

03 Consultation & Engagement

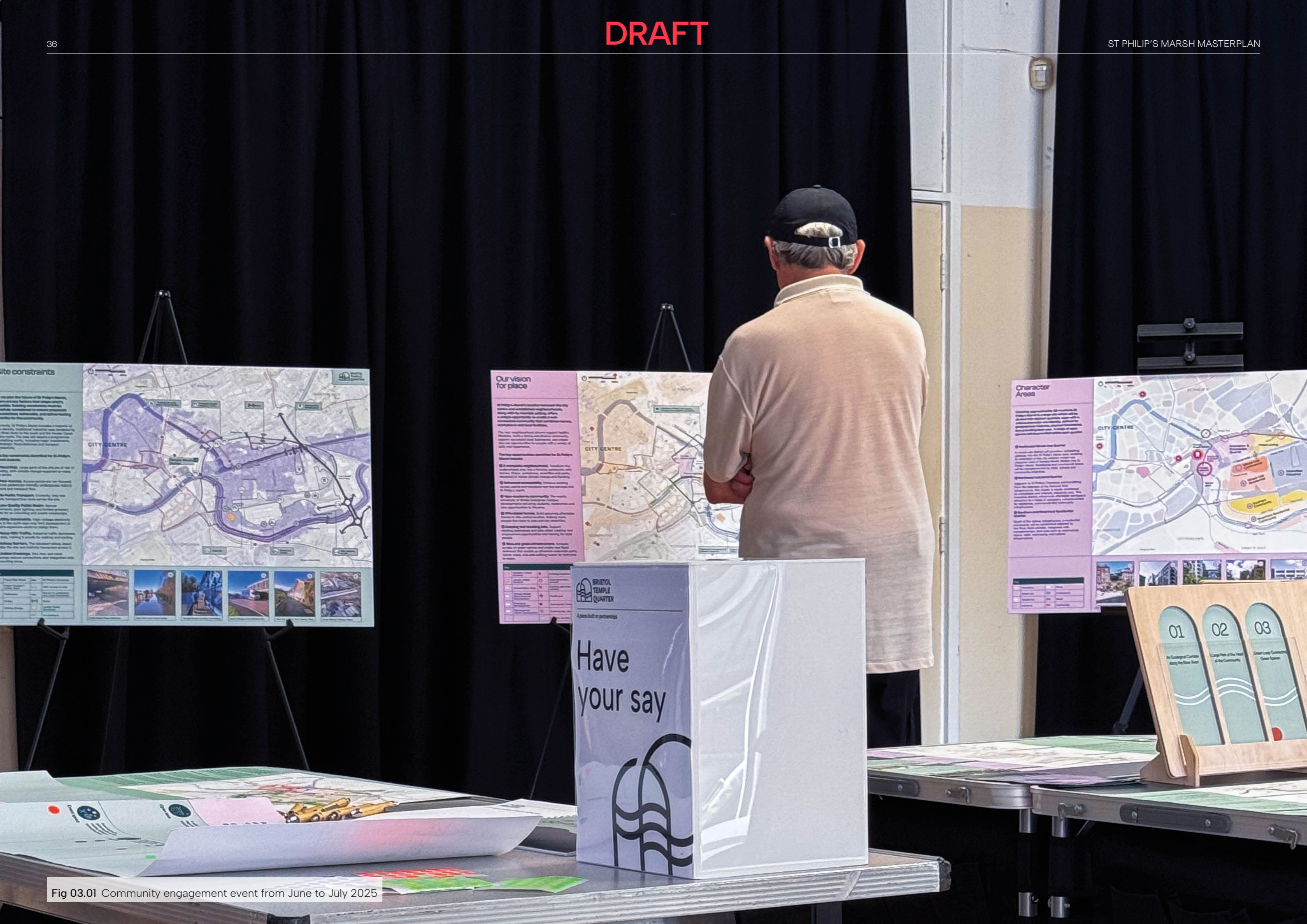


Fig 03.01 Community engagement event from June to July 2025

03.01 Public Engagement

The St Philip's Marsh Masterplan forms part of the wider regeneration of Temple Quarter. It was originally prepared as a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), and two rounds of public engagement were undertaken during this process:

- **May to July 2025:** to understand community priorities and inform the key design principles for St Philip's Marsh.
- **January to February 2026:** to consult on the draft SPD.

Following reforms introduced by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the SPD route was withdrawn. The document is now being taken forward as a Masterplan, to be endorsed by Bristol City Council and read alongside the Bristol Local Plan to guide future development at St Philip's Marsh.

This chapter summarises the main feedback from the May to July 2025 engagement and how it shaped the Masterplan, together with the key concerns raised in January to February 2026 that remain relevant.

