

# BRISTOL HARBOUR PLACE SHAPING STRATEGY

---

## STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT REPORT

May 2024



DK-CM



# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>06</b>
→ Engagement at a glance	
→ Engagement in numbers	
→ Towards Place Plans	
<b>1. Shaping Bristol's Harbour Exhibition</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2. Online Engagement Tool</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>3. Community Champions</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>4. Rising Storytellers</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Where should we be looking?</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Gaps &amp; Further Research</b>	<b>43</b>

# INTRODUCTION

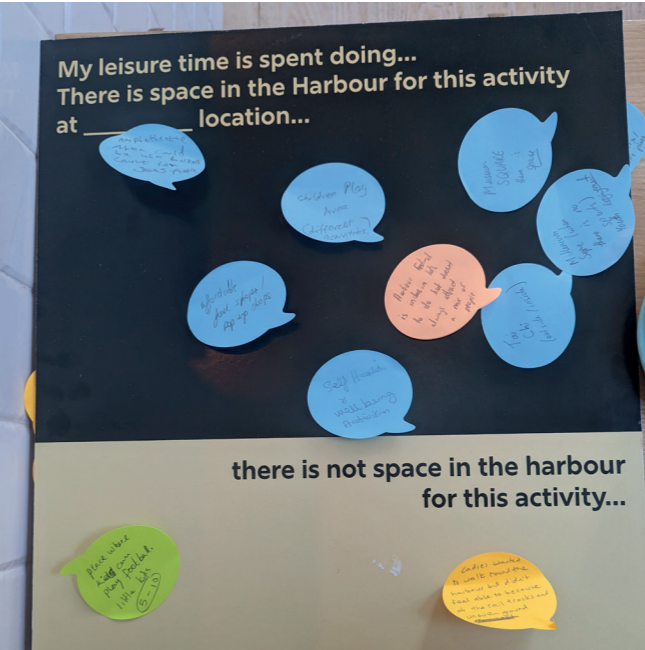
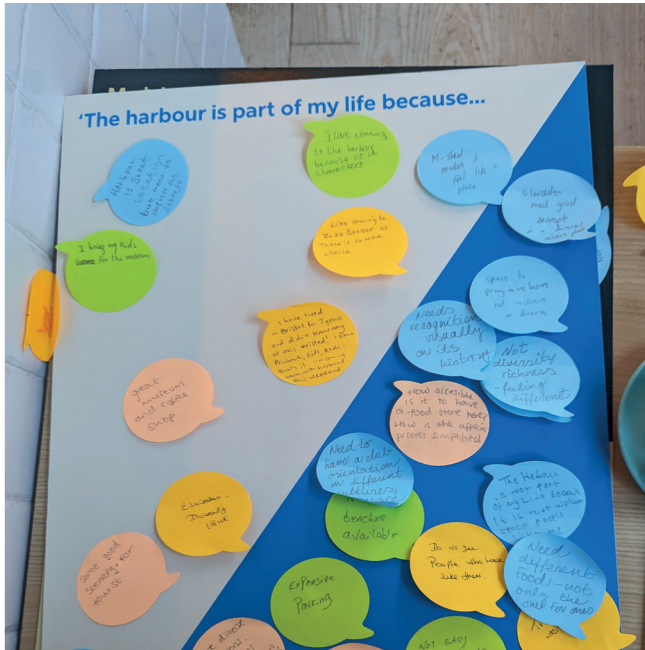
This report sets out findings and analysis gathered during Stage 2 of the development of the Bristol Harbour Place Shaping Strategy (BHPSS).

Our approach to engagement is split into three stages. **Stage 1: What Is** was focussed around establishing the places, qualities, opportunities and challenges which currently exist in the harbour: a collective portrait of the existing condition. A reporting document summarising this work, the *Stage 1 Engagement Report* is available online and key findings were also summarised in the *Bristol Harbour Atlas*, a public-facing document setting out the reality of the harbour today. The Harbour Atlas was published online by Bristol City Council in December 2023.

This report summarises findings from **Stage 2: What Should Be**. This stage has shifted the focus from the present day to the future of the harbour area as a whole, to develop a series of key overarching strategic objectives framed as a Vision. The findings of this stage are presented in full in this report and they have directly fed in to the *Bristol Harbour Vision*, a second public-facing document to the Atlas, which will be published in Summer 2024.

A final stage, **Stage 3: How We Get There**, will involve the development of Place Plans which will build upon the evidence base established in Stage 1 and the overarching strategic objectives established in Stage 2 to develop a series of detailed place- and site- specific strategic proposals, including for the waterspace.

This engagement has been undertaken in the wake of recent previous successful engagement activities, notably *Bristol Harbour User Insights* (Mace & Menter, 2022) and *Harbourside Place Shaping Workshops* (Design West, 2022). Findings from these previous sessions has been referred to when preparing this report.



Right Stage 2 engagement in progress.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stage 2 of our engagement for the Place Shaping Strategy has built upon our understandings of the place as it is and focussed upon setting out a broad Vision for its future. The team have used a variety of media, methods and engagement strategies, including web-based, walking tours, an M Shed exhibition and school workshops to deliver a targeted engagement exercise aimed at getting vital insights from a broad variety of different users and residents.

When asked to 'think big' at the M Shed exhibition, respondents imagined a greener, more playful, more colourful harbour with a much livelier waterspace.

## DISCOVERIES AND SURPRISES

These are themes which did not arise strongly or at all in earlier engagement stages.

- Public toilets, freely available throughout day and night, became a significant talking point during Stage 2. They are understood, broadly, as a key ingredient in boosting access.
- Affordability, generally, was more emphasised during this Stage than during Stage 1. Respondents' ideas for a future harbour often reflected concerns around affordability, gentrification, exclusivity and class divides.
- Calls for a greener, more biodiverse harbour aligned neatly with advocacy for a more child-friendly harbour, suggesting that measures to tackle biodiversity should be considered hand-in-hand with play in the public realm.
- Concerns around the loss of affordable workspace, and calls for more of it, were strong throughout Stage 2.

## DIVERGING VIEWS

There were only two key points of tension in this engagement stage, and the second is less a divergent topic than an ongoing concern.

- Parking is a tension and point of divergence as highlighted during Stage 1. Stage 2 engagement was generally in favour of strategically reducing existing car parking provision in favour of other uses. Maintaining access to the water for those with reduced mobility or with complex/substantial equipment remains a concern.
- The tension identified in Stage 1 between a 'tourist offer' and everyday Bristolian life remains a key talking point, with many respondents proposing ideas for tackling this tension or otherwise achieving a good balance. There is broad consensus that getting this balance right should be a key focus.
- Drinking culture in the harbour, particularly around St Augustines Reach, was highlighted as a concern by young people, due to their feeling unsafe or isolated by this activity.

## ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

Building upon the diagram produced during Stage 1, the following bubble diagram sets out the 12 priorities for the harbour and 4 concerns, all derived from Stage 2 engagement. More forward-looking by nature than the qualities, issues and tensions identified during Stage 1, these priorities and concerns add detail and understanding to the Vision development but do not challenge any core emerging principles. We believe all of these topics should play a role in the final Place Shaping Strategy.

## PRIORITIES



## CONCERNS



## DEVELOPING PRINCIPLES

Throughout Stage 2, engagement has sought feedback on the following 10 principles:

- **It will be a great place to live, with good quality services and amenities including for the harbour's boater communities.**
- **It will be financially self-sufficient and sustainable in the long-term.**
- **It will ensure that investment benefits, and connects with, the harbour's communities and neighbourhoods.**
- **It will be a comfortable, open and safe place for people to spend time.**
- **It will play a vital role in delivering upon Bristol's zero carbon, biodiversity and climate resilience ambitions.**
- **Bristol Harbour will be well-integrated to the wider city and accessible to all.**
- **It will be a vital part of Bristol's cultural identity, where water uses coexists with industrial and creative businesses and everyday public life.**
- **It will contribute to a child-friendly city by offering a unique playable quayside to local people and to those visiting the harbour as a destination.**
- **It will balance its world-class tourist offer and events programming with the needs of its diverse local communities and neighbourhoods.**
- **It will be a place where creativity, making and culture, including local production and provenance, are celebrated and supported.**

### **It will be a great place to live, with good quality services and amenities including for the harbour's boater communities.**

- Respondents noted the need for new services & amenities to be affordable.
- Public toilets, places to rest, and good infrastructure for cycling and walking were all noted as key services and amenities.
- The most popular comment online was about the need for well-maintained boater facilities, landing stages and emergency access.
- The second most popular comment online for this principle was about the importance of good quality, well-maintained public space.
- It was noted that, as a neighbourhood, the harbour is perceived to lack some good basic affordable amenities, for example a grocery shop.
- Recognition that protecting spaces of quietude or 'freeness' is an important aspect of making a great place to live in the harbour.
- Urban design was not mentioned in this principle and did not receive particular comment, but the importance of legibility and easy access to key spaces was noted by various respondents throughout Stage 2.

