

## **Bristol Walking Alliance - manifesto**

### **Goal**

Our goal is to make Bristol the best city for walking in the world. We want to create an environment for those on foot that is:

- **welcoming** – with well-maintained and generous pedestrian space in attractive surroundings
- **safe** – designed to be safe and to feel safe from risk of accident or attack
- **convenient** – with direct routes that are free of unnecessary impediments
- **inclusive** – usable by all regardless of age, gender, financial circumstances or level of fitness.

### **Spending**

We want transport expenditure on improving the walking environment to be clearly identified and to increase by 10% a year.

### **Actions required**

#### **(1) West of England Local Transport Body**

##### **Direction**

- **strategic guidance** – (Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 and supplementary guidance on walking; emerging Joint Transport Study). Retain the pedestrian as top transport user priority and give this more meaning. When reporting progress, include a report on progress in improvements in walking.
- **set a target** for an increase in walking, and a supporting indicator for maintenance of pedestrian routes

##### **Delivery**

- **investment in pedestrian-friendly schemes** – eg projects to reduce through traffic, and create better pedestrian crossings and interchanges (including new bridges over waterways).
- **pedestrian benefits from other schemes** – assess impact of all transport schemes on pedestrians and seek maximum benefits. Create new public rights of way and public open spaces where possible. Integrate walking with public transport, or as 'park and stride'.

#### **(2) Bristol City Council**

##### **Direction**

- **strategic guidance** – update Bristol's Walking Strategy, and report regularly on progress against it
- **set targets** for the five years to 2021, measure baselines and report progress:
  - number of walkers – 10% increase in numbers walking to school; to work; on day-to-day business; and for recreation (residents and visitors separately)
  - frequency and length of walks. 10% increase in the numbers walking for at least 30 minutes five times a week (a long-standing Government target).
  - satisfaction. 10% increase in numbers reporting satisfaction with the walking environment
  - road accidents. 10% reduction in the number of accidents involving pedestrians.
- **Walking Champion** – appoint a senior council officer to bring together action on health, transport, planning, neighbourhoods, education and business.

- **design guidance** – promote and implement guidance in *Street Design for All* and elsewhere to make routes easy to use eg wider pavements; pavement build-outs; informal crossing-points; less clutter; good lighting and sight lines; seats; toilets.

#### Delivery

- **planning controls** – consider impact of planning proposals on pedestrians. Ensure major new schemes are 'permeable', with good walking routes. Use developer contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy and s106 agreements) to obtain improvements for walkers.
- **better traffic management in city centre** – reduce through-traffic; remove the most polluting vehicles; more car-free routes; follow guidance in *Street Design for All*
- **better traffic management in residential roads** – eg 20mph zones; fewer 'rat runs'; pocket parks, cars as 'guests'.
- **footway maintenance** – repair defects, clear snow and ice on busy routes.
- **enforcement** – take action on speeding, pavement obstructions, and illegal gating of alley ways.
- **better signage** – integrated signing, mapping and online tools. Updated Legible City.
- **'showcase' routes and areas** – eg central area 'living heart'; commuter route; recreational route (Harbourside?); public urban space (the Triangle?); public green space (the Downs?); quiet routes.
- **encouragement** – a sustained and well-branded city-wide programme to raise the profile of walking with residents, employers, schools and universities.

#### (3) Neighbourhood Partnerships and local community groups

- **strategic guidance** – draw up local walking and public realm strategies in line with the Bristol Walking Strategy
- **improvement schemes** – undertake/support schemes such as 'pocket parks' that improve the walking environment

#### (4) Property owners/developers/managers

- **pedestrian-friendly schemes** – take account of the needs of those on foot in existing and proposed schemes. Encourage public access where possible. In larger housing developments, design in a pedestrian-permeable network from the start.
- **new public rights of way and public open spaces** – create/dedicate these where possible and appropriate.
- **toilet facilities** – allow public use where possible.

#### (5) Transport operators

- **pedestrian-friendly schemes** – provide seating, shelter, signs and maps.

#### (6) Individuals and streets

- **involvement** – suggest street improvements and report problems.
- **footway clearance** – avoid obstruction with bins, plants/trees, or vehicles.