

## **BWA asks of mayoral candidates May 2020**

### Mayoral manifesto

We would like your mayoral manifesto to say something about walking. This might be in very general terms. At a high level, you might, for example, commit to making it easier, safer and more enjoyable for people to move around the city.

Additionally, you may like to commit to implementing the action points in the Bristol Transport Strategy and other actions listed in the next section.

### Mayoral pledge

#### *A Bristol Walking Strategy*

We would like you and other mayoral candidates to pledge to undertake certain actions on walking if you are elected. One of our two main concerns is with the implementation of the ten action points on walking set out on page 51 of the [Bristol Transport Strategy](#), which the City Council adopted in July 2019. In summary, the ten points are:

Action 1. Deliver a strategic network.

Action 2. Adopt infrastructure design standards for inclusive walking infrastructure

Action 3. Develop walkable communities through planning and development.

Action 4. Connect walking to public transport.

Action 5. Count walking.

Action 6. Reduce obstructions to walking (parking, bins, pavement clutter, overhanging vegetation, litter and dog fouling).

Action 7. Make walking safe (footpath design and repairs, lighting, safe crossings, reduced conflict with other road users, air and noise pollution).

Action 8. Make walking pleasant and comfortable. (Toilets, changing facilities, drinking water, benches and shaded areas, online maps of facilities).

Action 9. Provide walking information.

Action 10. Support walking through travel planning and enabling behaviour change. (Walking to be the easy transport choice for businesses, schools, communities and local high streets.)

The Council intends to expand these ten points into a Walking Strategy. So far, however, no resources have been devoted to this task and no date set for its publication. This needs to be made a priority.

#### *Resources for walking measures*

Linked to this, our second main concern is with the resources devoted to walking. We welcome the recent appointment of a Cycling and Walking officer but more resources are required, of both staff and money. The Government has suggested 15% of transport budgets should be spent on cycling and walking. WECA and Bristol spend much less. We would like to see walking and cycling treated as separate modes of transport, each with their own allocated budget. We suggest 5% of transport budgets should be allocated to walking.

#### *Other actions*

There are other actions that we also think important. We would like you to state that you share our goal to make Bristol the best city for walking in the world and pledge to undertake as many actions as possible from the following 'shopping list':

- Implement the ten walking actions in the Bristol Transport Strategy

- Produce a Walking Strategy for Bristol by the end of 2020
- Ensure the protection and enhancement of the walking environment is covered in all Bristol and WECA planning documents.
- Allocate 5% of Bristol's transport budget to walking and encourage WECA to do the same
- Publish design standards for walking infrastructure
- Require walking measures in all road schemes
- Ban pavement parking
- Work towards pedestrianisation of the city centre.
- Create 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' through area-based traffic-calming and place-making
- Allocate funds to neighbourhoods in the city for improvements for walking, eg 20 more pedestrian crossings each year

### Bristol Walking Alliance

Bristol Walking Alliance was set up in 2015 to campaign to improve the pedestrian environment in Bristol. We are an alliance of over 100 organisations and individuals from across the city.

Our goal is to make Bristol the best city for walking in the world. We want to create a pedestrian environment that is welcoming, safe, convenient and inclusive for those on foot and for those using mobility aids. Walking is an important but much-neglected means of transport and form of recreation. 18% of commuting journeys in Bristol are on foot (compared with 8% by bike). Walking is good for people's health and for the environment.