### **It will be financially self-sufficient and sustainable in the long-term.**

- The potential of additional and enhanced moorings to underpin the financial sustainability of the harbour was noted by exhibition visitors - this was the most popular comment online for this principle.
- The existing economic impact of the harbour - understood through its diverse positive impacts on the life and economy of the city - should be valued and recognised in any new approaches to economic value.
- Concern that additional income from tourist activity can have other damaging impacts, for example on affordability.

## It will ensure that investment benefits, and connects with, the harbour's communities and neighbourhoods.

- The importance of 'undeveloped' and 'free' spaces was the most popular comment online for this principle. Such free or uncommitted space is perhaps more valued by Bristolians than by visitors or tourists to the city and there are concerns that it could be easily lost.
- 'Ordinary' or day-to-day amenities and services (e.g. a grocery, a pharmacy) were noted as key omissions if the harbour's communities are to be better supported.
- Community Champion engagement suggests that work needs to be done on perceptions of safety in the harbour, as well as how it provides for diverse communities, in order for the harbour to benefit the full diversity of local communities.
- Regular and ongoing community engagement is important if this principle is to deliver in the long-term.

## It will play a vital role in delivering upon Bristol's zero carbon, biodiversity and climate resilience ambitions.

- Concerns around a lack of green open space and biodiversity from Stage 1 were echoed during Stage 2, with respondents identifying trees, floating gardens and community growing as particular opportunities.
- There was also a general sense that improvements might be more about enhancing existing spaces than delivering new ones.
- The harbour edge was particularly identified as a site for greening and increased biodiversity.
- Recognition of the role of water quality in biodiversity.
- Other feedback included incentivising the use of electric boats, enhanced waste and recycling offer, and concerns around the impact of increased lighting after dark on wildlife.

## It will be a comfortable, open and safe place for people to spend time.

- High quality public open space is a crucial ingredient, particularly to online respondents, to include space for play, for markets, exhibitions & performance throughout the day and year.
- Both online and exhibition respondents would support better ferry services as an ingredient of a more 'open' harbour.
- Seating, including sheltered seating, is recognised as a key ingredient in a comfortable harbourside for many people.
- Exhibition respondents largely focussed on water safety - including better signage, safety measures and means of escape.
- Cleaner, safer water is wanted.
- The harbour needs to appeal to Bristol's children and young people. Across engagement activity, young people have particularly emphasised the role or potential role of the harbour in providing for wellbeing as well as leisure, suggesting that this might be an effective focus of projects appealing to young people.

## Bristol Harbour will be welcoming to the wider city and accessible to all.

- Access to and through the harbour continues to be a key topic, overwhelming all others in the engagement.
- A call for improved public transport - in terms of frequency and affordability - was the overwhelmingly most positive comment online.
- Removing or reducing car parking was also a very popular idea online, though not much mentioned in the exhibition, and after that an increase in crossing points (whether via bridges or ferries) and improvements to the ferry service.
- Public toilet provision and seating are both vital ingredients for improved access, as particularly emphasised by exhibition respondents.
- It is recognised that a better 'welcome' to visiting vessels is a key part of a more welcoming harbour.
- Online respondents particularly emphasised the opportunity for swimming (and other watersports secondarily) as a way of bringing more people to the harbour, including free events for children.

**It will be a vital part of Bristol's cultural identity, where water uses coexists with industrial and creative businesses and everyday public life.**

- Both online and exhibition respondents were in agreement that preserving and celebrating maritime and cultural heritage is vitally important.
- An increase in bars and restaurants would be welcomed by exhibition visitors, as would an increase in 'colour' around the harbour, including through murals.
- The most popular online comment was regarding the provision of a new boathouse for the existing Rowing Club, followed by advocacy for controlling water quality by controlling what happens in the water.
- There is an opportunity to better showcase the creative and maritime industries, including through open days or 'shop window' -style events ('windows into workshops') that make visible what is made and produced in the harbour.

**It will balance its world-class tourist offer and events programming with the needs of its diverse local communities and neighbourhoods.**

- Some discussion/feedback focussed on how tourist attractions are accessed, with respondents advocating, easing the use of public transport, associating bus stops etc. with particular attractions, and clear wayfinding as key ingredients here.
- The most popular online comment was one advocating for protecting the 'un-monetised historical and industrial aspects' of the harbour, followed by a call to reduce car parking and encourage more sustainable modes of transport.
- An offer that is available and affordable to local people is key; many respondents discussed the social impact of free or affordable events and activities, especially for children and young people. Spaces like Museum Square and Millennium Square were noted as ideal spaces to deliver this.

**It will contribute to a child-friendly city by offering a unique playable quayside to local people and to those visiting the harbour as a destination.**

- The most popular online comment was about enhanced green space 'for all ages to meet, relax and eat', echoed by exhibition suggestions around natural play and the need for 'free play'. This suggests that increased play provision and a greener or wilder public realm might go together well here.
- The potential of the public realm to host exhibitions and performance was also a popular online comment.
- In general, respondents would like to see a more active, lively, playable and adventurous public realm in the harbour, with ideas ranging from repurposed heritage artefacts, artist commissions, space for skating & roller-skating, climbing
- Good, 24hr public toilet provision, mentioned elsewhere, is felt by some to be a key factor in creating a child-friendly city.
- There might be a role for local artists in designing a creative playable quayside/

**It will be a place where creativity, making and culture, including local production and provenance, are celebrated and supported.**

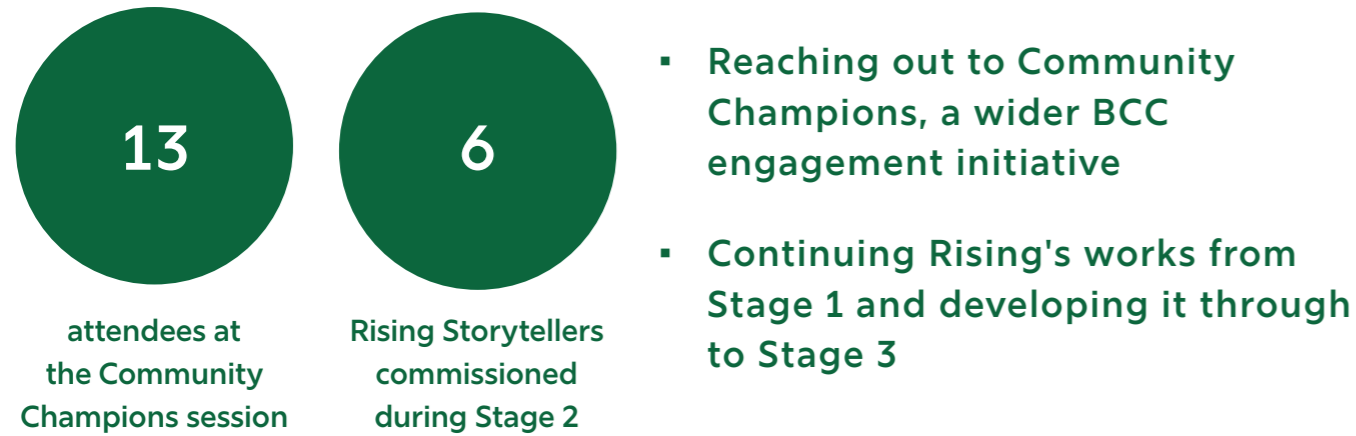
- Strong advocacy for using events and programming to showcase and celebrate local production and provenance, especially free and accessible events, including in the open air. This might align well with ideas shared elsewhere such as open days and 'windows into workshops' - style events.
- A call for affordable workshop space was the most popular online comment, with protecting affordable spaces for industry, art and making raised across engagement platforms.
- Respondents noted that existing networks of creatives and makers in the harbour could benefit from support as well as from more affordable space - for example support in networking and in connecting their work to the wider public.
- Trails were identified as a useful way of showcasing what is made and done in the harbour. Other respondents noted that market spaces and community gardens are also positive ways to showcase creative activity.

