



Mayor of Bristol



Reply to Marvin Rees
Telephone 0117 922 2420
E-mail mayor@bristol.gov.uk
Date November 2021

South Bristol Youth Zone Consultation. We want to hear from you.

Dear Residents,

We are writing to you to ask for your input into our public consultation regarding the plans for the proposed South Bristol Youth Zone – a collaboration with our delivery partners OnSide, and local charity and provider, Youth Moves. Your views and opinions as local residents are hugely important to the success of this project, especially those of children and young people who will be using the facility.

Our public consultation is now open until 2 January, and you can tell us what you think online at www.bristol.gov.uk/youthzoneconsultation, or by using the QR code at the top of this letter. If you would like the survey in an alternative format, please let us know by email: jointcommissioning.children@bristol.gov.uk, or by phone: 0117 922 2848.

You can also contact your local councillors for more information on how to access the consultation.

The responses from the consultation, the pre-planning application consultation, and technical work will be included in a Full Business Case (FBC) in Spring 2022. The FBC has been pushed back from February 2022 to allow more time for the proposals and resident feedback to be considered following consultation. The project will need planning permission and the support of Bristol City Council to proceed, with Cabinet due to make its final decision in Spring 2022.

Our vision for the proposed South Bristol Youth Zone is to deliver a safe space where children and young people aged 8-19, or up to 25 years for those with additional needs can:

- meet friends, socialise and be mentored in a safe environment
- access onsite support services including mental health and careers advice
- develop skills and enjoy activities including boxing, martial arts, cookery and dance
- use world-class facilities such as the four-court sports hall and climbing wall

We want the South Bristol Youth Zone to add to youth services already running in the area, not replace them. Targeted support for our young people remains at the heart of our citywide approach, of which our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector are hugely important. The Youth Zone would be a facility that already established youth organisations could use to provide their services.

The aim is to help young people grow in confidence, support their aspirations, and foster a sense of community belonging. We want this to be a space to build community relationships and to bring children and young people together who may not usually meet.

The proposed site behind Inns Court and by Hengrove Way roundabout sits on the boundaries of four south Bristol wards: Filwood, Hartcliffe and Withywood, Hengrove and Whitchurch Park and Bishopsworth, making it a neutral, accessible, and welcoming location for all surrounding communities. We want children and young people from all over south Bristol to feel welcome and have ownership of the space.

OnSide have successfully delivered 14 other Youth Zones across the country and we are excited about the positive impact this investment could bring to our communities. Reports show that since the opening of a Youth Zone in Chorley, youth anti-social behaviour has halved. In Manchester, local police have pointed to a 13 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour in the first year since opening and a 51 per cent reduction in the following year. In Wigan, local police point to a 77 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents in the nearby park following the establishment of a Youth Zone. Moreover, 97 per cent of residents agreed that the Youth Zone makes a positive contribution to community cohesion and 94 per cent consider that it raises pride in the local area.

Our previous public engagement which ran from 3 September to 17 October 2021 also showed there is strong support for the goals of the Youth Zone in Bristol. For example, 94 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that 'there is a need for giving young people a safe, exciting place to go to have fun, build their social networks and support their personal development in your area' (*Goal 1 of the Youth Zone*).

In Bristol, we want our young people to have a sense of belonging to their city and a meaningful voice in how it is run. By working with partners OnSide and Youth Moves, we can continue to deliver for Bristol and deliver facilities which support the aspirations of the next generation of Bristolians.

The proposed South Bristol Youth Zone sits alongside other regeneration projects for the local area including youth provision, housing, employment space, public transport and active travel infrastructure. This will support growth in the economy in the south of our city in an inclusive way, providing space and opportunities for future generations of south Bristolians to live, work and thrive.

If you would like to find out more about the exciting new Youth Zone or how you can get involved in shaping the project, including the new Young Person's Development Group, please email mayor@bristol.gov.uk.

Kind regards,



Marvin Rees
Mayor of Bristol



Councillor Asher Craig
Deputy Mayor (Children's Services, Education and Equalities)