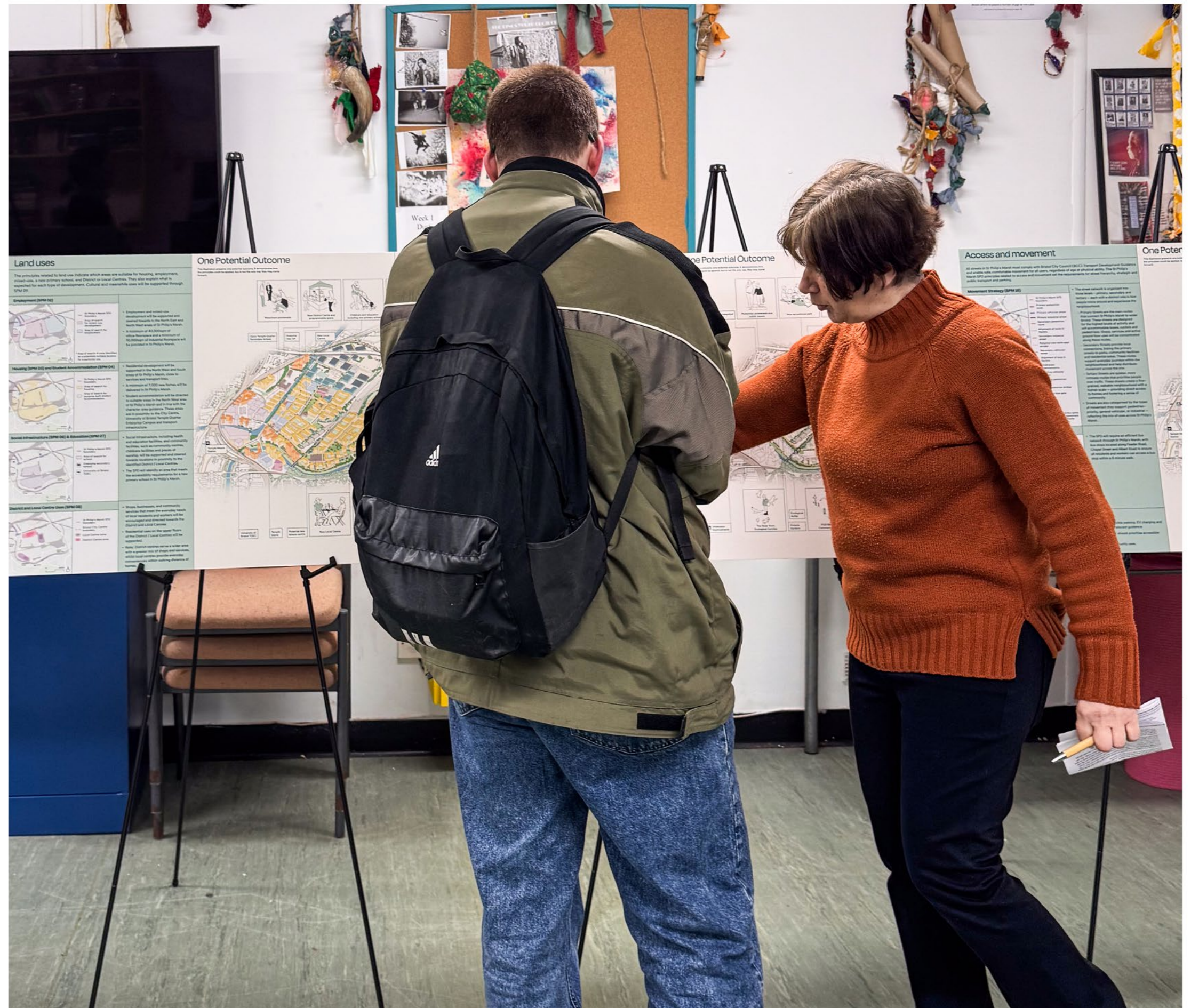


Fig 03.02 Community engagement event at the Safe 'Ouse in January to February 2026

03.02 May to July 2025 Engagement

Engagement Methods

Engagement combined in-person and online activities. In-person activity included eight public events and drop-ins across St Philip's Marsh and surrounding neighbourhoods, held at the Bristol Temple Quarter Hub, Screenology, Easton Community Centre, the Dings 'Safe Ouse', and pop-ups at Sainsbury's Avonmeads, Tesco Totterdown and Asda Brislington.

A permanent exhibition at the Bristol Temple Quarter Hub gave the community a place to drop in, leave comments and have questions answered. Three guided history tours of St Philip's Marsh were also run with Bristol City Council's Head of Urban Design.

Online engagement included a Digital Hub with key information about the proposals, an interactive map, and an open channel for feedback. Two online stakeholder briefings were also held with councillors, community groups, businesses and organisations.

Accessibility was central to the approach. Two paid design review sessions were commissioned with the West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL), alongside two meetings with the Temple Quarter Accessibility Advisory Group (TQAAG), to gather feedback from people with lived experience of disability.

Data Collection

Engagement was designed so that the data gathered could be applied directly to the development of the Masterplan. A consistent set of questions across all in-person and online activities produced comparable quantitative data, while qualitative input was captured through detailed conversations, free-text responses and interactive map comments. This combination gave a clear evidence base from which preferred components could be identified and incorporated into the Masterplan.

Public engagement was held between 23 June and 31 July 2025 to gather community feedback on the future development of St Philip's Marsh.

Participants were first introduced to the site's opportunities and constraints, including flood risk and limited transport access before being consulted on three themes:

- the distribution and uses of new open spaces;
- the location of a proposed Local Centre;
- and the potential pedestrianisation of selected existing streets.

These themes were presented through three scenarios exploring different approaches to open space, centre location, and street use. Participants were invited to indicate their preferred components, and the feedback was assessed to inform the preferred design approach that underpins this Masterplan.

Community Outreach

While engagement was open to all, particular efforts were made to reach surrounding communities and existing businesses. Targeted door-knocking was carried out in Brislington, the Dings and St Annes, and Bristol City Council Economic Development Team door-knocked businesses across St Philip's Marsh, offering one-to-one conversations and follow-up sessions.



