



# Bristol Walking Alliance

campaigning to improve Bristol's walking environment

## BWA Comments on the Local Plan Review Consultation Documents, May 2019

1. The Bristol Walking Alliance welcomes this opportunity to comment on the latest batch of consultation documents. It is clear from the report on the last consultation that our collective response and those from our individual members, such as the Ramblers and Sustrans, have been thoroughly analysed. We are disappointed that our comments have not resulted in significant changes but see no point in repeating those comments now. This response focuses on the most important aspects.

### Local Plan's draft policies

2. We remain very concerned about:
  - **the loss of priority for pedestrians.** We welcome the references to pedestrian provision in policies DS1 ( city centre) , T1 ( development and transport principles) and sections on particular areas. But these are not a sufficient substitute for overall pedestrian priority as in policy BCS10 of previous plan. We recognise the difficulties in the absence of Joint Local Transport Plan 4 and the Bristol Transport Strategy. It is important that the Local Plan links to these in due course. In the meantime we think references to existing plans should be retained and updated where already appropriate. (Like Bristol Civic Society, we would like to see a cross- reference to the Transport Development Management Guide.)
  - **traffic levels** We are disappointed by the lack of stronger measures to reduce traffic coming into and through the city. There could , for example, be much more use of conditions on parking and street design. It is often not clear what measures are intended eg what is 'appropriate'? We are concerned there is so much about making provision for electric cars – these are less polluting, but can still be a problem for pedestrians.
  - **air quality.** The section on air quality ( para 15.1.12 onwards ) is very weak. Recognise that is partly due to the absence of the long-awaited Air Quality Action Plan/ Clean Air Plan. We would like development with harmful emissions kept away from places where people walk as well as away from homes and schools etc. And will steps be taken through planning conditions eliminating chimneys to prevent the spread of wood-burning stoves? Smoke is making winter walking in large parts of Bristol unpleasant and unhealthy. Air quality should be a candidate for supplementary planning guidance in due course.

### Retained policies

3. We welcome the retention of these policies ( and wish more had been kept). We have one comment on the detail:
  - **Retained Policy BCAP30 Pedestrian Routes.** The map (Diagram 7.1) accompanying this policy should be brought up to date with routes completed since 2015 and with

newly proposed routes from both the City Centre Framework and from LCWIP as well as proposals for routes connecting to the new strategic development areas (DS1, DS2, DS3, DS4, DS5, DS6, DS8) within walking distance of the centre.

### **Open Spaces**

4. We welcome the attention and thought given to these, as evidenced by the separate consultation document. Formally designating local green spaces will bring useful additional protection and clarity. We would like a commitment to create more, especially in areas where current provision is poor, and to ensure access for walkers is easy. Sentence that says green spaces only need to demonstrate one value is confusing. Better to say they don't have to demonstrate them all. Public access and use are especially important. We don't like the term 'reserved open space', which sounds as if it is reserved for future development. The Civic Society suggested putting 'currently' in front. Maybe 'currently protected open space'? We hope this designation will be used extremely sparingly anyway, if at all. There would need to be very strong reasons not to use the nationally recognised local green space designation.

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24 May 2019*