Everything spoken about during your walk is non-judgemental and confidential, unless there are significant concerns about your safety (or someone else's).

What is on offer?

We hold two 1-hour circular walks every Wednesday from 10am – 11am and 11.30am – 12.30pm around Bristol with the exception of the Christmas holidays. Some members like to join us for one of the walks and others like to join for both, that's entirely up to you. We always stop for a break between 11am – 11:30am.

Walks are **accessible** to all mobility levels and there are staff and volunteers available to walk at different paces. Locations are chosen where we know there are open public facilities, nearby parking and that are **accessible** by **public transport** such as St George Park, Brandon Hill Park, Snuff Mills and Windmill Hill City Farm.

Who organises Walk and Talk?

Walk and Talk is organised by Changes Bristol, we are a mental health charity for people living in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset. We are a peer led organisation, meaning we provide opportunities for people with lived experience to support each other.

Want to find out more?

For more information visit our [Changes Bristol website](#). To attend Walk and Talk you will need to first complete our membership form. You will then be sent details of the location, date and time of walks, these are sent out weekly.

Spotlight on: Bristol Cycling Centre

Bristol Cycling Centre is a welcoming, **inclusive** space where people of all ages and abilities can develop their cycle skills and enjoy cycling in a safe, traffic-free environment. Whether you're new and wanting to learn to cycle, rediscovering the joy of riding, or just looking for a great place to cycle with family or friends, our centre offers a relaxed and supportive setting for everyone.

The facility supports a diverse range of riders including children and families, people with physical impairments and learning disabilities, and those training for sports events. In 2024 there was over 14,500 people who attended a session at Bristol Cycling Centre. Our regular programme includes **inclusive** cycling sessions open to everyone, learn to ride for children and adults, disability sessions, and **national** standard Bikeability cycle training.

Where can we find you?

Old Whitchurch Athletics Track, Bamfield, Bristol, BS14 0XA.



Top tip If you get the M1 bus, it drops you off opposite the Cycling Centre.

What accessible facilities do you have?

Changing places toilet and additional **accessible** toilet. Step free access throughout the site. A wide range of cycles for different needs and abilities, including trikes, wheelchair cycles and side by side tandem cycles.

What is on offer?

- **Inclusive** cycling sessions – open to everyone, no experience needed.
- Learn to ride courses – for all ages.
- Bikeability training – Bikeability Courses Level 1 (on site) and Level 2 (on **local** roads).

How much does it cost?

Visit the [Bristol Cycle Centre website](#) to find out more about the activity on offer, upcoming sessions, how to book and session costs.

Spotlight on: Playground Walking Bus

We are Eastside Community Trust. We provide people of all ages with places to connect and come together to make East Central Bristol a place of possibility for everyone. In 2021 we ran a walking bus project to make it easier for families living in high rise flats to come play at Felix Road Adventure Playground.

What problem were you trying to solve?

Felix Road Adventure Playground is a place where children can play freely, explore and be creative after school, on weekends and during the holidays. It is less than five minutes from the high rise flats of Twinnell House, but the busy road that runs between them made the playground feel out of bounds to families living there.

What did you do?

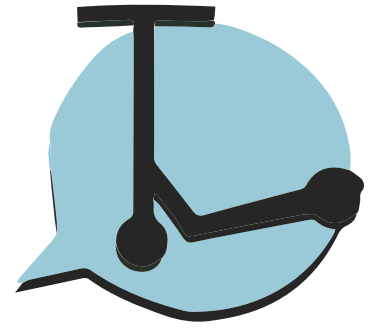
Eastside Community Trust staff started playful **engagement** with families, setting up temporary swings outside Twinnell House where the kids could play and parents could chat. From the success of this, we started a walking bus with play workers taking kids from Twinnell House to Felix Road and then back home again.

As kids started going regularly with the walking bus, word spread that the playground wasn't so far away and families started to realise they could easily go themselves. Since we ran this project, families from Twinnell House continue to come regularly to Felix Road, giving the kids access to free, open play space.

What is your advice for community groups wanting to set up similar projects?

Small changes can open up new possibilities, and sometimes all it takes is a group doing something together at the start to make it feel achievable. We had clear communication with parents about pick up and drop off times and dedicated volunteers to supervise the walk over, so it felt safe and manageable. The busy roads that cut through and around our neighbourhood can make things feel farther away than they actually are, and making the trip across together on a regular basis at the start helped form new habits and a different view of what's possible for families living in our neighbourhood.

