

BRISTOL HARBOUR PLACE SHAPING STRATEGY

PLACE PLAN: CANON'S MARSH

April 2024

Draft | Confidential



DK-CM

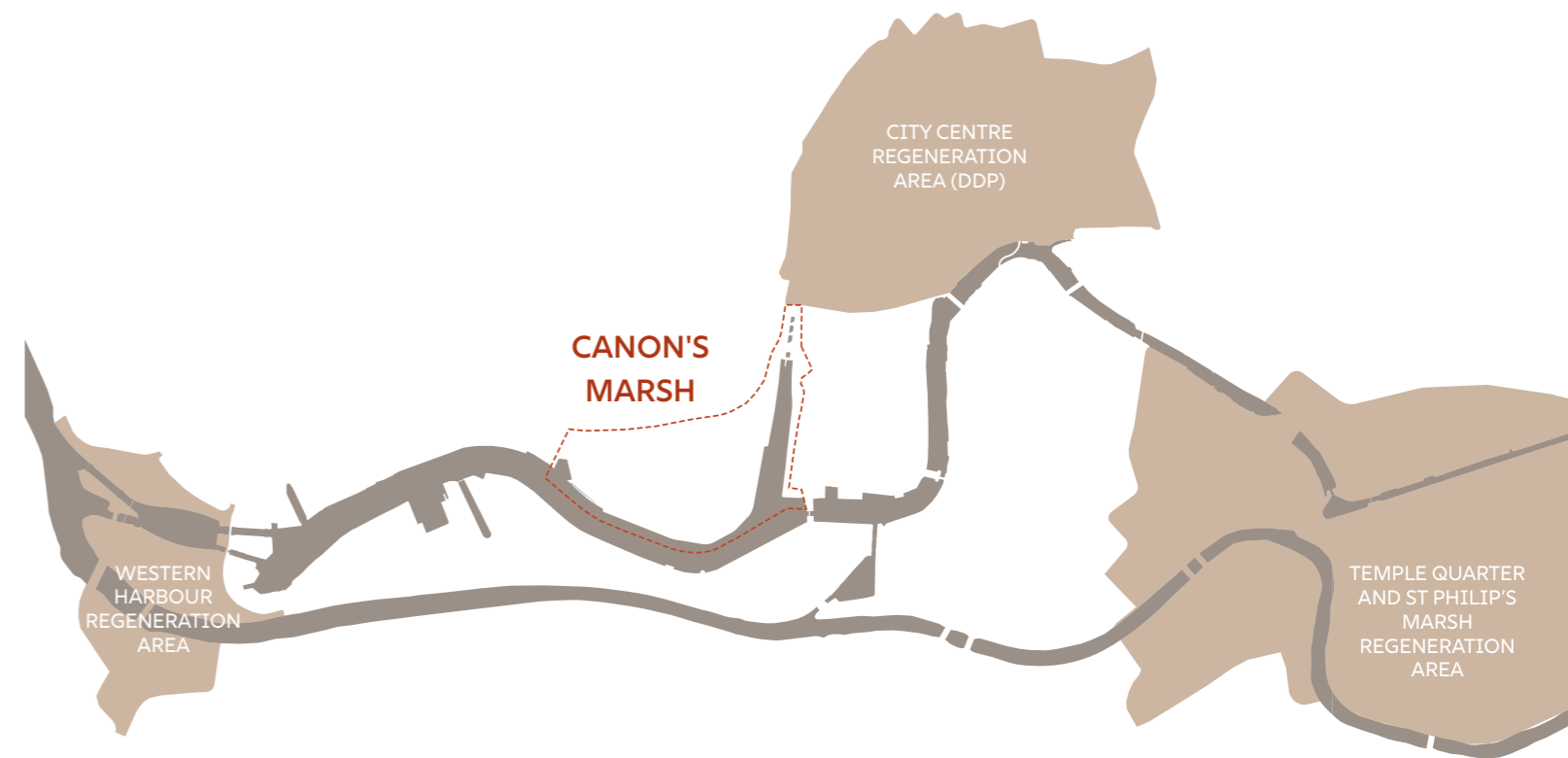


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CANON'S MARSH TODAY

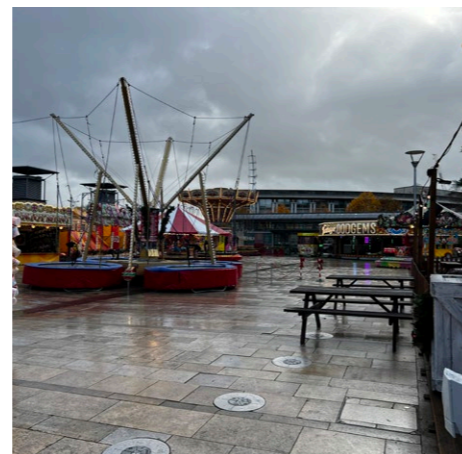
Once dominated by railway and gas works, parts of Canon's Marsh were redeveloped using Millennium funding. The area includes significant public spaces such as Millennium Square, Cascade Steps, Anchor Square and the Lloyds Amphitheatre, as well as cultural institutions *we the curious* and the Bristol Aquarium. The place also includes St. Augustine's Reach, the mouth of the river Frome, where the harbour reaches into the heart of the city and its transport connections, and where waterside nightlife, hospitality and outdoor events take place.



SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT





Canon's Marsh is recognised by locals and visitors as a place to dwell and gather, particularly for special events and major concerts. Narrow Quay and Hannover Quay are highlighted as key walking routes and recognised for their tree-lined water edges and shading. Whilst known as a site of cultural attraction, opportunities to make better use of public space like Millennium square and Lloyds Amphitheatre were repeatedly raised.

People feel the public realm needs an imaginative facelift, increased greening and developed infrastructure to make Canon's Marsh an accessible, activated space of culture and play for all ages. For some, the spaces along St. Augustine's Reach can be alienating when dominated by drinking culture, and the temporary loss of *We the Curious* is deeply felt.