Fig 03.03 Interactive materials used to gather feedback from St Philip's Marsh engagement events

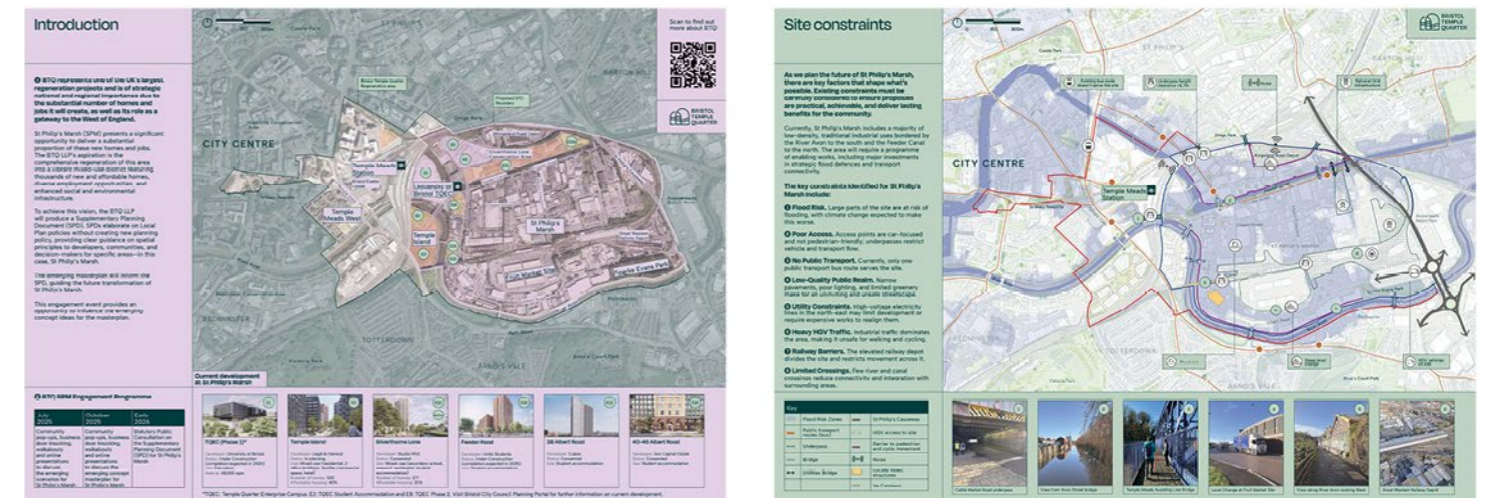
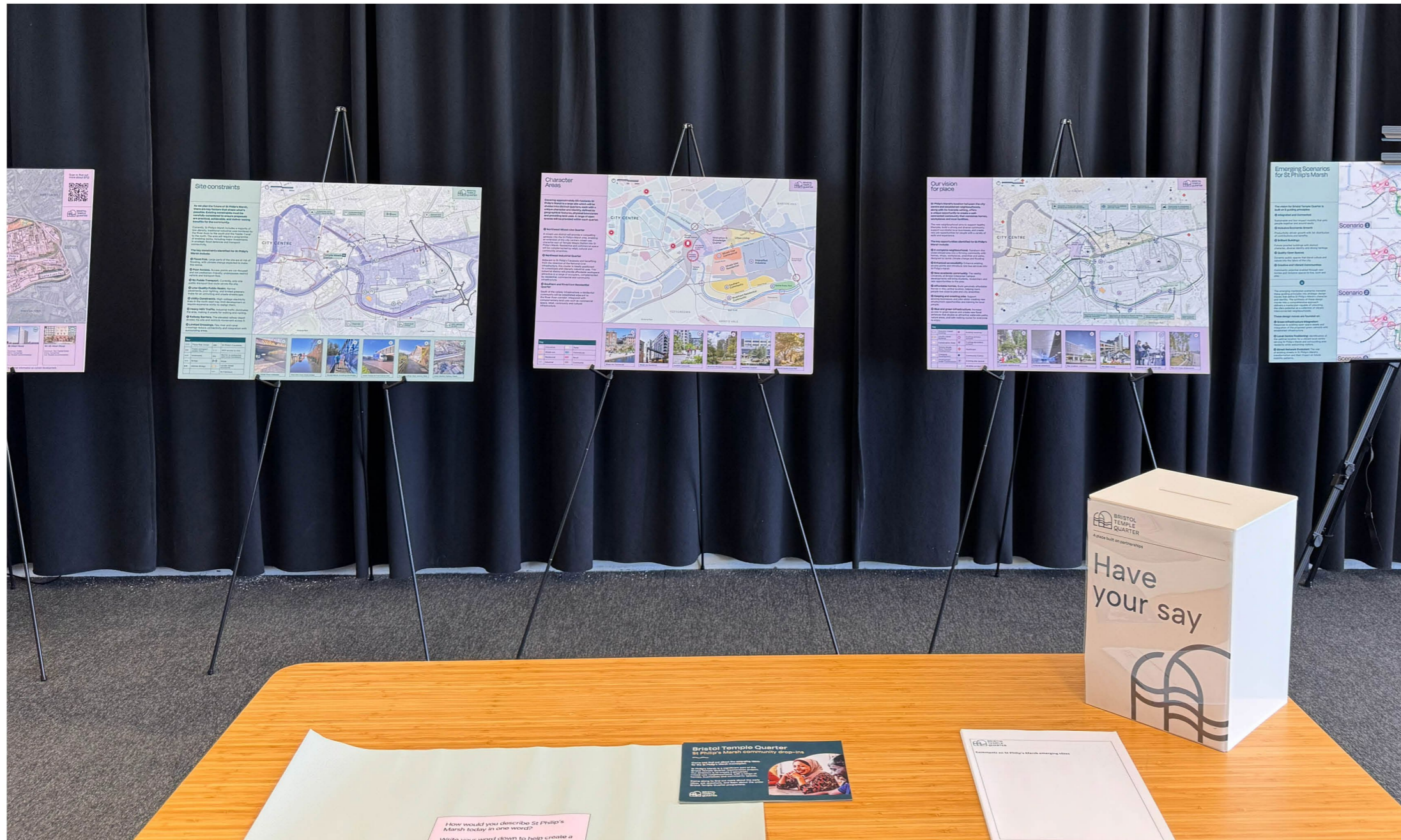