Give children and young people a say



Children and young people make up 17% of Bristol's total population and so how they get around the city matters. Children and young people make journeys every day:

- to and from school, college, university or work
- to visit the park, playground or to get to hobbies
- to see friends and family
- to get to places like the shops, cafes or the doctors
- to access cultural and educational opportunities across the city.

But there are a number of **barriers** affecting how easily and safely they can get around.

Access to **public transport**

- Young people travel less than other age groups, and this gap has doubled since 2002.
- Many children rely on their parents to get to play spaces because of limited transport options.



- The cost of buses is a **barrier**. In Scotland, free bus travel for under 22's has resulted in over 100 million journeys made since it was introduced. Watch the video made by children from Room13 on the importance of free bus travel. WECA funded free bus travel for under 16's from 19 July to 5 September 2025.
- Young people are prevented from accessing opportunities because a lack of transport means they can't get to jobs or education centres.

Access to **active travel**

- 51% of children want to cycle more and 33% of children want to walk or wheel more.
- 81% of children want more traffic-free paths and quiet routes for walking and cycling.
- There is a gender gap in children's cycling. 17% of boys see themselves as someone who often cycles, compared with 8% of girls.

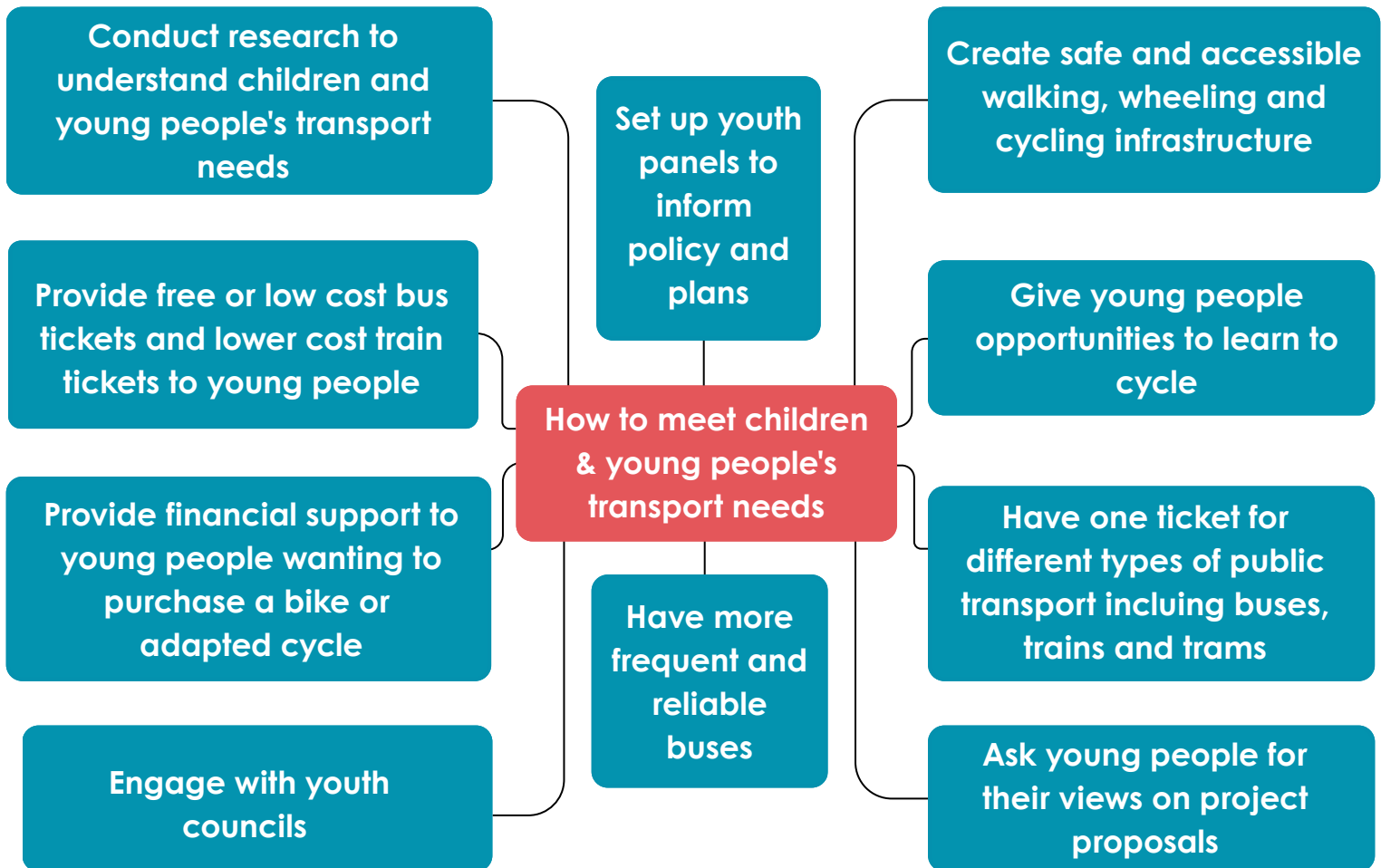
Safety

- 72% of children would find it useful if there were slower speed limits for cars.
- 78% of children support having more cycle paths along roads separated from cars.
- The bonnet height of new cars is increasing which is a risk to children's safety because the higher the bonnet the harder it is for drivers to see children.





For decision makers - How to meet children and young people's transport needs - Below are a few suggestions of how, as a decision maker, you can consider what children and young people need to get around Bristol, safely and accessibly, and most importantly, to ensure they have a say.



Bristol City Youth Council

The Bristol City **Youth Council** consists of 29 young people between the ages of 11 and 18. They are elected by young people throughout Bristol in three different ways:

- 18 young people are voted in through the Bristol Youth **Elections** where they stand for **election** within their school / youth organisation. The next **election** is in January 2025.
- Five young people are elected through equality youth voice groups.
- Six young people are elected through their **local** areas.