SIGNIFICANCE



-  Heritage significance
-  Maritime significance
-  Social / cultural significance
-  Ecological significance

- ① Purifier House
- ② Millenium Parade
- ③ Harbour Inlet
- ④ Harbour edge biodiversity
- ⑤ The Harbourside Pavilion
- ⑥ Canon's House
- ⑦ Lloyds Amphitheatre

- ⑧ Millenium Square
- ⑨ Bristol Planetarium
- ⑩ We The Curious
- ⑪ College Square
- ⑫ Bristol Cathedral
- ⑬ Bristol Aquarium
- ⑭ V-Shed

- ⑮ Bordeaux Quay
- ⑯ Arnolfini Arts
- ⑰ Tree lined quayside
- ⑱ Cascade Steps
- ⑲ No.1 Harbourside
- ⑳ Watershed

CHALLENGES



- Inconsistent water edge safety
- Poor transport services
- ||||| Inactive frontages

- ① More frequent ferry services to connect the north and south of the harbour
- ② Water safety is decreased by the lack of emergency ladders, lifebuoys and safety call boxes at the harbour edge
- ③ Public space connecting cultural institutions lacks a cohesive public realm identity
- ④ The facades, surrounding the public realm, are blank and outdated lacking active
- ⑤ Underutilised public realm in need of a curated programme of events
- ⑥ The amphitheatre is underutilised outside of major events and is perceived by many as an unwelcoming and unattractive space
- ⑦ Car parking dominates between V-Shed and Millennium Square
- ⑧ Anti-social behaviour, particularly related to night-time drinking, is focussed in this area creating tensions of unsafety
- ⑨ Pero's Bridge is a bottleneck for cyclists and pedestrians
- ⑩ Cobblestones and tree roots create uneven surfaces restricting public realm accessibility along Narrow Quay

SIGNIFICANCE

HERITAGE

Canon's Marsh is a key site in the contemporary imagination of Bristol's wider harbour heritage. Developed partly from millennium funding, Canon's Marsh hosts several significant buildings, some newer and some dating back to its maritime land use. The Arnolfini and 'shed' buildings along St Augustine's Reach reflect this area's past as the centre of the harbour. Canon's House has recently been listed, and neighbours, Wethecurious, and the aquarium which are all centred around the millennium development.

MARITIME

Canon's Marsh maritime activity is concentrated along the Harbour Inlet, Narrow quay and Bordeaux quay. The majority of the boats located at these sites are residential or leisure moorings. As the harbour reaches into the heart of the city along St. Augustine's Reach, longer pontoons serve as key mooring points for boat users. This creates a lively area at the intersection of maritime activity and hospitality, outdoor events and nightlife.

BIODIVERSITY

Whilst there are no sites of outstanding biodiversity interest in Canon's Marsh, the floating ecospace along the Hannover Quay moorings has been repeatedly highlighted for its successful integration of greening, public routes, and harbour infrastructure. Narrow Quay is lined with mature trees, providing a rare sheltered space in the otherwise exposed and hard landscapes seen elsewhere in the public realm of Canon's Marsh.

SOCIAL / CULTURAL

Canon's Marsh is rich with cultural visitor attractions and public squares including Millenium Square, Anchor square, Lloyds Amphitheatre, Bristol Aquarium and Wethecurious (the latter of which is currently closed after a fire and much missed). These spaces are commonly utilised for public and charity event programming over the year, like the Harbourside Festival and organised running routes. The sheltered walkways along Narrow Quay and Bordeaux Quay also provide for a hub for nightlife and social activity with an attractive waterside stretch of food and drink venues. Bristol Cathedral Choir School directly abuts Canon's Marsh, and spaces within Canon's Marsh such as Millennium Square are at times already popular as places to dwell and play for children.

CHALLENGES

PUBLIC REALM

The public realm around Canon's Marsh is challenging as it is generous in size but is underutilised, particularly in the public squares connecting cultural attractions. This is partly due to the prioritisation of large events that require open space, but neglects the day to day activation and use of the space. There are inconsistent safety measures along the water's edge and key public spaces, Lloyds Amphitheatre and Millenium square, are perceived as outdated and lacking a cohesive identity. The public realm is also affected by unwelcoming inactive frontages from heritage and cultural buildings like Canon's House and the Bristol Aquarium. Some areas of public realm feel dominated by particular uses such as on-street drinking and dining.