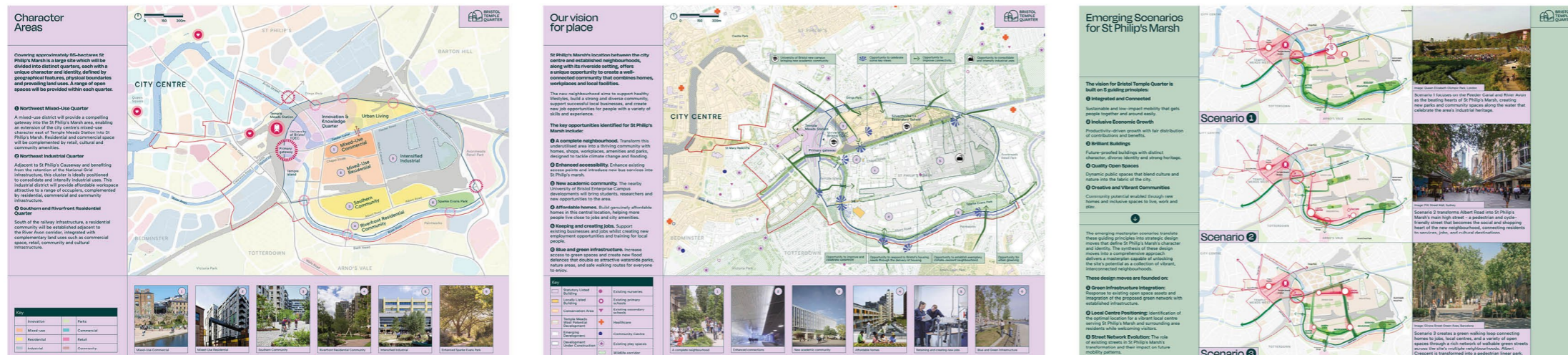
Fig 03.04 Exhibition boards for community engagement events from May to July 2026 on the Draft SPD



Engagement in Numbers:

- Over 250 people attended in-person events and drop-ins.
- 217 responses to the online survey.
- 29 written submissions from organisations, businesses and statutory consultees.
- 840 doors knocked in Brislington and the Dings.
- 116 business leaflets distributed across St Philip's Marsh.
- 24,558 Digital Hub page views, with 5,040 active users.
- Promotional reach included dedicated e-newsletter, social media (~35,000 LinkedIn impressions), and coverage in local press.

Fig 03.05 Exhibition boards and letter box for free-text responses



Three Scenarios

Three scenarios were developed to test how the major spatial moves at St Philip's Marsh could come together.

Each combined a different location for the Local Centre, the distribution of open space, and the pedestrianisation of a street, allowing participants to compare trade-offs rather than respond to a single fixed proposal.

The scenarios were designed around three questions that the engagement sought to answer: how limited land could most effectively support both people and nature; where a new Local Centre would best support daily life and long-term success; and which street could be transformed into a car-free destination.

- **Scenario 1** tested whether the area's strongest assets, the waterfront and the proximity to Temple Meads Station, could anchor the new neighbourhood. A new Local Centre was placed on Feeder Road, close to the university and the station's new Eastern Entrance, with the section between Avon Street and Albert Crescent pedestrianised to give the centre a waterside character along the Feeder Canal. A potential pedestrian bridge would connect it to the residential areas to the north. Open space was concentrated as a green active travel and ecological corridor along the River Avon, linked by an outer loop back to Temple Meads Station and Sparke Evans Park.
- **Scenario 2** tested whether a single, more traditional high street could serve as the focus of the neighbourhood. The Local Centre was placed along Albert Road, with the section between Totterdown Bridge and the Temple Meads Avoiding Line Avon Bridge pedestrianised to create a high street serving the neighbourhoods south of the railway. The centre combined river views with a more intimate high street character. Open space was anchored by a neighbourhood park at the heart of St Philip's Marsh, with the River Avon corridor preserved as an active mobility route with pocket park expansions, and Sparke Evans Park retained as recreational green space.

- **Scenario 3** tested whether a more distributed approach to open space could give every part of St Philip's Marsh equal access to green space. The Local Centre was placed more centrally within St Philip's Marsh, less directly connected to Temple Meads Station or surrounding neighbourhoods but better positioned to serve all parts of the site equally, with community spaces and amenities distributed across a Green Loop network. Open space was spread as smaller parks throughout the area, ensuring all residents and workers could reach green space within a five-minute walk, and Albert Crescent was pedestrianised and reimagined as a linear park connecting the areas north and south of the railway. Sparke Evans Park is retained and connected into the Green Loop through the riverside.