# Engagement in numbers

## The Exhibition



## Community Engagement

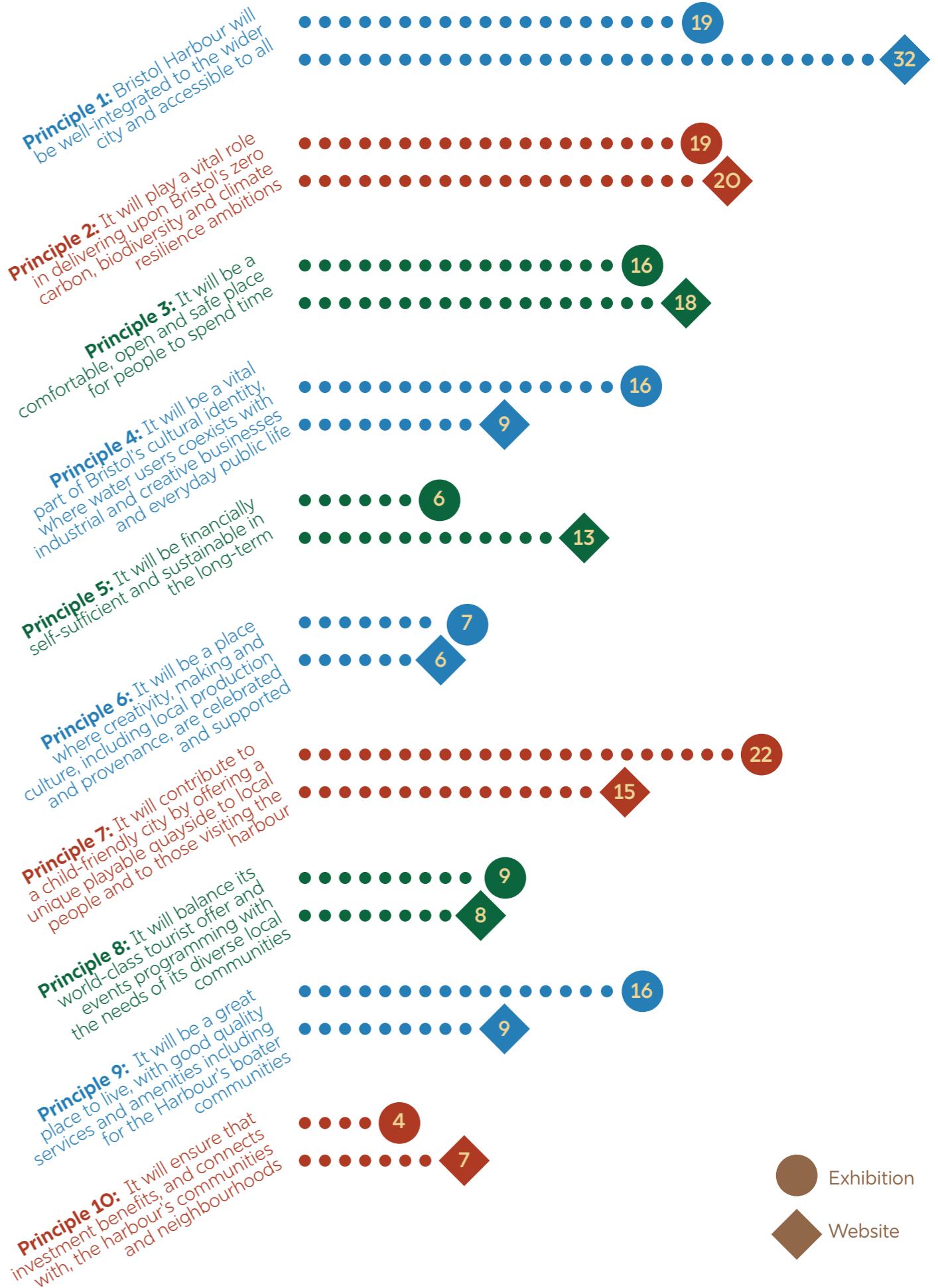


## Online Engagement



## Principle

## Responses



● Exhibition  
◆ Website

# 1. SHAPING BRISTOL'S HARBOUR EXHIBITION

## APPROACH

As part of Stage 2 engagement, DK-CM supported by Bristol City Council, organised an interactive temporary exhibition at the M Shed. The exhibition entitled, 'Shaping Bristol's Harbour' served as a gallery space for discussion in school sessions, project meetings and general public interaction in shaping the harbour's ongoing regeneration. A reflection on Stage 1 was featured, with a projected video of the 'Atlas' mapping the harbour as it is today for public viewing. Physical copies were also made available.

Visitors were encouraged to engage with the harbour's history across multiple scales, first with a large scale map mounted with original picture postcards provoking visions for the future. The feedback was intended to be less prescribed, allowing respondents the freedom to explore and craft their own visions of tomorrow's harbour. This activity ran in parallel with the 'Principles' engagement which displayed the 10 large print vinyl statements derived from Stage 1. Under each principle statement were prompts to encourage thinking. To adapt the engagement for a wider age demographic, child-friendly worksheets were designed for visionary drawings of the harbour.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The harbour is recognised as a site of cultural significance by visitors and local residents. There is general consensus to increase commercial moorings which in turn would work to financially invest back into the harbour and community.
- The wider boating and local community could be better supported by increased mooring infrastructure and affordable everyday services easily accessed in and around the harbour.
- Introducing affordable cultural activities and making use of underutilised quayside areas could attract local and visiting users across a variety of backgrounds.
- Accessible public services, most notably toilets and transport networks, are vital to improve access for multi-generational users of varying mobility.
- Public realm infrastructure for walking/cycling and seating would enhance quayside uses, creating space and rest points to engage in leisurely activity.
- The harbour currently lacks greenery which can be improved by increased tree-planting and new floating habitats, encouraging a biodiverse ecology.
- A colourful harbour was commonly envisioned through child-friendly markings, vibrant safety infrastructure and mural art, celebrating and acknowledging Bristol's history.



## WHAT IF...?

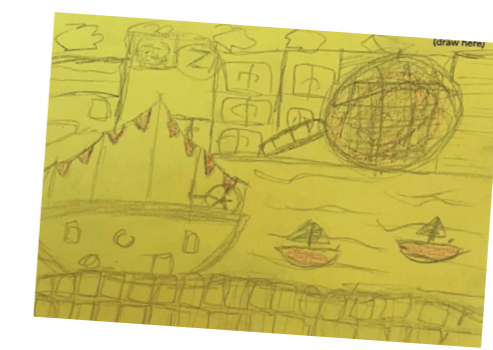
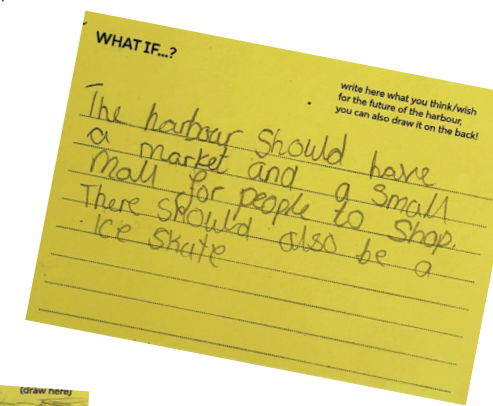
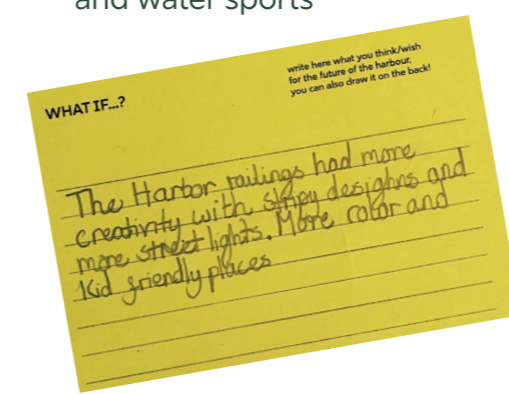
Visitors were asked to reflect on the site map and jot down ideas of a re-imagined harbour on 'What if...?' postcards. Visitors could then 'post' their cards into the post box, to later be mounted on the map wall by exhibition staff.



Many visitors envisioned a harbour accessed with ease - from an affordable transport network to the assurance of public toilet services. A greener quayside that celebrates wildlife ecology and a range of water sports made up further responses, reflecting a climate consciousness and the reciprocal relationship between nature and community wellness. Respondents also recognised the harbour would benefit from incentivising locals to spend more time through commercial activity, whilst also expressing a vision of a colourful harbour, reminiscent of Bristol's street mural culture.