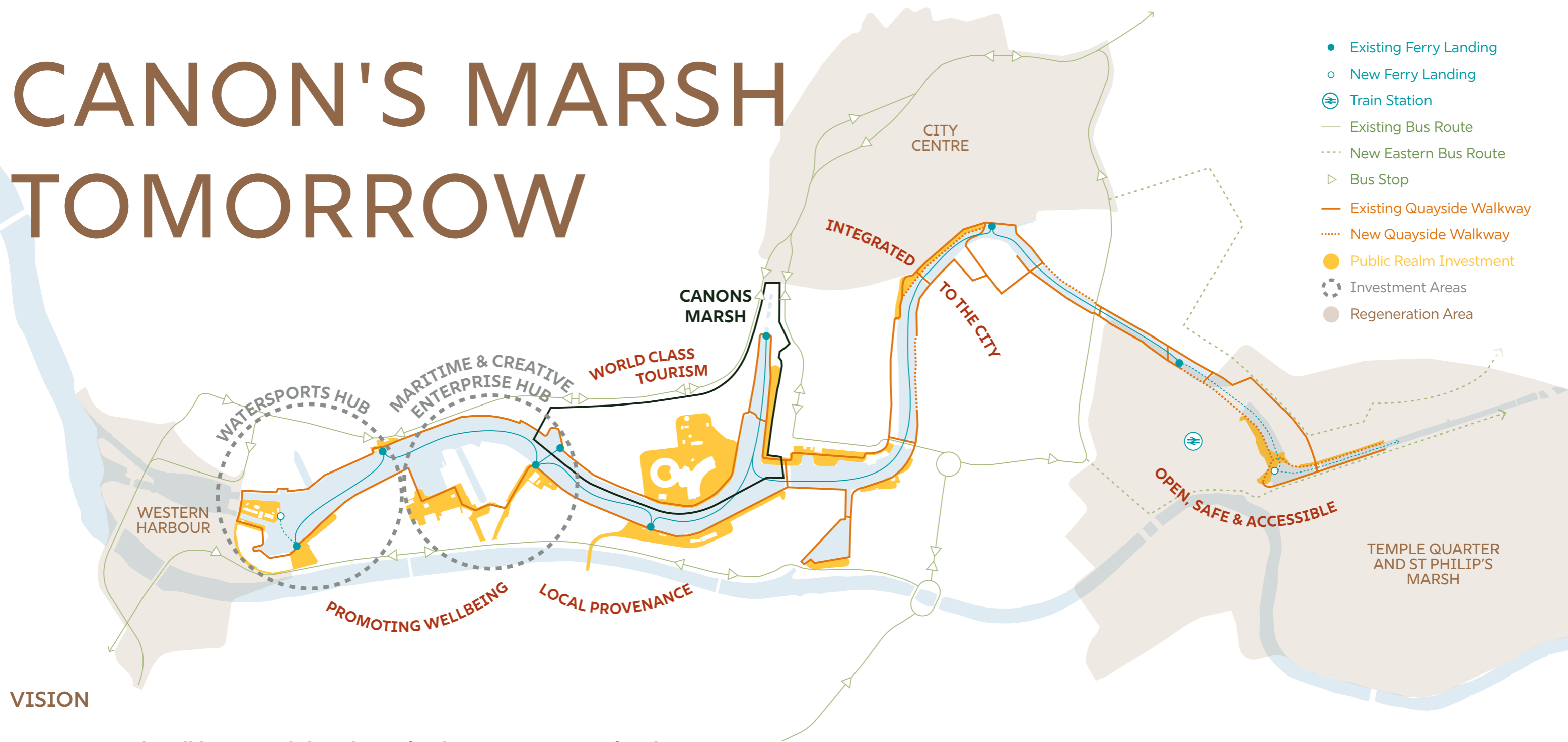
TRANSPORT

Ferry services connecting the north and south of the harbour are infrequent, restricting locals and tourists accessing the heart of the city from the Harbour Inlet drop off. Pero's Bridge has a narrow pinch point which creates a bottleneck for cyclists and pedestrians and the Narrow Quay presents accessibility issues due to an uneven surface of cobblestones and tree roots affecting public movement.

CAR PARKING

Car parking interrupts the area between V-shed and Millenium square, and along Hannover Quay, creating an unattractive back of house public realm.

CANON'S MARSH TOMORROW



VISION

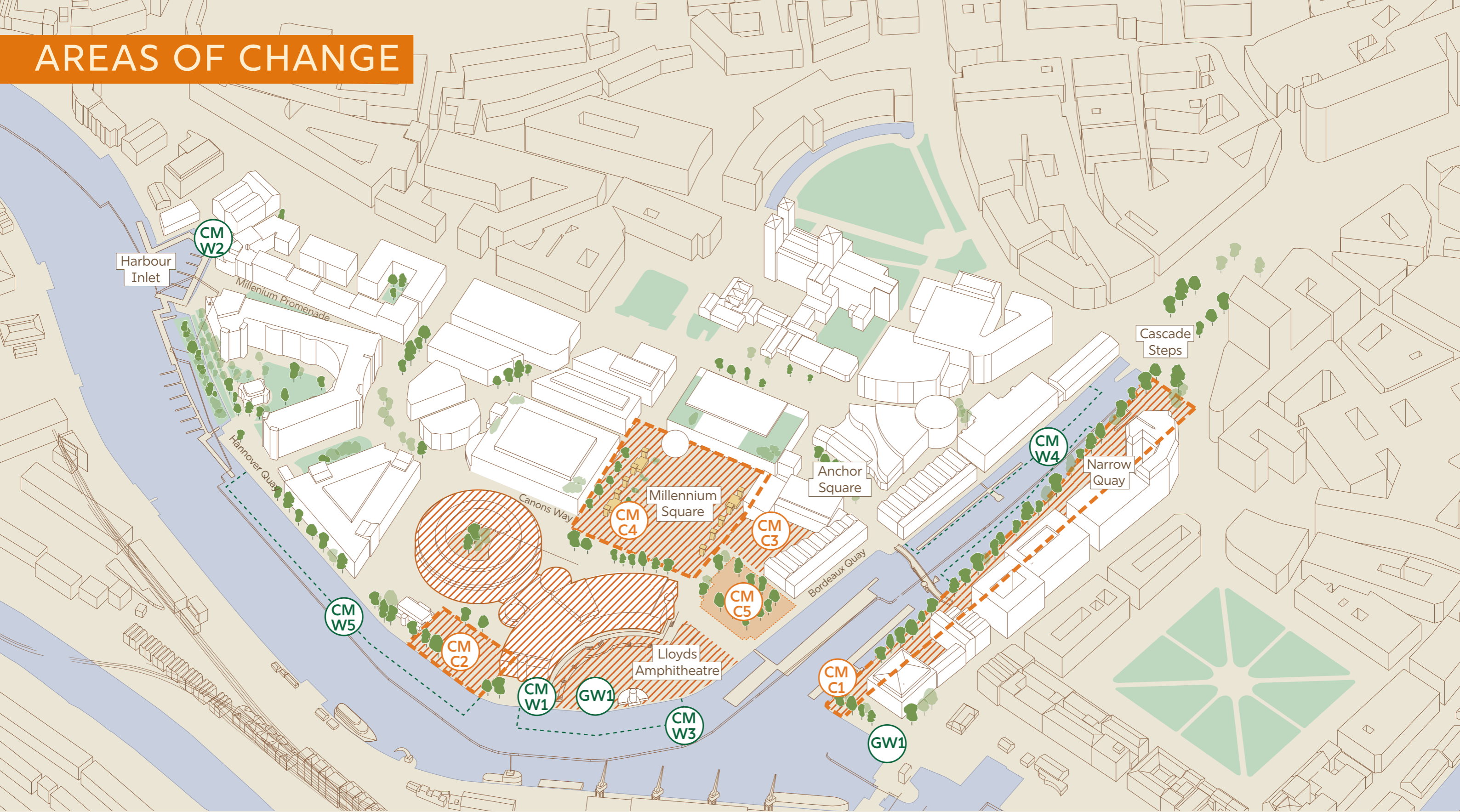
Canon's Marsh will be consolidated as a fresh, contemporary focal point for Bristol's civic and public life. Its significant public spaces - among them the Lloyds Amphitheatre and Millennium Square - will be rejuvenated to better support public life with, for example, better amenities for temporary events, and enhanced shelter and shade for increasingly unpredictable weather.

Existing mooring provision, supported by in-water greening, will be expanded for diverse types of craft, with a focus on boosting floating commercial activity along St. Augustine's Reach. The harbour edge beside the Amphitheatre will be a natural home for tall ships and other 'special' visiting craft.

KEY MOVES

- Narrow Quay reimagined as a greater place of public life and of movement, to relieve pressure on other locations and take advantage of its latent qualities.
- Rationalisation and commercial expansion of moorings in St. Augustine's Reach to create a lively waterspace befitting a city centre 'hub' location.
- Diversification and enrichment of spaces within the Canon's Marsh area, particularly Millennium Square and Hannover Quay, to attract more people, especially families, to this city centre location and diversify offer.
- Substantial areas of new and intensified moorings.