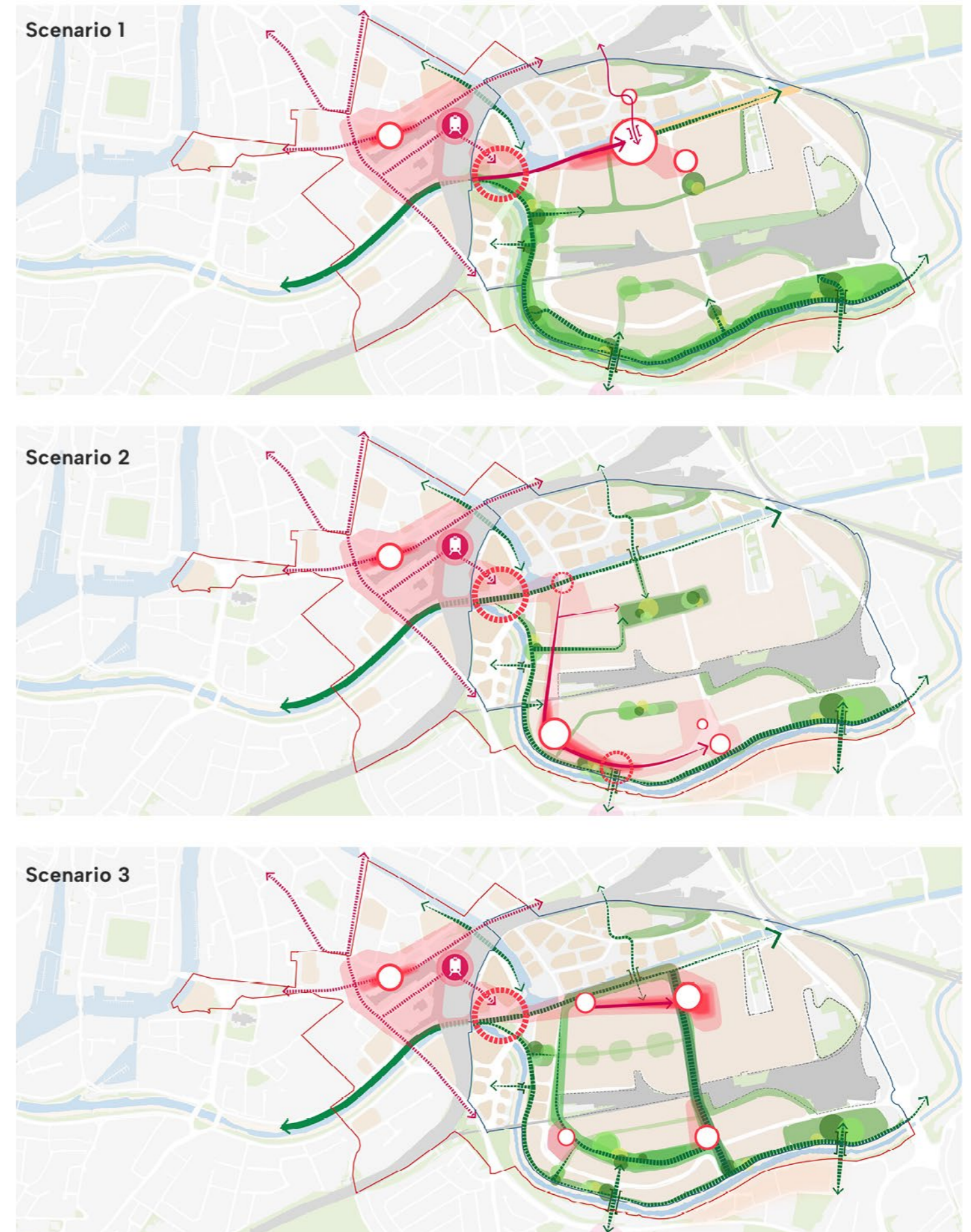


Fig 03.06 Diagrams showing three scenarios used during the May to July Engagement

What We Heard

Feedback was gathered through fixed-question voting, free-text responses on the Digital Hub, comments on an interactive map, written submissions, and conversations at in-person events.

The findings below summarise the responses to each of the three themes, alongside the recurring concerns raised across the engagement.

Open Space Distribution and Uses

Scenario 1 received the strongest support (37%), with Scenario 3 close behind on 32%. Written and verbal feedback from the public and statutory stakeholders pointed toward a combined approach: a range of distributed open spaces connected by safe green streets, ensuring access for all. Participants also emphasised the importance of parks being well connected to schools, nurseries, Local Centres and healthcare facilities, and the need for design to actively consider the needs of women, children, older adults, and people with disabilities, including seating at regular intervals, safe play areas, and spaces that feel secure at all times of day. Green infrastructure should integrate flood-resilient landscapes, ecological corridors, and biodiversity enhancements.

Asked to identify the three most important uses of open space, participants placed ecology first (146 votes), followed by play (90) and relaxation (89). The TQAAG and WECIL groups highlighted the importance of inclusive features such as tactile play, sensory gardens, and clear visual cues to indicate different activities within a space.