Elected young people are part of the **Youth Council** for two years. They meet twice a month and have other opportunities to get involved in issues affecting young people in Bristol.

Young people who are not on the **Youth Council** can still share their views. Area Youth Forums take place three times a year in North, South and East Central Bristol, and the Youth Voice Conference takes place once a year.

For more information, see [Bristol City Youth Council](#) website.

Spotlight on: Playing Out

We are Playing Out, a parent and resident led movement restoring children's freedom to play out in the streets and spaces where they live, for their health, happiness and sense of belonging. Playing out, the freedom to go out the front door and play in the street or near home, is no longer a normal part of most children's lives. This is what we want to change, through encouraging residents to organise play streets and campaigning for **national** policy change.

What are play streets and how can we organise one on my road?

We created the first play street in Bristol in 2009 and there have since been thousands of play street sessions around the country. A play street is a short road closure organised by neighbours that creates a safe space for children to play freely together on their doorstep. To find out how to organise a play street, take a look at our **[guidance for residents](#)**.

My family live on a high-rise estate, how can we create a play street?

Take a look at [our website](#) for ideas and guidance.

I want to make my street more play friendly without closing the road, what can I do?

Artist and co-founder of Playing Out, Amy Rose, wrote a blog on our website called, '[Easy and Effortless Things](#)'. It's a good place to start if you are looking for suggestions on how you can make the space outside your home more friendly and playful without closing the road. Perhaps you could sit on your doorstep with a cup of tea and a book or find an excuse to chat to your neighbours. Take a look at the blog for lots more ideas.

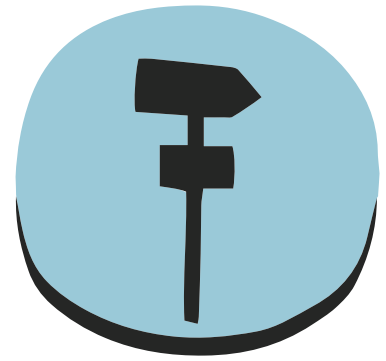


For decision makers – take a look at [our toolkit](#) aimed at community workers for guidance on how you can support playing out in your community.



Photo credit: Playing Out

Funding for community groups



Sustainable Travel Grant

Awarded by Bristol City Council, the **Sustainable** Travel Grant funds projects that aim to reduce the environmental impact of transport in Bristol. For example, projects that encourage walking, **wheeling** and cycling, or projects that reduce car journeys. Any business, organisation or community group can apply for the grant. Visit the [Bristol City Council website](#) to find out when the grant is open for applications.