AREAS OF CHANGE



Key

- Area of potential change
- Underutilised site
- Confirmed key development site
- Waterspace change

Place Specific Interventions

- CMC1: Narrow Quay Commercial
- CMC2: Hannover Quay Commercial
- CMC3: Event Support Infrastructure
- CMC4: Millennium Square Diversification
- CMC5: Waterfront Square

Waterspace Interventions (refer to Waterspace Plan)

- CMW1: Ampitheatre Waterside
- CMW2: Harbour Inlet Commercial Moorings
- CMW3: Amphitheatre Heritage Moorings
- CMW4: St Augustine's Reach Commercial Moorings
- CMW5: Hannover Quay Live / Lesiure Moorings

Overarching Interventions

- GW1: Ferry Landing Reopened

Areas of Change Interventions

There are strong opportunities to 'inject' new uses (temporary and permanent) into the existing spaces of Canon's Marsh. Building on existing strengths and exploiting some current underutilised spaces, this would suit a family-facing offer, and would complement a more diverse commercial offer on the water at St. Augustine's Reach and along Narrow Quay.

Below: Millennium Square activated as a family-friendly space with open container units of play equipment adjacent to a loggia of independent commercial businesses.



CMC1: Narrow Quay Commercial

As part of wider public realm improvements there is an opportunity for clearly-demarkated commercial spaces, potentially related to existing businesses but also to in-water commercial leases, to be located along the length of Narrow Quay - especially in areas to the north where access roads currently dominate.

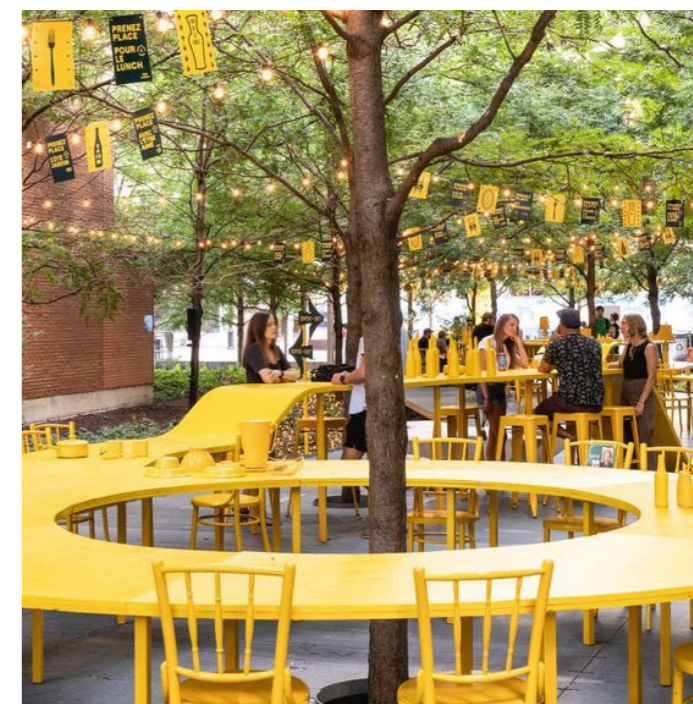
The design of such spaces must ensure that substantial space for movement is left such that sociable uses such as street dining do not restrict pedestrian movement or create bottlenecks. (See also CMP1, overleaf)

CMC2: Hannover Quay Commercial

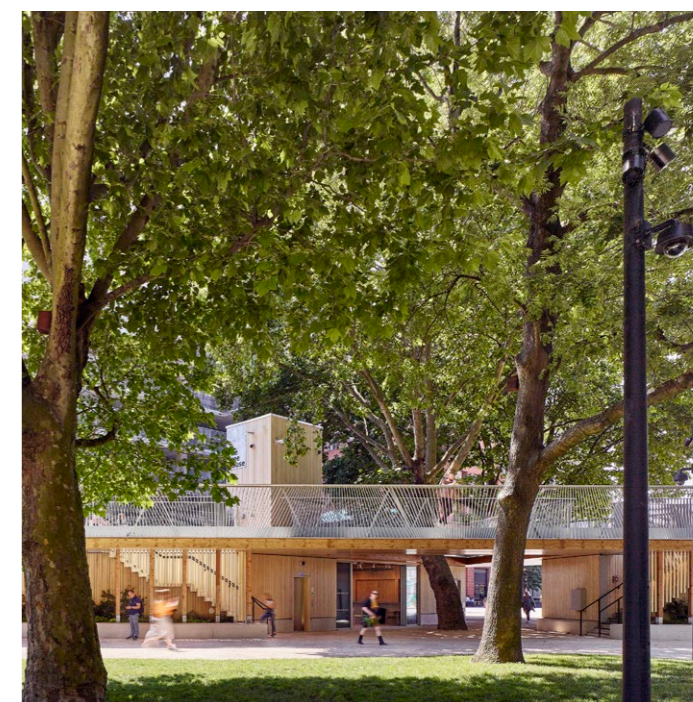
Temporary, meanwhile, prototype or permanent commercial uses in support of a more actively playable public realm. May be best achieved in tandem with changes to Canon's House itself (See also CMC5 and CMP2, overleaf)

CMC3: Event Support Infrastructure

Land to the rear of V-Shed to be utilised for event support with water and electricity provision. New perimeter screening to be adaptable and form part of the public art trail. (See also CMP3 and 5, overleaf)



This project by ADHOC in Montreal integrates new seating spaces with existing planting.



The Tree House by Bell Phillips is a new community space and cafe situated in the midst of the natural playground at Elephant Park, South London.



This ice cream parlour in Argentina (by Ferro & Assoc) is one example among many of new, joyful architecture placed in existing commercial contexts to diversify and enrich existing provision and provoke activity.



Sayer Street is a 'temporary' 'high street' of commercial and sociable uses build in the spaces between development.



A shipping container of durable play elements in Gillette Square, Dalston (muf architecture/art) activates the space on key occasions.