The following statements are items raised by more than one respondent or which echo, support or add detail to themes identified in Stage 1 engagement:

- What if we were able to swim in the harbour (cleaner water)
- What if there was more free stuff to do all year
- What if there was an affordable market, for local crafts, food, etc.
- What if the money that was made in and from the harbour was invested back into the harbour.
- What if the harbour was greener, cleaner and more sustainable.
- What if there were more public toilets
- What if there were more water refilling stations
- What if there was better transport both on and off the water
- What if more was done to encourage wildlife and there was a way of monitoring, publicising and celebrating this
- What if the harbour was safer, with more railings, ladders, better safety signage
- What if the harbour was more accessible, in relation to public realm, transport affordability
- What if the harbour was a more vibrant place, with more colour, murals and public art
- What if the harbour could benefit from better and access to sport, both land and water sports



## PRINCIPLES

The 10 Principles developed from Stage 1 were displayed in large print on the exhibition walls. Beneath each statement were open questions to prompt and further stimulate responses to the principles. Visitors were invited to draw and write on different coloured cards, responding to how each principle could work in shaping the harbour. The colourful cards were then installed on the walls for further public interaction with ideas. This process contributed to a vision shaped by the local and visiting public of the harbour.

The following items were raised by more than one respondent to the principle or which echo, support or add detail to themes identified in Stage 1 engagement.

*Please note that this section reflects the original ordering of the principles as this is how they were presented during engagement.*



### PRINCIPLE 1: BRISTOL'S HARBOUR WILL BE WELL-INTEGRATED TO THE WIDER CITY AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

This principle was borne out of a general consensus during Stage 1 that access, public transport and water quality was a dominant weakness of the harbour. Feedback from Stage 2 suggested the need for more sociable seating and public toilets around the harbour as well as the need for surrounding developments, including the western harbour, eastern harbour, Temple Meads and the University development to be well integrated across the quayside. Many also supported improved amenities for the boating community to welcome visitor/short term moorings.

- Support for more public toilets.
- Strategies to make the harbour more welcoming to visitor/short term moorings would likely be supported.
- Worries about harbour becoming 'gentrified', pushing ordinary people out of being able to spend time and money there.
- The harbour must be inclusive for people from different backgrounds
- Ensure the developments are well integrated across the harbour, including western harbour, eastern harbour, Temple Meads and the University development.
- Transport will play a key role in ensuring the harbour remains and becomes more accessible.
- Seating/benches and places for rest are integral to ensuring that people of all ages, young and old, can use the harbour regularly.

### PRINCIPLE 2: IT WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN DELIVERING UPON BRISTOL'S ZERO CARBON, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE AMBITIONS

Stage 1 engagement highlighted concerns about the lack of green space, biodiversity and wildlife around the harbour. Stage 2 engagement continued to support this adding that green spaces should be directly on the harbourside or in the harbour itself with opportunities for more trees, floating gardens, and community growing. Consideration was also given to habitats and the provisions in place to support and protect them with biodiverse green spaces to provide new habitats and controlled lighting to protect species.

- Support for a water litter collection system would be supported, looking to Amsterdam as an example.
- Support for reed beds as long as they are maintained
- Support for more green space directly along the harbour
- Worries that interventions like more lighting may disrupt and discourage certain wildlife such as bats.
- Support for community growing, both for the harbour but also to support the health, physical and mental, of local people.
- Floating green spaces or space that encourage new and existing habitats .
- More trees.
- Views that the council should be advocating for for green space in new development.
- More water refilling stations, or collaborations with local cafés and businesses for water refilling.

### **PRINCIPLE 3: IT WILL BE A COMFORTABLE, OPEN AND SAFE PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO SPEND TIME**

During Stage 1 there were a number of comments made in relation to safety around the harbour in terms of traffic, water quality, nightlife, shelter and proximity to water.

Exhibition feedback was mainly focussed on safety around the water with suggested improvements such as heightened railings and more ladders to be introduced around the harbour edge. There were a number of comments stating that sheltered seating would provide a more comfortable and accessible harbourside.

- Railings generally feel unsafe at the moment, not low enough to stop young children going under and not tall enough to stop adults falling over.
- Support for more ladders around the harbour edges in case people fall into the harbour. Making these extremely visible, i.e. painting them a bright colour.
- Ferry boat services should form part of an integrated public transport system including ticketing and info available via apps.
- Covered seating to allow activity in the harbour at all times in the year.
- Support for 24/7 harbour patrol

### **PRINCIPLE 4: IT WILL BE A VITAL PART OF BRISTOL'S CULTURAL IDENTITY, WHERE WATER USES COEXIST WITH INDUSTRIAL AND CREATIVE BUSINESSES AND EVERYDAY PUBLIC LIFE**

A key strength highlighted in Stage 1 was the variety of businesses and existing harbour activity offered. The exhibition respondents were in support of preserving and celebrating the harbour's maritime and industrial heritage. It was suggested that the identity of the harbour could be improved with more colour, murals and historical interpretation for visitors and locals to enjoy. Many suggested an increase in bars and restaurants to build the harbour's cultural and commercial identity on the water, alongside safe swimming zones for community leisure.

- Support for cleaning the water to allow for safe swimming in the harbour.
- More bars and restaurants along the harbourside.
- Support for preserving and celebrating the maritime and industrial heritage of the harbour while also acknowledging its role in Bristol history.
- Support for more colour and murals around the harbour.

### **PRINCIPLE 5: IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY BY OFFERING A UNIQUE PLAYABLE QUAYSIDE TO LOCAL PEOPLE AND TO THOSE VISITING THE HARBOUR AS A DESTINATION**

This principle derived from discussions of a lack of autonomy for young children and teenagers to safely navigate the harbour.

There was strong support towards the idea of the harbour's contribution to a 'child-friendly' urban environment. A number of respondents identified this being achieved through simple and nature based places for children to play along the harbour, as well as 24-hour public toilets to aid access.

- Strong support for a child-friendly city.
- 24 hour public toilets
- Outdoor gyms and playspace, basketball or football courts/markings to allow for free place.
- Simple natural places for kids to play
- More bike or scooter hire for kids.

### **PRINCIPLE 6: IT WILL BE A PLACE WHERE CREATIVITY, MAKING AND CULTURE, INCLUDING LOCAL PRODUCTION AND PROVENANCE, ARE CELEBRATED AND SUPPORTED**

The principle responds to engagement feedback during Stage 1 which acknowledged the cultural and creative importance of the harbour. This was supported during the exhibition with feedback emphasising the need for more activities around the harbour, particularly those that are free. Many respondents recognised the need to increase support for existing local community and student artist networks and their workshop spaces and support the enhancement of underutilised sites along the harbour for cultural activities.

- Support for more free cultural events, open air cinemas, filmed exhibitions, etc.
- More artist workshop spaces that have spaces to exhibit work, open to students and working artists.
- Spaces for local community artists, market spaces and community gardens.
- Support community health and fitness, things like organising walking and running around the harbour.

**PRINCIPLE 7: IT WILL BE FINANCIALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE IN THE LONG-TERM**

Principle 7 was derived in response to the harbours current financial shortfall. Attendees of the exhibition suggested that to become financially self-sufficient more visitors should be encouraged to visit by providing more residential moorings and re-opening up winter moorings for long-term residents. One visitor reported the need to change the general public's view of what a 'valuable' area along the harbour is, suggesting that the caravan park should be recognised as a valuable asset which provides financial reinvestment into the harbour economy.

- Support for re-opening winter moorings.
- Support for residential moorings.

**PRINCIPLE 8: IT WILL ENSURE THAT INVESTMENT BENEFITS, AND CONNECTS WITH, THE HARBOUR'S COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The risk of new development getting rid of the charm of the harbour, its communities and activities was repeatedly shared during Stage 1. Responses to the principle suggested that there should be more amenities like pharmacies and greengrocers near to the harbour, for local residents of varying socioeconomic status. This recognises the gap in everyday resources available in the harbourside area as well as the diverse income and wealth of local residents, communities and visitors.

- Council could benefit more from commercial moorings.
- The harbour should be a place where all people can live side by side with neighbourhood shops like a pharmacy, grocers, etc.

**PRINCIPLE 9: IT WILL BE A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WITH GOOD QUALITY SERVICES AND AMENITIES INCLUDING FOR THE HARBOUR'S BOATER COMMUNITIES**

Feedback frequently mentioned public service amenities in the form of public toilets, places to rest and infrastructure for cycling and pedestrians. It was also acknowledged that development can benefit an area but that care should be taken to ensure that local amenities, affordability and active harbourside space are considered to allow existing and new residents to coexist with visitors.

