

# Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan

We believe that the cross-referencing between the City Centre Plan and the Old Market Neighbourhood Plan on LGBT issues and the Night-time economy needs to be clarified.

Old Market has become recognised throughout the South West of England as the regional focus for LGBT nightlife and economy. There is also now a large LGBT resident population in the area, attracted by the local businesses and the quality of life.

There is a present danger that economic pressures from elsewhere may succeed in pushing out the gay community, but this would undoubtedly be to the detriment of the area as a whole and to the quality of life of those who live there.

There is also the question of how Bristol's position as a destination for tourists attracted by the LGBT economy would be affected if the characteristics of the area were allowed to be significantly changed by property developments and "bohemianisation".

The Equalities Act provides a requirement for the acknowledgement of "Protected Characteristics" through local authority qualities duties and

South West Transport Network **Statement** for  
*Bristol Planning (Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development  
Plan)*

local planning. This needs to be clearly identified in the Old Market local plan.

We also need to maintain a transport hub on Old Market Street, with good and safe walking routes to Temple Meads and Lawrence Hill stations. We have long campaigned for a taxi rank for the area, which we still advocate, as well as the rethinking of current traffic strategies. Perhaps wider pavements would encourage more of a cafe society ambience like many similar European cities as well as Edinburgh, Brighton, Exeter, Cheltenham and Manchester.

We also need to see full protection for the area's historic architecture, much of which is still in need of sensitive restoration. The area's proximity to the Temple Quarter (Temple Meads) Enterprise Zone must not be allowed to offer carte blanche to large-scale property development. This is an area of the city which has suffered badly from poor planning in the last century and this needs to be reversed.

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and Ian Beckey (Transport for Greater Bristol Alliance).