Re:START/Container Mall, Cashel Street, Christchurch, New Zealand

CMC4: Millennium Square Diversification

There are significant opportunities within the existing public spaces of Millennium Square to diversify and enrich the existing offer through the provision of new commercial and social premises, utilising either temporary or permanent interventions or indeed a mix of the two, whilst leaving the square free to act as a host for events and taking advantage of existing amenities which have proved popular playable landscapes - notably the existing fountains. Whilst the commercial spaces of the existing Canon's Marsh lend themselves toward larger chain retail and F&B uses, an 'injection' of smaller and more bespoke units, particularly

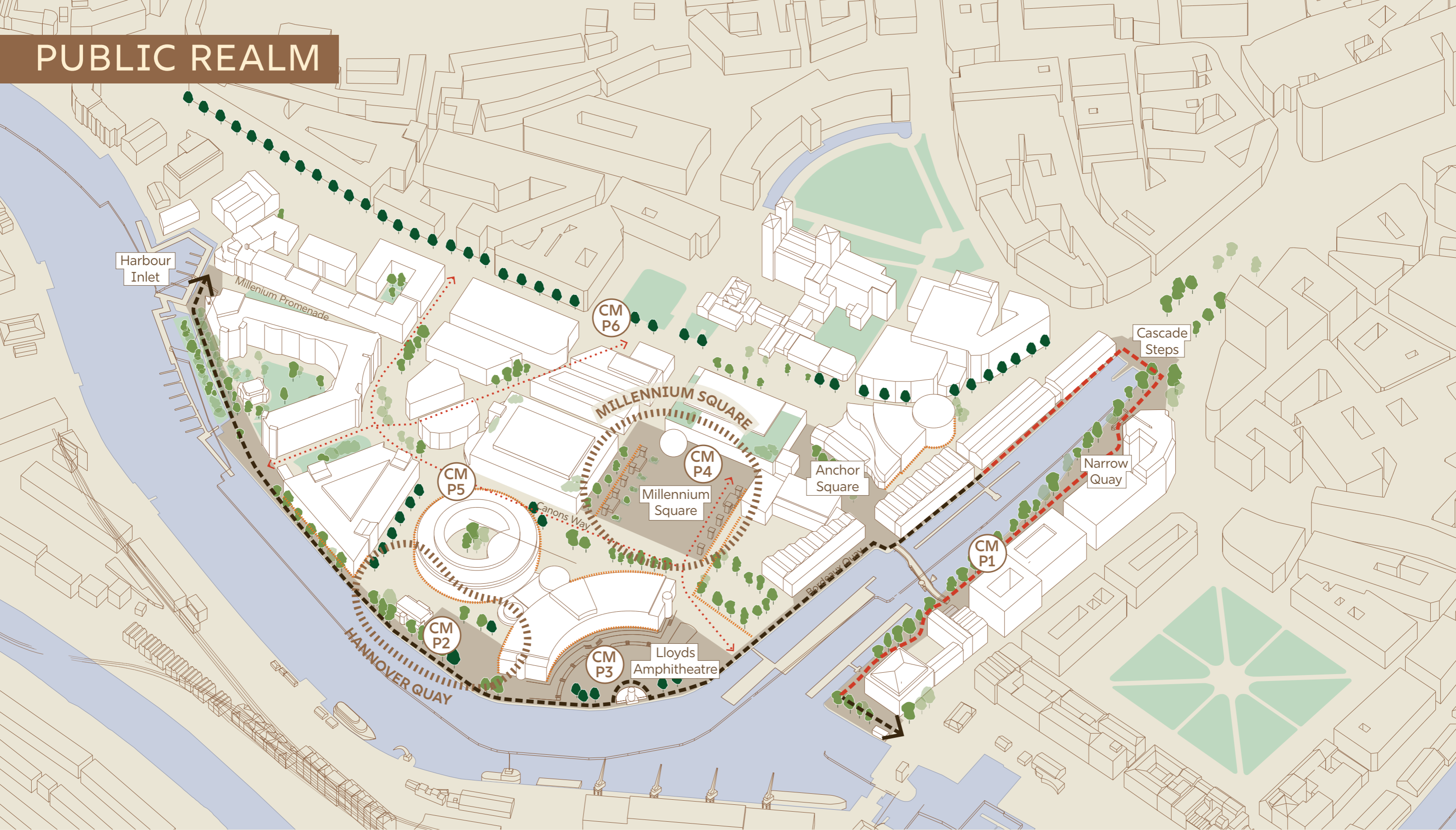
those that support themes of leisure, play and child-friendliness (complementing the more 'adult' themes of Wapping Wharf, for example), would allow for a wider array of businesses and organisations, especially independents, to have a presence in the centre of the city. Commercial operations could be complemented by occasional play infrastructure and by intensified events programming.

Some existing structures are also suitable for refurbishment to provide more public-facing uses whilst retaining their existing functions. (See also CMP4, overleaf)

CMC5: Waterfront Square

Opportunity for development to diversify uses with active ground floor units within new development mixed-use or leisure development. New energy centre to provide low carbon energy to homes and businesses.

PUBLIC REALM



Key

- Priority for public realm improvement
- Existing Quayside Walkway
- Improved Quayside Walkway
- Improved secondary routes
- Enhanced greening
- Active frontages
- Key public paces