- A need for better litter and waste management, for visitors and residents.
- Support for public toilets, benches/places for rest, clearer bike lanes, accessible walking paths etc.
- Activities and amenities must remain affordable.
- Support for the fact that residents and visitors should be able to exist side by side, but development should happen with sensitivity, i.e. could be high density but low rise.
- With more development should come more amenities and community infrastructure, i.e. there are currently no affordable grocers near or in the harbour

**PRINCIPLE 10: IT WILL BALANCE ITS WORLD-CLASS TOURIST OFFER AND EVENTS PROGRAMMING WITH THE NEEDS OF ITS DIVERSE LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Responses continued to reflect a need for affordable and free access to cultural events and activity in and around the harbour to encourage greater participation by local residents and visitors. Water activity was a focal point with suggestions of community focused boat activities and additional water taxis and ferry services to diversify harbour access and serve as a valuable offer for tourists and residents alike.

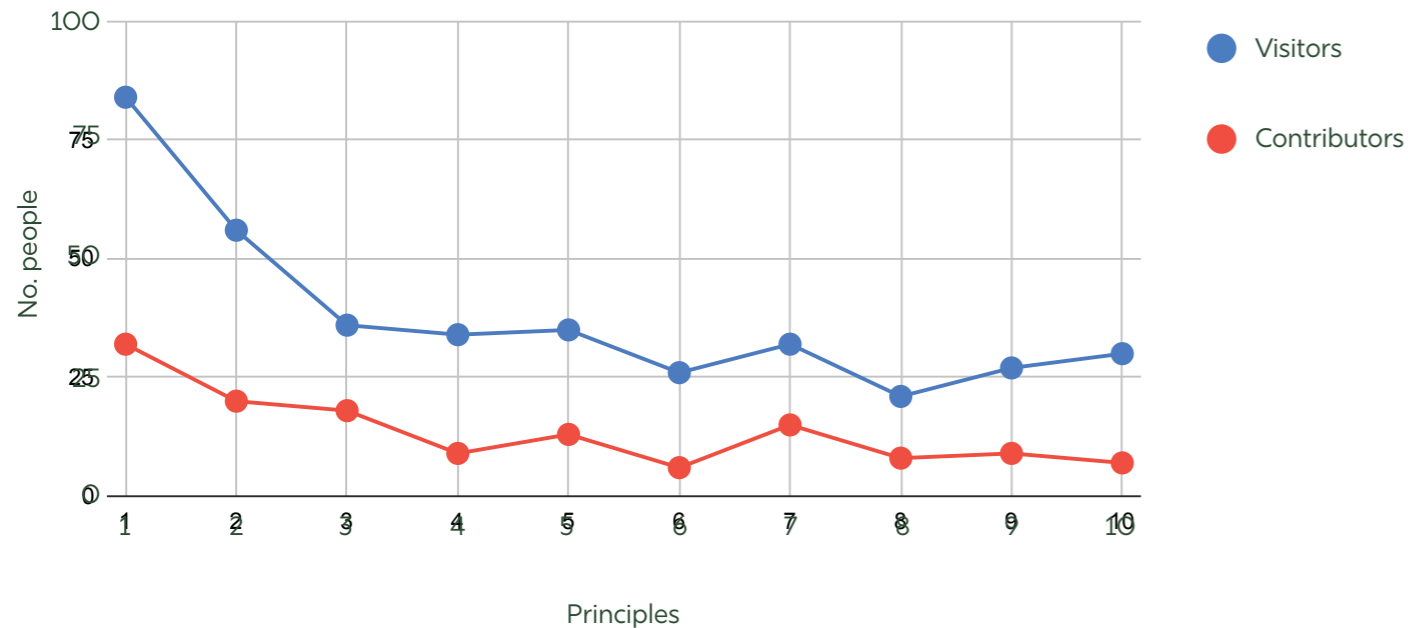
- Support for water taxis and better transport to allow everyone to access the harbour. Ferries services to support and enable disabled users.
- More free activities to encourage visitors to the harbour, both local and from further away.
- Community focused boat activity.
- Look to Gloucester Harbour as a good example for free water activity.

# 2. ONLINE ENGAGEMENT TOOL

## APPROACH

To engage with the wider Bristol community, Bristol City Council have made use of the online platform Bang the Table to launch the Ask Bristol website. For Stage 2 of the Place Shaping Strategy engagement each of the 10 principles were presented on the platform and participants were asked to comment on each of them. Participants were also able to like other participants' comments to understand wider support for different ideas.

381 online visitors during Stage 2, of which 137 contributed to the principles activity.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- All of the principles were engaged with, however the level of engagement decreased as contributors got further through the principles. The anomaly to this trend was Principle 7, 'It will be financially self-sufficient and sustainable in the long-term'.
- Key talking points were as follows:
- Improved public transport, reduction in cars, more crossing points across the harbour, and free activities for children.
- Enhancing what is already there through retrofitting of buildings and more green spaces.
- Create high quality open space with play areas and seating as well as flexible space for markets, exhibitions and performance throughout the day and year.
- New facilities for water users, improved water quality and the celebration of tangible, intangible and lost heritage around the harbour.
- Green space and open space for people of all ages with trees, performance, and play.
- Support businesses by providing more small affordable workshop units and showcasing harbour business activity to visitors through heritage and cultural walking trails, and active workshop frontages.
- Recognise and monetise the significant positive economic and social impact that the harbour has on the city.
- Balance new development with the preservation of undeveloped space and consider the impacts of major changes/development on local communities.
- Better quality and well maintained mooring facilities and public spaces.
- Protect the unique and un-monetised historical and industrial aspects of the harbour.

The following findings have been collated from the online engagement contributions. The numbers in brackets indicate the number of 'likes' each comment received and the comments in italic indicate new feedback which was not previously raised during the Stage 1 engagement. With comments 'liked' by more than one contributor in bold.

*Please note that this section reflects the original ordering of the principles as this is how they were presented during engagement.*

**PRINCIPLE 1: BRISTOL HARBOUR WILL BE WELL-INTEGRATED TO THE WIDER CITY AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**

- **Improved frequency and affordability of 24/7 public transport with the reintroduction of the harbour circuit bus route. (14)**
- **Removing car parking from the quayside to allow better access for pedestrians, bikes and scooters. Particularly around Museum Street. (9)**
- **More crossing points across and around the harbour via ferries or bridges to encourage circular walks and movement for all ages and abilities. Ferries connecting with Temple Meads, Park and Ride, and bus networks. (6)**
- **Free water activities for local school children e.g. swimming, canoeing, rowing. (5)**
- **Harbour swimming (4)**
- **Support heritage vessels and their impact on the context and character within the harbour. (3)**
- ***Remove shared pedestrian and bike paths from the harbourside as they are a hazard for pedestrians. (2)***
- Pedestrian footbridge from Spike Island to Cathedral Walk which opens to allow larger vessels. (1)
- Creating a safer public realm by improving cycling routes on Anchor Road and Hotwell Road to reduce bike traffic around the harbour.
- Implement changes that support local residents and businesses and mitigate those that don't e.g. road restrictions, fees.

**PRINCIPLE 2: IT WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN DELIVERING UPON BRISTOL'S ZERO CARBON, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE AMBITIONS**

- **More green spaces, trees (particularly around Cumberland Basin), and local green practices e.g. green roofs and solar panels. (8)**
- **Enhancing existing open spaces, particularly on the harbour edge. (6)**
- **The harbour is already a great place and only requires the retrofitting and restoration of existing sites and facilities to improve use whilst retaining historic character. (4)**
- **Improve refuse and recycling facilities for boat owners and visitors. (3)**
- **Mitigate the negative impacts of the Clean Air Zone such as longer journeys, access for disabled residents, reduction in business, and isolation of the harbour community. (2)**
- Rent water space for farming e.g. seaweed, mollusc or fish farms. (1)
- Create a low emission harbour with lower fees for electric boats and charging points as part of mooring facilities. (1)
- Discourage single use plastics through water refill schemes and fountains. (1)
- Deliver well-designed and iconic energy centres (part of district heating network) that celebrate sustainable technologies and create an educational trail around the harbour.
- Explore green and blue flood defence solutions and improve biodiversity.
- Ensure new housing is eco-friendly and affordable.
- Showcase the unique and fragile environment in the harbour through interpretation and events.
- Improve biodiversity and habitats on land in the water e.g. wild flowers and reed beds.

**PRINCIPLE 3: IT WILL BE A COMFORTABLE, OPEN AND SAFE PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO SPEND TIME**

- **Create high quality open space with play areas and seating as well as flexible space for markets, exhibitions and performance throughout the day and year. (7)**
- **Priorities cleaner, safer water. (4)**
- **Encourage young people to use the harbour for leisure and wellbeing e.g. open water swimming. (3)**
- Support people's mental and physical health by creating opportunities for people to be on or around the harbour in areas of reduced/no vehicle use. (1)
- Bring back the Bristol African Caribbean Culture Space barge proposal. (1)
- Preserve open space and views within the harbour, particularly westwards to Clifton suspension bridge. (1)
- Improve lighting on bridges and walkways and take inspiration from The Bristol Light Festival. (1)
- Increase public transport frequency to accommodate travel demand in CAZ areas. (1)
- Distribute different uses and facilities across the harbour through mixed use developments, regular crossings and ferry stops.
- Reduce the height of the harbour walls by creating ramps or steps to improve accessibility.