Location of a New Local Centre

Scenario 1 emerged as the clear preference (45%), valued for its waterfront setting and central location. Feedback emphasised that the centre should have its own identity and character, with a curated mix of businesses, flexibility to adapt over time, and an inclusive and welcoming public realm. Responding to residents' daily needs within a short walk was identified as a priority.

WECIL highlighted the need to assess locations for delivery access, active travel links, community needs, and integration with existing shops and retail areas in wider Bristol.

Pedestrianisation of Streets

Scenario 1, the pedestrianisation of Feeder Road, was the preferred option (45%). Support was linked to its canal-side setting, its connection to a preferred Local Centre, and its placemaking potential.

Other Feedback

Recurring themes across written submissions, business conversations, accessibility groups and statutory consultees included:

- **Social infrastructure and delivery:** requests for greater clarity on the delivery strategy and the social infrastructure to be provided.
- **Business concerns:** certainty over relocation strategies, the impact of pedestrianising key streets, and immediate concerns around parking and movement during construction of adjacent sites.
- **Community mix and student integration:** the need to integrate students with long-term residents to deliver a genuinely mixed-use, inclusive and affordable neighbourhood.
- **Transport and connectivity:** a convenient bus and active travel network that connects well with the wider Bristol network.
- **Infrastructure and environment:** acoustic mitigation alongside the rail line, new road overbridges able to accommodate future electrification and battery-electric trains, embedded Biodiversity Net Gain in line with Natural England guidance, clear flood mitigation plans, and coal mining risk assessment for identified features.

How should we best use our limited land to create outdoor spaces that will benefit both people and nature for generations to come?

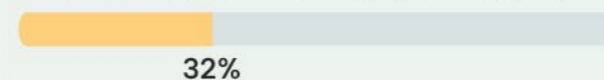
An Ecological Corridor along the River Avon



A Large Park at the Heart of the Community

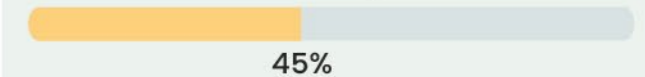


A Green Loop Connecting Green Spaces



Where do you think a new Local Centre would work best for daily life and long-term success?

A new Local Centre along the Feeder Canal



Transforming Albert Road into a High Street



A new destination along Albert Crescent

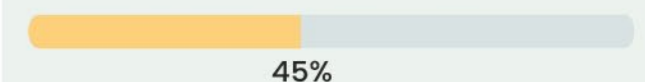


As part of planning for the future of open spaces at St Philip's Marsh, which three uses do you consider most important? Organised from most voted to least:

01. Ecology
02. Play
03. Relaxation
04. Recreation
05. Community Gardens
06. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
07. Public Squares
08. Open Lawn
09. Event Space
10. Pavilion / Art Installation

Which street should be transformed into a car-free space to become a new lively destination in St Philip's Marsh?

Pedestrianisation of Feeder Road



Pedestrianisation of Albert Road



Pedestrianisation of Albert Crescent



*Some respondents to the Digital Hub questionnaire selected 'None of the above' in response to the suggested options, which accounts for the discrepancy in the numbers

Fig 03.07 Voting results (including online survey, Slido questionnaire from presentations and feedback frame votes).

03.03 January to February 2026 Engagement

A second round of public engagement was held between 19 January and 20 February 2026 to gather feedback on the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) prepared for St Philip's Marsh. The document built on the preferred design that emerged from the May to July 2025 engagement, translating it into a set of planning principles intended to sit alongside the emerging Bristol Local Plan.

Following changes to national planning policy introduced during this process, the document is no longer being taken forward as an SPD and has instead been progressed as a Masterplan. The feedback gathered during this round of engagement remained directly relevant and has shaped the refinement of the document into its current form.

Community Outreach

While engagement was open to all, particular efforts were made to reach surrounding communities and existing businesses ahead of the engagement period. Community Development officers door-knocked approximately 1,200 homes in Redcliffe, Brislington and the Dings, talking to residents on doorsteps and dropping off flyers with details of upcoming events.

Economic and Community Development officers also visited businesses across St Philip's Marsh, offering one-to-one conversations and follow-up sessions, with 13 businesses attending a dedicated online meeting.

Engagement Methods

Engagement combined in-person and online activities, mirroring the approach taken in the May to July 2025 round.

In-person activity included four open days at the Bristol Temple Quarter Hub, an open evening, a drop-in at the Dings 'Safe 'Ouse', and pop-ups at Asda Bedminster, Sainsbury's Brislington and Tesco Totterdown. Events were scheduled in the evenings and earlier in the week, responding to feedback received during the previous round about preferred timings. All venues were step-free and accessible.

To ensure continuity, stakeholder groups, businesses and organisations involved in the earlier engagement were re-engaged through online and in-person meetings. A workshop was held in December 2025 with non-statutory stakeholders who had contributed significantly to earlier engagement rounds, giving them an opportunity to feed back on emerging policy areas at an early stage. BTQ LLP also visited the Wellspring Settlement in Barton Hill to present the draft to community organisations.

Ongoing engagement continued with the Temple Quarter Accessibility Advisory Group (TQAAG) and the West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL), who were commissioned to carry out a design review of the draft.

Online engagement included an online survey hosted on the Digital Hub, alongside an open channel for email submissions to the project team.

Data Collection

Feedback was gathered through online survey responses, written submissions, conversations at in-person events, comments collected through feedback boxes, and structured sessions with accessibility groups and statutory consultees.