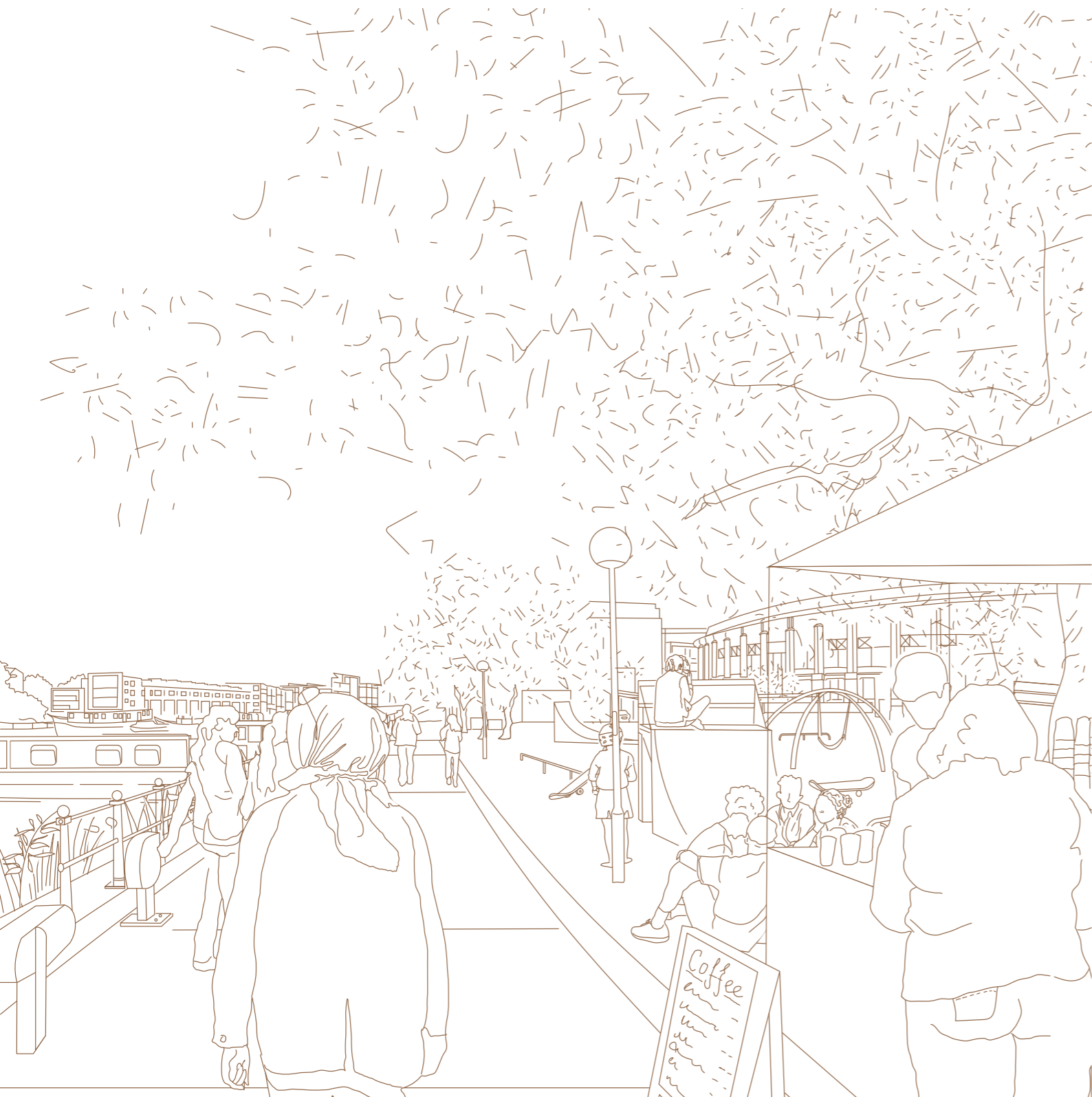
Place Specific Interventions

- CM P1 CMP1: St Augustine's Reach and Narrow Quay
- CM P2 CMP2: Hannover Quay
- CM P3 CMP3: Lloyd's Amphitheatre
- CM P4 CMP4: Millennium Square
- CM P5 CMP5: Public Art Trail
- CM P6 CMP6: Anchor Road Tree Planting

Public Realm Interventions

Canon's Marsh public realm is improved as an accessible, safe place to dwell, play and engage in local activity. This includes retrofitting and activating Lloyds Amphitheatre and Millenium Square to support events and informal urban sports, increased greening along the Quayside Walkway and temporary commercial zones.

Below: Hannover Quay is reimagined as an generous play space for youth, with temporary commercial uses and durable, movable objects for informal urban sports.



CMP1: St Augustine's Reach & Narrow Quay
Improved Quayside Walkway along the eastern edge of St Augustine's Reach with a more generous walkway, and lighting. Consideration of more seasonal use of outdoor seating to free up space for other activities from later autumn to early spring. Improved level and continuous surfacing using sawn cobbles, to make a pedestrian priority zone. Opportunity for expanded and improved outdoor seating areas for ancillary commercial activities (both on land and on water). If this route were enhanced as a pedestrian realm it would reduce pressure on the opposite side as a pedestrian route; these spaces are quite alienating and stressful for people passing through when busy.

CMP2: Hannover Quay
Improved greening, signage, water edge safety and heritage interpretation with a focus upon natural play space with water and power connections to support surrounding small scale temporary commercial uses adjacent to The Pavilion.

CMP3: Lloyd's Amphitheatre
Improved and diversified programming of space to include seasonal, affordable and inclusive events and uses. Time and space allocated to support informal urban sports. Durable and moveable objects and greenery installed to activate and diversify the space outside of events. Water's edge redesigned to be safer and provide public space to sit, recline, shelter and play throughout the year and during events.

CMP4: Millennium Square
Retrofit space to better support events with movable furniture, structures for play and family-friendly amenities. More varied programming with inclusive, diverse, educational and affordable uses and events.

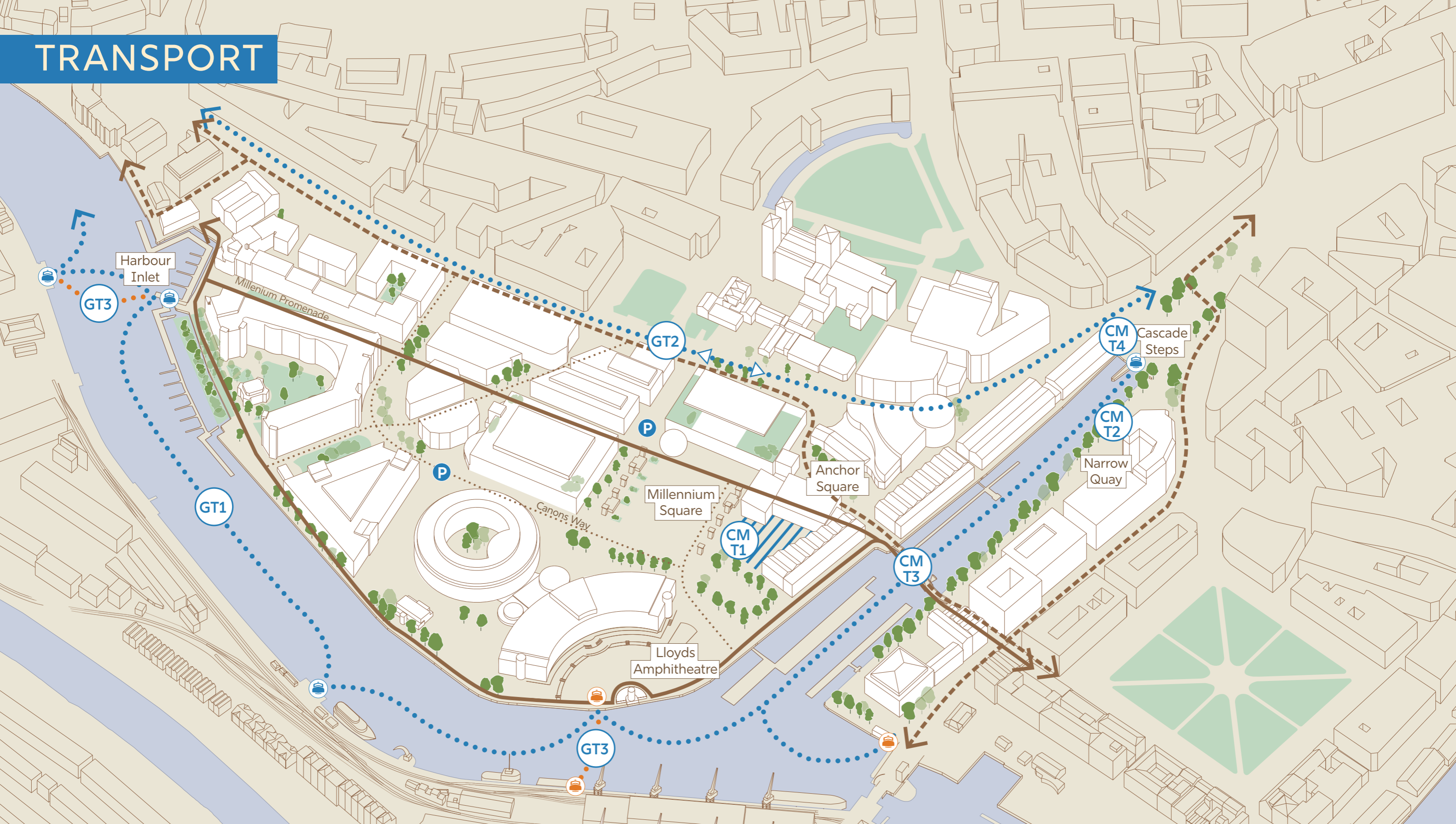
CMP5: Public Art Trail
Commission local artists to create an arts trail around Canon's Marsh activating brick frontages and supporting different communities. Particular focus around Canon's Road and Canon's Way.