Motability Foundation Active Travel Grant

Awarded by the Motability Foundation, this grant funds charities and organisations to run projects which aim to improve access to **active travel** for Disabled people. Visit the [Motability Foundation website](#) to find out when the grant is open for applications.

CIL Funding

CIL stands for **Community Infrastructure Levy**, which is funding for projects to support the development of **local** areas. The money comes from a fee that companies are required to pay to the council when they construct new buildings.





There are two types of projects that CIL funding can be used for:

- Council led projects – Are managed by the council, although community groups can input into their design. For example, pedestrian crossings, double yellow lines or new play equipment in parks. These projects can take a long time to complete.
- Community led projects – Are managed by community organisations or groups of residents.

You can find out more about the CIL funding process on Bristol City Council's website: [Area committee funding process](#)



Conclusion

Bristol's residents and communities want better transport. The **Inclusive Transport Vision** sets out how **sustainable transport** could improve people's lives. But it won't happen overnight. It requires leadership from all levels, but change can be achieved together. Individual small steps make a collective big difference.



Photo credit: Wheels for Wellbeing (WfW) and Michael Cedeno

Not sure where to start?

Take a look at the activity cards at the back of this **toolkit**.

Want to explore more from the Community Climate Action Project?

- [Community Climate Action - Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership](#)
- [Inclusive Transport Vision for Bristol](#)
- [Getting around Bristol: A guide for Disabled people](#)



**Share this toolkit, spread the word and let's make
Bristol's Inclusive Transport Vision a reality.**

Jargon buster

Accessible: When a person can use or take part in something because their needs have been met.

Active travel: Making journeys in physically active ways, like walking, **wheeling** (using a wheelchair) and cycling.

Adapted cycle: A type of bike that is more **accessible**. For example, a bike that can be used with a wheelchair, a handcycle, a trike or a recumbent cycle.

Barrier: Something that stops someone from doing what they want or need to do.

Combined Authorities: A legal body set up using **national** legislation that allows a group of two or more councils to collaborate and make decisions together across council boundaries. For example, the West of England **Combined Authority** (WECA).

Commercial: An organisation that makes money.

Community climate action plans: This is when a community plans what to do about climate change. The aim is to make the community better for the people in that community by action that also benefits the planet and nature.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): Funding for projects to support the development of **local** areas. The money comes from a fee that companies are required to pay to the council when they construct new buildings.

Consultation: Asking people their views on something before making a decision.

Constituency: An area of the UK. There are 650 constituencies. Each **constituency** votes for a person who will represent them in parliament.

Councillor: A **councillor** is an elected person who represents the people living in a certain area (called a 'ward').

Easy read: Easy read is a way of showing written down information to make it easier to understand.

E-bike: A bike (including an **adapted cycle**) equipped with an electric motor and rechargeable battery that assist the rider while pedalling.

E-cargo bike: An **e-bike** that has space at the front or the back of the bike to carry goods (such as shopping), children or pets. They are often used for deliveries.

Election: When people vote for who they want to represent them.

Eligible (eligibility): Whether or not you can have or do something based on a list of rules. For example, to get a Disabled person's bus card you have to have one of a list of disabilities.

Engagement: Talking to people to share what you are doing and hear their ideas.

E-scooter: Scooters that run on electricity. Sometimes people call them 'electric scooters'.

Executive agency: An organisation that is part of a government department.

Frequent: When something happens lots of times.

Highways Authority: Looks after the public roads. They have a number of responsibilities including, looking after and building new roads, bridges and cycle paths, writing local policy and improving road safety.

Inclusive: Everyone is included.

Infrastructure: Things that a place needs. For example, roads, pavements, buildings and having electricity.

Jargon buster: A list that explains the words that not everyone will understand.

Local: An area of the country, rather than the whole of the country.

Local authority: An organisation that is in charge of public services and facilities in a particular area.

Marginalised groups: People who are treated unfairly because of the group they belong to. For example, people of colour, Disabled people, LGBTQ+ people and working class people.

Maintaining a bike: Doing repairs to fix a bike that isn't working.

Mobility aid: A device that helps a person get around more easily, for example a wheelchair, a walking stick, a walking frame or a mobility scooter.

National: The whole of a country, rather than one specific area. In this **toolkit**, when we say **national**, we mean the whole of the UK.

Nitrogen oxides: A harmful air **pollutant** created by cars and lorries. It makes the air we breathe dirty, which can cause and affect serious health conditions.