The combination of channels provided a clear evidence base from which themes and concerns could be identified and addressed in the refinement of the Masterplan.



Fig 03.08 Interactive physical model and discussions from events from January to February 2026 on the Draft SPD



Engagement in Numbers:

- Approximately 200 comments recorded at in-person events and drop-ins.
- 32 responses to the online survey.
- 28 written submissions from organisations, businesses and statutory consultees.
- 1,200 homes door-knocked in Redcliffe, Brislington and the Dings.
- 13 businesses attended a dedicated online business meeting.
- Promotional reach included LinkedIn (9,180 impressions, 613 clicks), NextDoor (5,578 impressions), the project e-newsletter, and coverage in local press.

Fig 03.09 Community engagement events from January to February 2026 on the Draft SPD

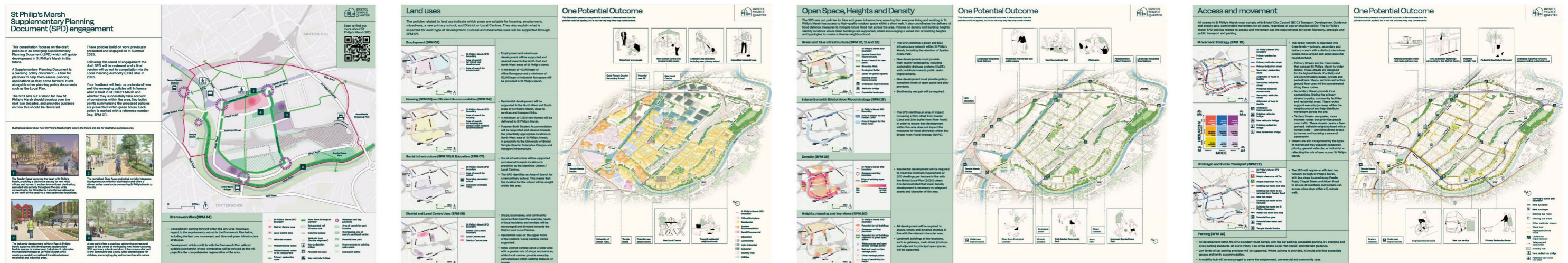


Fig 03.10 Exhibition boards for community engagement events from January to February 2026 on the Draft SPD

What We Heard

Feedback was gathered across a wide range of channels and grouped by theme. While individual respondents raised specific concerns, recurring topics emerged consistently across the online survey, in-person conversations, written submissions and accessibility groups.

The summary below sets out the main themes from this round of engagement.

Access and Movement

Respondents emphasised that current transport provision is not yet adequate to support growth, and that improvements need to be in place before significant new residential population arrives. Strong support was expressed for prioritising walking, cycling and public transport, with consistent calls for better connectivity to and from surrounding neighbourhoods including Totterdown, Brislington and the Dings. Cycling stakeholders called for a comprehensive cycle network plan with high-quality routes, while businesses and some residents emphasised that vehicle access, servicing and HGV movement still needed to be accommodated effectively. Additional bridges between Totterdown Bridge and St Philip's footbridge were a recurring suggestion, and concerns were raised about the legibility and safety of existing underpasses and tunnels.

Blue and Green Infrastructure

The majority of respondents expressed concern that overall open space provision will be insufficient for the projected population, with calls for larger parks, more public squares, and greater integration of green infrastructure into the public realm. The retention of Sparke Evans Park and the carrying forward of the green corridor from the previous engagement round were welcomed. Accessibility groups raised the importance of designing parks that are fully accessible, including clear edges to water, sight lines free from planting obstructions, and inclusive features throughout. Safety concerns around the Feeder Canal and River Avon were raised, particularly around escape routes from the water and the marking of water edges.

Housing, Density and Heights

There was strong support for new housing provision but consistent concern about over-reliance on high-density and high-rise development. The majority of respondents requested a clearer definition of high density and a maximum building height. There was a clear emphasis on affordability and on the need for a mix of housing types, including more townhouses and family homes. Concerns about the concentration of student accommodation and build-to-rent housing were raised across a range of channels, with respondents emphasising the need for housing that supports a balanced, long-term community.

Social Infrastructure

Social infrastructure was seen as critical to the success of the development by all respondents, not as a secondary consideration. Demand was strong for healthcare facilities, schools and early years provision, community centres and multi-use spaces. Repeated concern was raised that social infrastructure is often delivered too late in the development cycle, and respondents called for a clearer commitment on delivery timing and the integration of services within walkable distances.

Businesses, Industry and Phasing

Businesses called for greater certainty over relocation strategies, timelines and phasing, with concerns that the current proposals prioritise housing and reduce space for industry. The phasing of industrial relocation was identified as a particular concern, with calls for industrial provision to be delivered early so existing businesses have viable alternatives before being displaced. Continued HGV access, servicing and parking were repeatedly identified as essential to business operations.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

WECIL and TQAAG emphasised the importance of designing for accessibility from the outset, including clearly defined inclusive housing standards, accessible walking and cycling routes wide enough for two wheelchair users to pass, well-considered placement of taxi drop-offs and accessible parking, and the use of the term "accessible" rather than "inclusive" where

the intent is specifically to address disability. Both groups stressed that parks, public squares and the public realm should be designed with universal access as a starting point rather than an addition.