CMP6: Anchor Road Tree Planting
Avenue tree planting along the length of Anchor Road where possible.













Natural play space by Robert Bray Associates.

TRANSPORT







Key




-  Bus stop
-  Coach parking
-  Existing ferry landing
-  Improved transport service
-  More efficient land use

-  Cycle route
-  Primary pedestrian route
-  Secondary pedestrian route
-  Reinstated ferry landing
-  New transport service

Place Specific Interventions

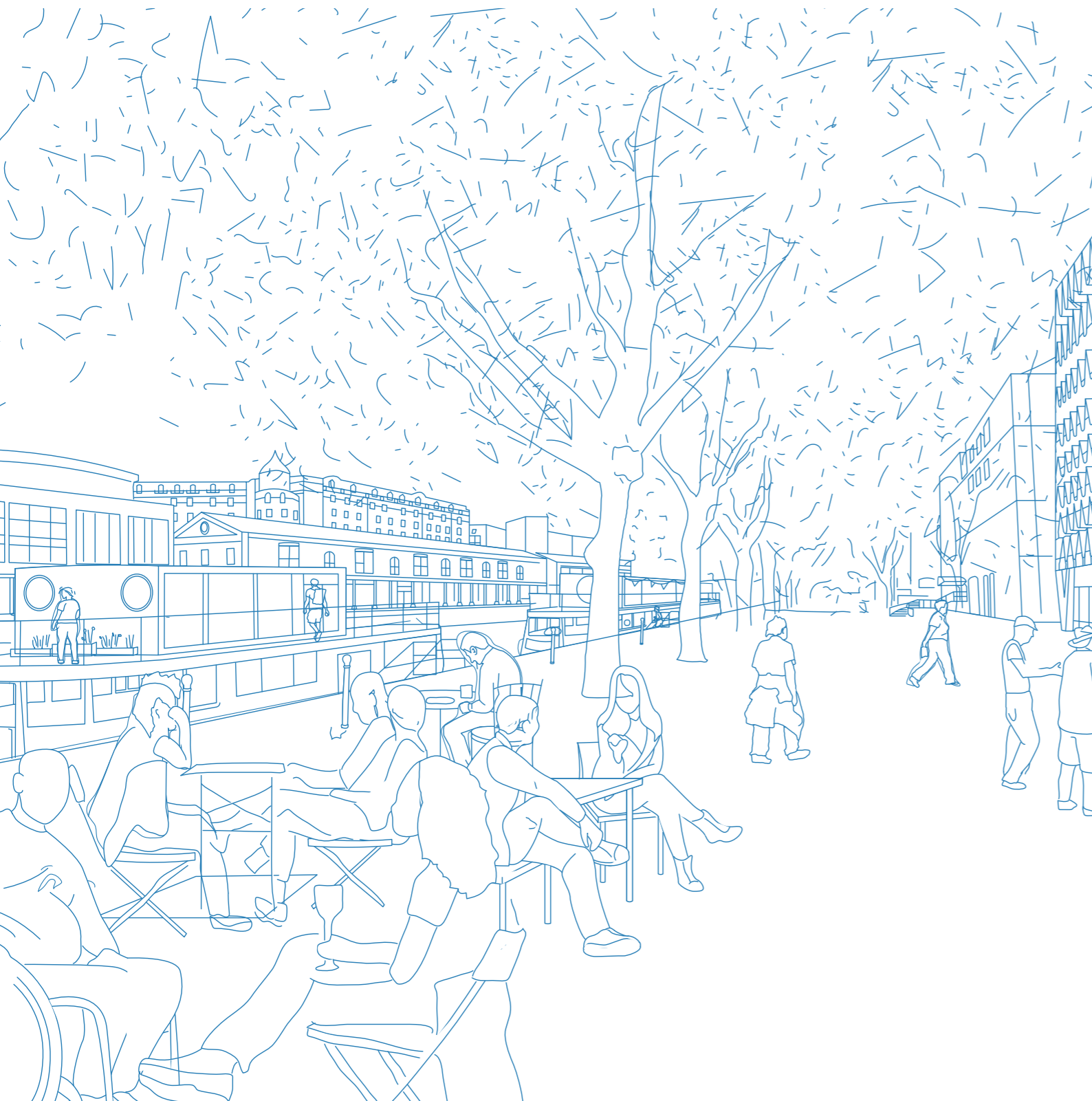
-  CMT1: Parking (V-Shed)
-  CMT2: Parking (Narrow Quay)
-  CMT3: Pero's Bridge
-  CMT4: Cascade Steps Mobility Hub

Overarching Interventions

-  GT1: Enhanced Ferry Provision
-  GT2: Enhanced Metrobus Provision
-  GT3: Chain Link Crossing

Transport Interventions

The key strategic move required in Canon's Marsh is improved accessibility around the harbour edge. This includes an enhanced cross harbour ferry service, the creation of a mobility hub for cycle, e-bike and scooter hire and rationalised parking to accommodate for alternative uses in the square spaces.