Passenger assistance: The help given to Disabled passengers who are getting a train, plane or other types of transport. The type of help given will depend on the person. It could include help carrying bags, being guided around the station or a ramp to get onto the train.

Petition: A **petition** asks the government or **local** council to do something and people sign their names to show their support for it.

Planning application: Asking for permission before building something.

Pollutant: Gases and liquids that are harmful to the planet, including the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Private land: When a place is owned by an individual or organisation, rather than the government or a **local authority**, it is called '**private land**'.

Public transport: Vehicles that anyone can use which travel from one place to another. Examples of **public transport** include buses, trains, taxis and trams.

Qualifications: A certificate that shows you have completed a training course to be able to do a particular job, have specific knowledge or a skill. For example, a **qualification** to be a teacher.

Regional Transport Authority: responsible for managing, planning and improving the transport services in a specific region.

Reliable: Something that you can trust because it always does what it is meant to do. For example, a bus that always arrives at the time it says it will.

Supported bus services: These are **local** bus services funded by the West of England **Combined Authority** because they are considered to be socially necessary and would not be able to run without this funding.

Sustainable: When something doesn't harm the planet and so can continue for a long time.

Sustainable transport: Transport that has a low impact on the environment, including **active travel** (like walking, wheeling and cycling) and **public transport** (like buses and trains).

Taster ticket: Where you get a free ticket to try something for a set amount of time, for example a free bus ticket for a day or a week.

Toolkit: A document that helps people know how to do something well.

Urban spaces: These are places with lots of people and buildings, such as cities and towns.

Vision: When you think about how things could be better in the future so that you can work out what changes need to be made.

Ward: An area of a city or town that is represented by a **councillor** or councillors.

Wheel (or wheeling): Some people who use wheeled **mobility aids**, for example a wheelchair or a mobility scooter, may not identify with the term walking and may prefer to use the term **wheeling**. We use the terms walking and **wheeling** together to ensure we are including everyone.

Youth council: A group of young people who help make decisions in their **local** area and speak to decision makers about issues that affect young people.

This **toolkit** was developed as part of the Community Climate Action Project, coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership and the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans), and funded by The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund.

It was written by Florence Grieve, **Inclusive** Transport Advocate, with input from the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust and Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership colleagues.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the development of this toolkit:

- ACH
- Ambition Lawrence Weston
- Bristol Cycling Centre
- Bristol City Council
- Bristol Walk Fest
- Bricks Bristol
- Camille Aubry, live illustrator
- Centre for Sustainable Energy
- Changes Bristol
- Eastside Community Trust
- Hillfields Community Garden
- Great Western Railway
- Heart of BS13
- Knowle West Media Centre
- Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust
- Playing Out
- Southmead Development Trust
- Steppin Sistas
- WECIL and People's Voice
- Animated graphics by Rumpus Animation

Published October 2025. Information correct at time of publishing and is subject to change.



FUNDED BY:



Activity cards

Make your voice heard

There are many ways that you can make your voice heard about what happens in your **local** area. This could be on your street, in your neighbourhood, citywide, or on a regional or even **national** level.

How many of the actions below can you complete?

- Register to vote
- Vote in an **election**
- Sign a **petition**
- Write to your MP
- Watch a council meeting

Choose active travel

Active travel is when we make journeys in physically active ways, such as by walking, **wheeling**, and cycling.

Set yourself a goal or challenge, such as joining a walking or cycling group, trying a new way to travel, or swapping one commute or school run a week for an active journey. Write your goal below.

My goal is to...

Be an ally

An ally is someone who supports and advocates for others, particularly those from **marginalised groups**. People who are treated unfairly because of the group they belong to. For example, people of colour, Disabled people, LGBTQ+ people and working class people. Consider how your actions might impact how other people can get around. Decide on one action you will take in the next week to be an ally to people getting around the city.

One action I will take is...

Check your street

Carry out a Healthy Streets survey of the street you live on, work on, or regularly travel down. Whilst standing on the street, answer the following questions:

- How relaxed do you feel?
- Are there things to see and do?
- How easy is it to cross the road?
- Is there shade and shelter?
- Are there places to rest?
- How noisy is it?
- How safe do you feel?
- How clean does the air feel?

Record your answers at [Healthy Streets feelings survey](#).