Heritage

Heritage groups called for stronger wording and a more robust approach to heritage protection within the Masterplan, including clearer mapping of locally listed assets, recognition of key views into and across the area, and consideration of archaeological investigation given the extent of demolition and redevelopment proposed.

Flooding

Surface water flooding currently affecting parts of St Philip's Marsh was raised at multiple events, including Feeder Road, the tunnel by Avonmeads, Totterdown Bridge and Albert Crescent. Respondents and businesses emphasised the importance of integrated flood mitigation and clear provision for the long-term protection of new and existing development.



Fig 03.11 Engagement workshop with the Temple Quarter Accessibility Advisory Group in November 2025

03.04 How Feedback Shaped the Masterplan

Feedback from both rounds of public engagement were reviewed thematically and incorporated into the Masterplan where relevant.

The May to July 2025 engagement shaped the underlying spatial design, while the January to February 2026 engagement tested that design as a draft policy document and prompted refinements to its content and emphasis.

The most significant ways in which feedback has shaped the Masterplan are set out below.

Open Space and the Public Realm

The first round of engagement directly fed into the structuring principles of the Masterplan. The preferred design combines components from the three scenarios tested, delivering a River Avon Walk with flood defence integrated within landscaped areas, alongside a network of green streets connecting parks across St Philip's Marsh. This includes new parks within the area and enhanced connections to Sparke Evans Park, which is retained as recreational green space.

The second round of engagement prompted greater clarity on the needs that parks should respond to, alongside more detailed guidance on accessibility, water-edge design, sight lines free from planting obstructions, and inclusive and accessible features throughout.

Centres and Pedestrianisation

The first round of engagement identified Feeder Road as the preferred location for a new Local Centre and supported its pedestrianisation between Avon Street and Albert Crescent, with vehicular traffic rerouted via Chapel Street. This has been carried into the Masterplan as a District Centre along the Feeder Canal, near the eastern gateway of Temple Meads Station, the University of Bristol TQEC, and the proposed new pedestrian bridge to the Silverthorne Lane development.

Two smaller Local Centres complement the District Centre, serving the rest of the neighbourhoods within St Philip's Marsh and responding to feedback calling for daily needs to be reachable within a short walk.

Transport and Modal Balance

Both rounds of engagement emphasised the need to prioritise active travel and public transport while continuing to recognise the practical need for private vehicle access, servicing and HGV movement. The Masterplan reflects this balance in its street designs.

Cycling infrastructure standards and connections beyond St Philip's Marsh have been set out in greater detail in response to feedback from cycling stakeholders, and cycling and wheeling are now more clearly signposted within Active Travel sections alongside pedestrian provision.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Accessibility considerations have been integrated into each relevant topic across the Masterplan, alongside a dedicated section setting out essential design considerations. This responds to feedback from WECIL, TQAAG and the wider community across both rounds of engagement. The Masterplan adopts the term "accessible" in line with WECIL's recommendation, ensuring the language reflects the specific intent of designing for disability.

Sustainability

Social, economic and environmental sustainability considerations have been embedded across topics where relevant, supported by a dedicated section that frames sustainability as a foundation of the Masterplan rather than an overlay. Biodiversity Net Gain is embedded in line with Natural England guidance, responding to feedback from statutory consultees and environmental groups.

Building Heights and Density

Development at higher densities is required given the area's proximity to the city centre and the requirements of the Bristol Local Plan. In line with the approach in the Bristol Local Plan and the Urban Living SPD, the Masterplan does not set a fixed maximum building height, but provides a framework identifying where taller buildings are appropriate, supported by clear criteria on heritage impact, daylight, wind and microclimate. Definitions of tall buildings are included for clarity, and examples of building typologies and the expected quality of public realm and open space around development have been added in response to feedback calling for greater certainty. Reference to expectations around the management of long-range and short-range views of and within the transformed St Philip's Marsh has also been added.

Heritage

References to relevant heritage requirements and design considerations have been added throughout the Masterplan, with specific guidance on protecting key views of heritage assets and on managing change to locally listed buildings. This responds to feedback from heritage groups, statutory consultees and community organisations across both rounds.

Flood Risk

Flood mitigation is integrated through the Masterplan in alignment with the Avon Riversides 2100 Strategy, with flood defence integrated within landscaped areas along the River Avon. Information on safety at the water's edge has been added in response to concerns raised during the second round of engagement about access to and from the Feeder Canal and the River Avon.

Phasing and Delivery of Social Infrastructure

Feedback from both rounds consistently identified social infrastructure as critical to the success of the development. The Masterplan sets out expectations for the early delivery of healthcare, schools, early years provision, sports provisions and community facilities, integrated within walkable distances of new homes. This responds directly to concerns raised by residents, statutory consultees and the NHS BNSSG Integrated Care Board that infrastructure is often delivered too late in the development cycle.

Industrial and Business Retention

Feedback from businesses, particularly during the second round of engagement, emphasised the need for certainty over relocation, timelines and phasing, alongside continued HGV access and servicing. The Masterplan recognises the value of existing businesses and encourages their retention where uses do not conflict with new residential and commercial development. A phasing logic has been set out to guide the sequencing of change across St Philip's Marsh, with industrial provision considered in early phases of the regeneration. Decisions on individual sites will sit with landowners and through the planning process.



Fig 03.12 Engagement workshop with the Temple Quarter Accessibility Advisory Group in November 2025