**PRINCIPLE 4: IT WILL BE A VITAL PART OF BRISTOL'S CULTURAL IDENTITY, WHERE WATER USERS COEXISTS WITH INDUSTRIAL AND CREATIVE BUSINESSES AND EVERYDAY PUBLIC LIFE**

- **New boathouse for the rowing club. (4)**
- **Improve the water quality of the harbour by controlling water uses and commercialisation. (2)**
- **Celebrate tangible, intangible and lost history around the harbour e.g. Castle Park. (2)**
- Showcase maritime activities within the harbour e.g. windows into workshops. (1)
- Curate new events and support the growth of existing events such as the Harbour Festival in and around the harbour.

**PRINCIPLE 5: IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY BY OFFERING A UNIQUE PLAYABLE QUAYSIDE TO LOCAL PEOPLE AND TO THOSE VISITING THE HARBOUR**

- **Green space for all ages to meet, relax and eat. (5)**
- **Open space for exhibitions and performance. (2)**
- More things to climb and crawl over (1)
- Combine heritage and play by repurposing harbour artefacts. (1)
- Trees for shade and play (1)
- Arts/educational activities delivered by local artists, makers and businesses e.g. Spike Island, Puppet Place, boat builders, We The Curious. (1)
- Millennium Square is a good play space for children as there are things to climb on. (1)
- Swings that light like at the Bristol Light Festival. (1)
- Space for roller skating
- Add crèches adjacent to main attractions like We The Curious.
- Sculpture trail

**PRINCIPLE 6: IT WILL BE A PLACE WHERE CREATIVITY, MAKING AND CULTURE, INCLUDING LOCAL PRODUCTION AND PROVENANCE, ARE CELEBRATED AND SUPPORTED**

- ***Provide small affordable workshop space. (2)***
- Showcase workshop activity with walkways and windows along pedestrian routes. (1)
- Create and promote a series of trail and walking tours e.g. Heritage & Maritime, Creative & Culture, Waterways. (1)

**PRINCIPLE 7: IT WILL BE FINANCIALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE IN THE LONG-TERM**

- Encourage visiting boaters and better use of the harbour inlet moorings. Improve mooring facilities and maintenance. (5)
- **The Harbour is iconic to the city and acts as a draw to both tourism and hospitality. It also has a significant impact on land and property values in both the residential and commercial property sectors. Financial sustainability must recognise and include the significant positive economic and social impact the harbour already has and will continue to have on the city and a proportion of income raised from this should contribute towards financial sustainability. (4)**
- ***Financial and Operational responsibility and accountability for the harbour should be separate activities managed by separate entities. (4)***
- **Investment into public realm improvements. (2)**
- Lease out the quayside and moorings to private enterprises who provide tourist attractions. (1)
- Pernicious ideas from the heritage industry that historic assets and the character of a place are required to be 'financially self-sufficient' leading to more commercialisation with food and beverage and retail uses. (1)
- Not using increased harbour fees to become financially sustainable.
- Cherish and protect the harbour community of marine, engineering, historical and creative businesses and charities against gentrification and replacement.
- Recognise the importance of the harbour to Bristol's identity and sense of place.

**PRINCIPLE 8: IT WILL ENSURE THAT INVESTMENT BENEFITS, AND CONNECTS WITH, THE HARBOUR'S COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS**

- **Balance development with the preservation of quiet and undeveloped space to protect against over-development and commercialisation whilst still bringing people and investment into the harbour. (3)**
- Support existing harbour communities when considering and implementing changes to the harbour e.g. road closures, impacts of long-term construction projects, location of community facilities. (1)
- Support the City of Sanctuary status and provide housing for refugees and asylum seekers along the harbour. (1)
- Allocate CIL money from development schemes into the harbour not just within the red line development boundary. (1)
- Create more housing within the harbourside car parks e.g. Marina and Caravan Park. (1)
- Seek meaningful engagement with local associates of residents and businesses and find ways to reach a compromise solution. (1)

**PRINCIPLE 9: IT WILL BE A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WITH GOOD QUALITY SERVICES AND AMENITIES INCLUDING FOR THE HARBOUR'S BOATER COMMUNITIES**

- **Better quality, well maintained boater facilities and more landing stages with 24 hour emergency access. (3)**
- **Better quality and well maintained public space. (2)**
- **More permanent public toilets. (2)**
- Space audit of council owned properties to review how the space is used. (1)
- Infrastructure maintenance included in spending capital and considered when planning new capital infrastructure. (1)
- Review access routes to the harbour and surrounding areas for work, study, medical care and emergencies, particularly for disabled and elderly people. (1)
- Protect quiet and undeveloped space.

**PRINCIPLE 10: IT WILL BALANCE ITS WORLD-CLASS TOURIST OFFER AND EVENTS PROGRAMMING WITH THE NEEDS OF ITS DIVERSE LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

- **Protect the unique and un-monetised historical and industrial aspects of the harbour. (2)**
- **Reduce car parking and heavily trafficked routes and instead encourage the use of the Park & Ride and better walking routes. (2)**
- Support the continued operation of the working exhibits outside the M-Shed (trains, boats, cranes). (1)
- Make better use of Museum Square with activities, performances and events. (1)
- Provide community facilities within the harbour e.g. doctors, community centres. (1)
- Connect transport networks with tourist attractions and provide clear wayfinding. Loop bus service around the harbour which connects to Temple Meads and the bus station.

**OTHER FEEDBACK**

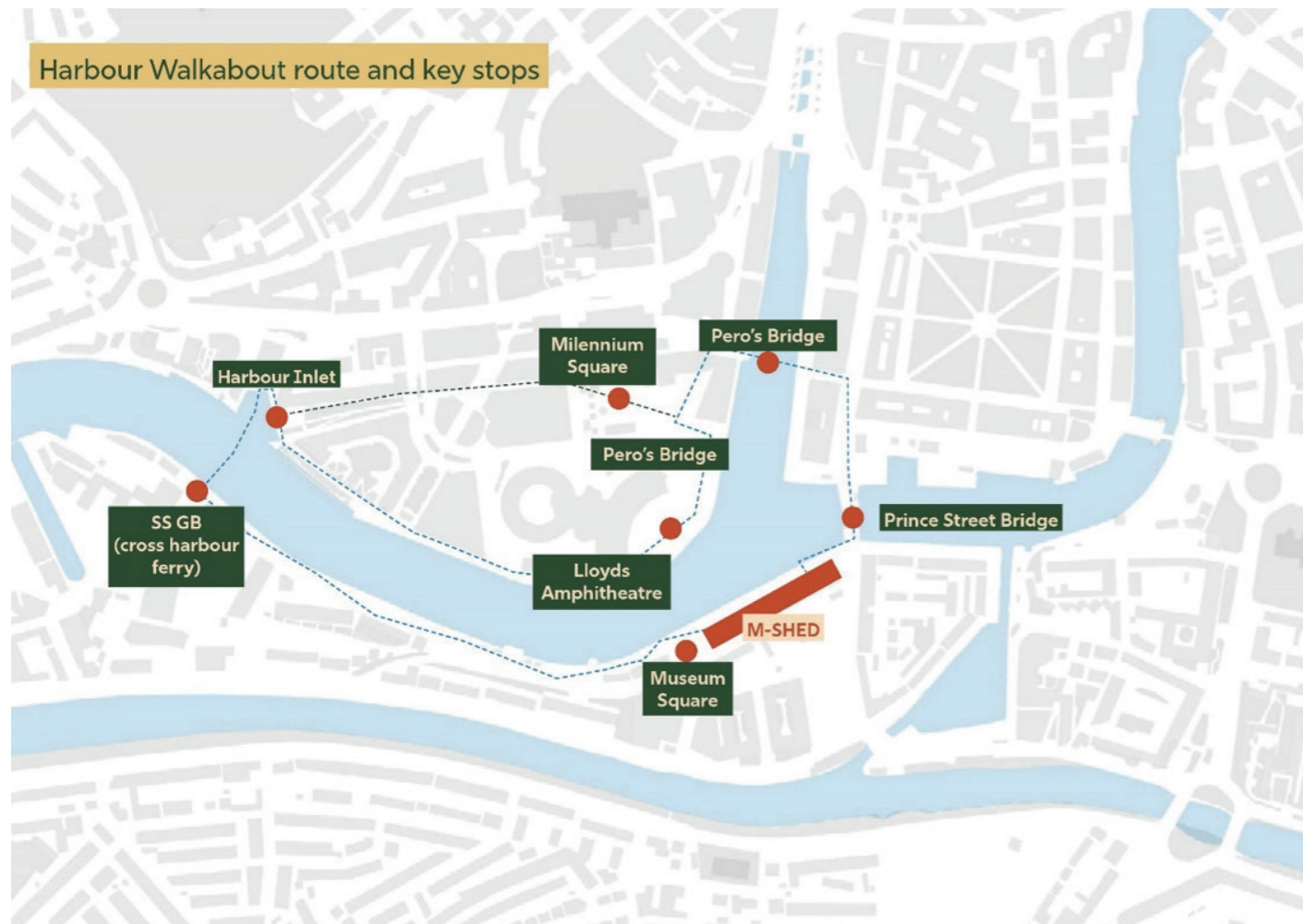
- Acknowledge and implement previous consultation outcomes from residents and businesses within the harbour.
- Revisit the vision that Gerry Hicks developed when the future of the docks was at risk.