PLACE-SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

CMT1: Parking (V Shed)

Rationalised car parking to accommodate alternative uses, such as event support space for Millennium Square and Lloyd's Amphitheatre.

CMT2: Parking (Narrow Quay)

Vehicle access and parking removed with the exception of emergency vehicles and deliveries in order to create continuous pedestrian-friendly realm along St. Augustine's Reach.

CMT3: Pero's Bridge

Explore measures to reduce bottlenecks at this critical water crossing.

CMT4: Cascade Steps Mobility Hub

Creation of Mobility Hub providing cycle, e-bike, scooter hire, and connection for surrounding bus services north of Cascade Steps.

Left: Narrow Quay will have vehicle access and parking removed with the exception of emergency vehicles and deliveries to the commercial moorings.



Mobility hub in Osnabrück by Andre Stocker.

OVERARCHING INTERVENTIONS

GT1: Enhanced Ferry Provision

An enhanced and consolidated ferry service with additional capacity and extended services being provided. Route to zig zag along harbour to better connect north and south. Improvements to ferry landing locations including seating, shelter, signage and safety. Opportunity to extend ferry services beyond the floating harbour to serve the Western Harbour and the Feeder Canal.

GT2: Enhanced Metrobus Provision

An enhanced and consolidated ferry service with additional capacity and extended services being provided. Route to zig zag along harbour to better connect north and south. Improvements to ferry landing locations including seating, shelter, signage and safety. Opportunity to extend ferry services beyond the floating harbour to serve the Western Harbour and the Feeder Canal.

TABLE OF OPPORTUNITY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

- Transport
- Public Realm
- Areas of Change
- Waterspace
- Initiatives
- Quick Wins

CODE	PROJECT	WHAT	VISION OUTCOMES	LEAD / OTHER PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME 1 - short (2 yrs) 2 - medium (2-5 yrs) 3 - long (5+ yrs)	DEPENDENCIES which projects need completing / are dependent upon others	COST £ - below £500K ££ - £500K - £2 million £££ - £2million +	FUNDING OPTIONS
CMC1	Narrow Quay Commercial	As part of wider public realm improvements there is an opportunity for clearly-demarcated commercial spaces, potentially related to existing businesses but also to in-water commercial leases, to be located along the length of Narrow Quay - especially in areas to the north where access roads currently dominate.						
CMC2	Hannover Quay Commercial	Temporary, meanwhile, prototype or permanent commercial uses in support of a more actively playable public realm. May be best achieved in tandem with changes to Canon's House itself (See also CMC5 and CMP2, overleaf)						
CMC3	Event Support Infrastructure	Land to the rear of V-Shed to be utilised for event support with water and electricity provision. New perimeter screening to be adaptable and form part of the public art trail.						
CMC4	Millennium Square Diversification	There are significant opportunities within the existing public spaces of Millennium Square to diversify and enrich the existing offer through the provision of new commercial and social premises, utilising either temporary or permanent interventions or indeed a mix of the two, whilst leaving the square free to act as a host for events.						

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CMC5	Waterfront Square	Opportunity for development to diversify uses with active ground floor units within new development mixed-use or leisure development. New energy centre to provide low carbon energy to homes and businesses.						
CMP1	St Augustine's Reach & Narrow Quay	Improved Quayside Walkway along the eastern edge of St Augustine's Reach with a more generous walkway, and lighting. Consideration of more seasonal use of outdoor seating to free up space for other activities from later autumn to early spring. Improved level and continuous surfacing using sawn cobbles, to make a pedestrian priority zone. Opportunity for expanded and improved outdoor seating areas for ancillary commercial activities (both on land and on water).						
CMP2	Hannover Quay	Improved greening, signage, water edge safety and heritage interpretation with a focus upon natural play space with water and power connections to support surrounding small scale temporary commercial uses adjacent to The Pavilion.						
CMP3	Lloyd's Amphitheatre	Improved and diversified programming of space to include seasonal, affordable and inclusive events and uses. Time and space allocated to support informal urban sports. Water's edge redesigned to be safer and provide public space to sit, recline, shelter and play throughout the year and during events.						

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CMP4	Millennium Square	Retrofit space to better support events with movable furniture, structures for play and family-friendly amenities. More varied programming with inclusive, diverse, educational and affordable uses and events.						
CMP5	Public Art Trail	Commission local artists to create an arts trail around Canon's Marsh activating brick frontages and supporting different communities. Particular focus around Canon's Road and Canon's Way.						
CMP6	Anchor Road Tree Planting	Avenue tree planting along the length of Anchor Road where possible.						
GT1	Enhanced Ferry Provision	An enhanced and consolidated ferry service with additional capacity and extended services being provided. Route to zig zag along harbour to better connect north and south. Improvements to ferry landing locations including seating, shelter, signage and safety. Opportunity to extend ferry services beyond the floating harbour to serve the Western Harbour and the Feeder Canal.						
GT2	Enhanced Metrobus Provision	Enhanced Metrobus service along Cumberland Road with service expanded to Sundays and evenings. Improved bus connections around the harbour that connect to coach drop-off points and Temple Meads Train Station.						

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CODE	PROJECT	WHAT	VISION OUTCOMES	LEAD / OTHER PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME 1 - short (2 yrs) 2 - medium (2-5 yrs) 3 - long (5+ yrs)	DEPENDENCIES which projects need completing / are dependent upon others	COST £ - below £500K ££ - £500K - £2 million £££ - £2million +	FUNDING OPTIONS
GT3	Chain Link Crossing	Installation of two continuous and automatic, solar powered chain link crossings to provide north / south connection across the harbour. Located between SS Greate Britain and the Harbour Inlet; and between M-SHed and the Amphitheatre. Consideration required to avoid impacting on harbour operations and water leisure.						
CMT1	Parking (V-Shed)	Rationalised car parking to accommodate alternative uses, such as event support space for Millennium Square and Lloyd's Amphitheatre.						
CMT2	Parking (Narrow Quay)	Vehicle access and parking removed with the exception of emergency vehicles and deliveries in order to create continuous pedestrian-friendly realm along St. Augustine's Reach.						
CMT3	Pero's Bridge	Explore measures to reduce bottlenecking at this critical water crossing.						
CMT4	Cascade Steps Mobility Hub	Creation of Mobility Hub providing cycle, e-bike, scooter hire, and connection for surrounding bus services north of Cascade Steps.						

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