# 3. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

## APPROACH

To engage with less heard voices from across the city, including residents who have never or rarely visited the harbour, we worked with BCC's Community Development Team to identify members of the community to invite to the harbour. On 14th December 2023 Community Champions and their communities came for a walk around the harbour and then provided their feedback on engagement boards over lunch at M-Shed. Representatives from Pakistani, Polish, Somali and Afro-Caribbean communities attended.

13 people attended the walking tour and discussion.



Above Harbour walking tour route.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The group observed that although the harbour was a nice space to walk around and enjoy it did not appear diverse. Several of the group identified that people 'did not look like them' and therefore they felt less welcomed or that they stood out.
- One person mentioned that they would not be comfortable coming back after dark.
- Someone also commented that the contested history of the harbour should be addressed better however without making people feel victimised.
- Despite it being an overcast winter day, feedback from participants suggested that they enjoyed their visit and were keen to come back with family members to show them a part of the city that a number of them had not visited before. Participants were particularly keen to understand costs, and hours of operation of the various ferry options and the heritage railway.



Above and Left Community Champions event

## Strengths

- Historic character and scenery of the harbour, particularly near the SSGB.
- The harbour supports people's mental and physical health by allowing people to feel energised, relaxed, happy, calm, fresh, healthy and closer to nature.
- The cross harbour ferry.
- Pedestrian friendly spaces without cars.
- A range of places to visit like M-Shed and Zaza bazaar.

## Weaknesses

- Accessibility issues such as cobbles, and railway tracks in front of m-shed.
- Confusing public realm and pinch points, for example near the Brunel buttery.
- Lack of safety measure for young children e.g. large gaps beneath and between railings
- A lack of affordable and accessible activities/ food and beverage offer - particularly for children.
- Lack of diversity makes it feel less welcoming for Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.
- Not very inclusive, there is a lack of different religious and cultural offerings e.g. no space to pray.
- Lack of green space, play space and seating.
- Bad public transport links to the harbour and around the harbour.
- Expensive parking
- Minimal offering for children with Special Educational Needs

## Opportunities

- Programming spaces such as Lloyds amphitheatre and Millennium Square for inclusive uses such as sports and youth engagement when not in use for fairs/ events.
- Having more variety and diversity within the retail and food/drink offer in terms of price and diversity of food and uses.
- Space for health and wellbeing activities.
- Harbour Festival is inclusive and there is lots to do but it doesn't always attract a diverse group of people.
- Children's play area and child friendly activities.
- Space and opportunities for different cultures and music e.g. salsa and afrobeats.
- Recognition and visual representation of the harbour's history.
- Investment in safety measures around the harbour e.g. railings, traffic controlling.
- Affordable housing
- More information about the activities that are on offer in the harbour.

## Threats

- Safety concerns, particularly for women and people from Black, Asian and minority communities, at night or near the clubs and bars.
- Safety around the water.



**Images** Harbour walking tour and cross ferry.

# 4. RISING STORYTELLERS

## APPROACH

Building on the **Let's Talk Bristol Harbour Lab** programmed by Rising Arts Agency during Stage 1, the engagement strand delivered by Rising for Stage 2 - known as **Storytellers** - has focussed on initiating a series of commissions from young creatives in Rising's community. The aim being to generate 'short, sharp' creative commissions that explore the harbour from diverse perspectives and using multiple forms of media.

Following the Lab, and using their established commissioning method and community of young creatives, Rising launched recruitment for 6 dedicated Storytellers to focus on particular communities that might not be reached as part of the wider engagement. From 8 applications the HPSS project team chose 6 Storytellers who developed their own engagement projects and creative responses. The final sharing session was held in February 2024, with short presentations of the findings, lessons learnt and outcomes of each Storyteller. The commissions have been summarised on the following pages. The project team will also explore other dissemination and hosting options for the work, taking into account the multiple formats it takes.



Image Rising Storytellers final sharing session

## Dolores McGurran - Multimedia Artist - Young Night Time Workers

Exploring the experiences of young people working in the nighttime economy around the Harbour and the opportunities to improve their experiences. Dolores conducted a survey and interviews with her target audience to collate opinions and recommendations which included: preference for being around the harbour in the daytime, a dislike of disorderly behaviour, abundance of chains vs independents, and the need for more security including safe transport late at night.



WHAT WOULD YOU IMPROVE?



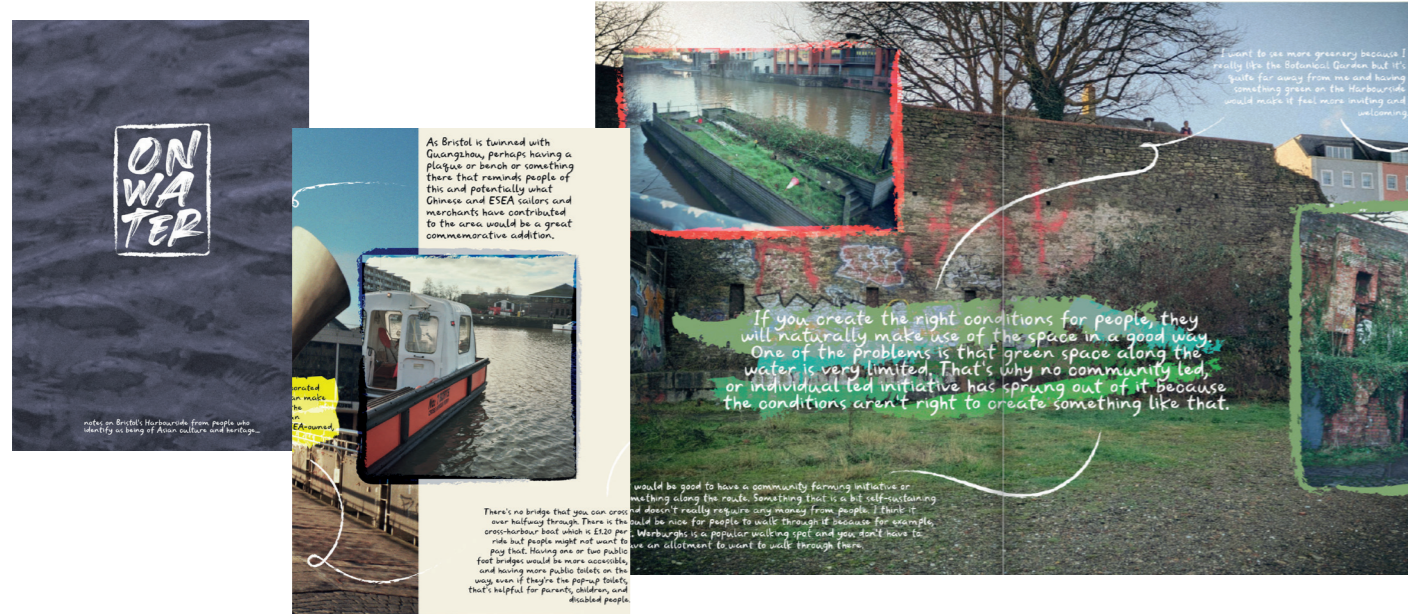
## Ellayah Woodward-Lindsay - BS5 Feast for Change

Looking at her own community in BS5 and how residents away from the Harbour view the area, whether it's somewhere they go and have memories of, or what would potentially make it more of an exciting space for all Bristolians. Conducted through a worksop in her local community centre (the MVCA in Speedwell), members of the community shared food and shared their experiences of the Harbour. The key outcomes were collated into a thematic map and include: concerns over the price of activities in the harbour, restricted access - particularly from the Feeder Road; and also the simple pleasures of the Harbour - such as walking, sitting or soaking up its rich history.



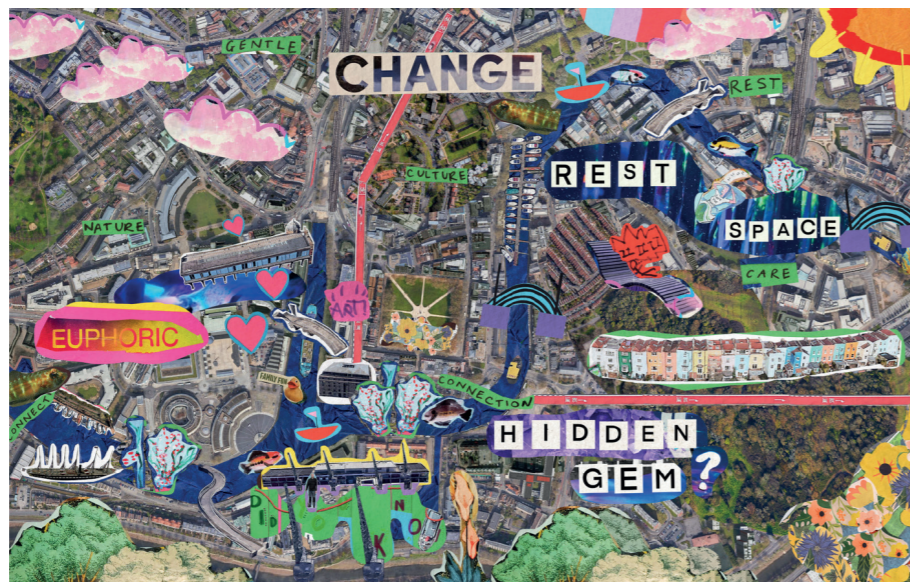
**Kiara Corales - On Water**

Looking at East, South East and South Asian communities' relationship to the Harbour and what could make it more welcoming to these communities through a series of walks, photographs and recorded conversations. Kiara then turned these into a photo essay which documented the stories shared. Recurring themes included: nature, community and textures within the harbour.



**Lindsey Allen - Collaging the Harbour**

Organised a workshop for disabled young people to map their experiences of the Harbour through collage. These collages were then presented alongside the conversations which were taking place during the workshop which highlighted the everyday, joyful and mundane experiences within the harbour. Lindsey then created a master collage which brought the workshop outcomes together into a map of the harbour, highlighting a shared focus on nature, change, rest, culture, connection, hidden gems, space, care and euphoria.



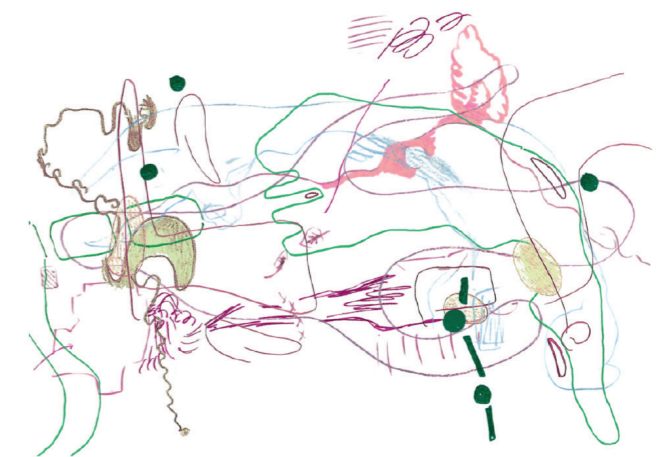
**Olamiposi Ayorinde - Movement as Therapy**

Advocating for the rich community of skateboarders and parkour practitioners that already use the Harbour but haven't often been consulted in the development of it, focusing on art and movement as therapy and how the Harbour as a public space could be utilised more for bringing these communities together. Presented as a video with interviews from leading parkour athletes, the main outcomes explored: What a dedicated parkour space would mean for this community, and how movement can be encouraged around the harbour as a form of therapy.



**Sid Boyer - A Trans Dreamt Harbour**

Speaking specifically to the trans and non-binary communities in Bristol and where they feel safe/unsafe around the Harbour, Sid then mapped this and turned the sentiments from their conversations into flags that can be used around the Harbour to mark spaces of opportunity to bring the community together. Outcomes included a trans dedicated garden as well as the wider question of 'what would it mean for the council to explicitly welcome trans people?'



# WHERE SHOULD WE BE LOOKING?

This section summarises responses from all of the above engagement strands that relate to precedent places. Any exemplar places - good or bad - referred to have been clustered here and organised to provide a single list of precedents for further exploration and research, and possible knowledge exchange or learning either within the project time-frame or beyond it. Numbers following recommendations refer to engagement strands that the insight was sourced from.

## Summary

**Overall, Melbourne (Australia), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Vienna (Austria), London, and Gloucester (UK) were the most frequently cited example cities to be learned from, each of these being valued for more than one positive attribute. The majority of responses came from the exhibition with precedents focussing on different uses on and around the harbour, public realm design and public transport.**

## Uses

- Gloucester Road, Bristol and Camden Market, London - Varied and inclusive retail, food and drink offer (1.2)
- 'The Pelican' - Community focussed boat activity (1.2)
- Gloucester - free water activity on the harbour (1.2)
- Vienna - Balance between tourists and residents, provision of necessary amenities (1.2)
- Paris, Copenhagen, Amsterdam - Medium density buildings (4-6 stories) to encourage more human interaction (1.2)
- Melbourne, Australia - Free BBQ and picnic spots along the water (1.2)
- ArtPlay, Melbourne, Australia - Creative children's activities <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/artplay/Pages/artplay.aspx> (1.2)
- Museum Island, Berlin - public realm design (1.2)

## Transport

- Vienna - Public transport systems (1.2)
- Oyster Card, London - Central transport card (1.2)

## Water Activity

- Melbourne, Australia - Boat hire with mini fridge and BBQ (1.2)
- Gloucester Harbour - Activating the water with touring sail boats (1.2)
- Italy - Quayside leases for private enterprises (2.0)
- Amsterdam - Promotion of living on the water (1.1)

## Waste

- Amsterdam - Water litter collection system <https://thegreatbubblebarrier.com/amsterdam/> (1.2)

## Public Realm

- Dover - Free outdoor exercise equipment (1.2)

# GAPS & FURTHER RESEARCH

DK-CM and Bristol City Council are committed to modifying and enriching our engagement process in relation to what we learn as we engage. With this in mind at the end of each stage of engagement we take a moment to understand gaps in engagement in terms of different demographics or communities, and also further research questions of topics that have been raised during the process. This page summarises our current position on this issue.

It is not appropriate for all of our engagement strands to collect or assume demographic information. That said, analysis at the end of Stage 1 suggests that we had not yet adequately heard from a number of groups. As can be seen in chapter 4 of this report, the Rising commissions have been developed to respond to this list. The following communities will, it is anticipated, be reached through this work:

- Trans and non-binary
- East, South East and South Asian
- Disabled young people
- Young people, aged 25 and under
- People who do not currently use the Harbour

These commissions are expected to inform and enrich the final Vision and Place Plan outputs of the project, as well as a short end-of-project report summarising the process and potentially other public fora such as social media.

Additionally:

- Research into other existing city-wide datasets that can be used in the study is ongoing.
- Whilst demographic information is not collected by M Shed, the 3,115 visitors to the 'Shaping Bristol's Harbour' exhibition are anticipated to include both local residents and visitors to the harbour, and visiting school visitors were expressly directed to the exhibition by M Shed staff, with some of these groups engaged with directly by DK-CM and BCC staff.
- The Community Champions engagement directly engaged with representatives from Pakistani, Polish, Somali and Afro-Caribbean communities, from nearby neighbourhoods.
- Targeted advertising by BCC has helped the online engagement platform to reach Bristolians across the city.

## FURTHER RESEARCH

Concerns around affordability, local benefit and gentrification were significant talking points in this stage, no doubt due to local concerns, Bristol-wide concerns, but also wider economic challenges both nationally and internationally. Whilst concerns around gentrification and 'pricing out' are certainly valid in the context of the harbour it would be valuable to understand the degree to which this is a city-wide concern for Bristolians, necessitating a more strategic approach than can be solely delivered through the HPSS work. We will work to explore this issue as the project continues to develop.



DK-CM

3 Durham Yard  
Teesdale Street  
London E2 6QF, UK

+44 (0)20 7729 4140  
studio@dk cm.com  
www.dk cm.com