

# DRAFT Needs Assessment

## Voice and Influence Service Commissioning

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## **Introduction**

Bristol is a large and diverse city with a reputation for being one of the most vibrant, well-educated and creative cities in the UK. However it is also a city with a degree of geographical inequality and poverty where within some areas of the city our citizens are not able to take advantage of the benefits of living here. The Council is committed to improving the equality for all communities, particularly those who are less advantaged and those who identify as having protected characteristics. The purpose of this needs assessment is to better understand how the Council could contribute to enabling those communities to have a voice and to use their voice to influence the things that matter to them as individuals, at neighbourhood level and at the city level through participation and representation.

This document explores the available data and relevant information which we can use to underpin the procurement of a new method of delivery to provide voice and influence. It aims to summarise the many ways that citizens take part in political life and local authority decision making, and where possible, identify patterns in the data and levels of participation with reference to equalities and disadvantage.

The report includes information on the key priority areas for equality groups taken from equality manifestos produced by the current providers of equalities forums. It maps voting patterns and levels in local, mayoral, and national elections including the EU referendum. It takes a look at what we know about who uses the council's social media via twitter and facebook. It also explains the role of the council's partnership boards. The quality of life survey gives us an indication of the level of influence our citizens feel they have. The role and reach of the council's Consultation Team is included as this is our main mechanism for actively seeking the views of citizens on specific subjects, and also the Citizens Panel.

## **Population overview<sup>1</sup>**

Bristol is the 10th largest city in Great Britain with an estimated population of 442,500 established residents. Bristol has a rapidly growing and changing population. Since 2004, the population is estimated to have risen by 46,700 people (11.8%), higher than the England and Wales.

This large increase can be attributed to a number of factors including a significant increase in net-international migration, including a rise in the international student population, a significant rise in births and a decrease in the number of deaths.

Net international migration has however reduced in significance since 2005/6 and since then population growth in Bristol has been mainly due to the increase in births. Over the last decade, more than a third (34%) of Bristol's total increase in population took place in the central wards of Cabot, Ashley and Lawrence Hill wards alone.

There are 82,800 children aged 0-15 in Bristol, 19% of total and this is more than the number of people aged 65 & over. The growth in the number of under 5s in the last decade (35%) is one of the highest in the country (nationally 19%). Births are now showing signs of levelling off. Although children are not the immediate focus of this project, this shows how the population will change in the future and that there are an increasing number of young families in Bristol.

Bristol's 58,800 older people make up 13% of the total population, i.e. 1 in every 8 people living in Bristol is aged 65 or over. The proportion of older people is lower than in England and Wales 18%.

The population of Bristol has become increasingly diverse and some local communities have changed significantly. There are now at least 45 religions, at least 180 countries of birth represented and at least 91 main languages spoken by people living in Bristol. The proportion of the population who are not 'White British' has increased from 12% to 22% of the total population, the majority of which are young people.

## **Equalities Groups Summary**

The table below provides a summary of equalities statistics from the 2011 Census for the Bristol Local Authority area. The census does not ask questions about sexual orientation or gender reassignment. The information on sexual orientation is therefore based on Stonewall data. More detailed equalities information can be found in the 2011 census that is on our web site at - <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/equalities-data-and-research>.

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>England &amp; Wales %</b>
0-17 years	87,503	20.4	21.3
18-64 years	284,859	66.5	62.2
65 years and over	55,872	13.0	16.4
Total population	428,234	100.0	100.0
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	213,071	49.8	49.2
Female	215,163	50.2	50.8
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
White British	333,432	77.9	80.5
Other White	26,160	6.1	5.5
Black and minority ethnic group	68,642	16.0	14.0
<b>Religion</b>			
Yes	233,234	54.5	67.7
No	160,218	37.4	25.1
Not stated	34,782	8.1	7.2
<b>Disability</b>			
Day-to-day activities limited	71,724	16.7	17.9
Day-to-day activities not limited	356,510	83.3	82.1
<b>Sexual orientation [1]</b>			
LGBT			6%

Sources:

ONS 2011 Census Crown Copyright 2012

[1] Stonewall Index - national data only

## Participation in Political Life

This section takes a look at the level of numbers who turn out to vote for the many types of elections that are a part of our political lives.

### 1. Local Elections

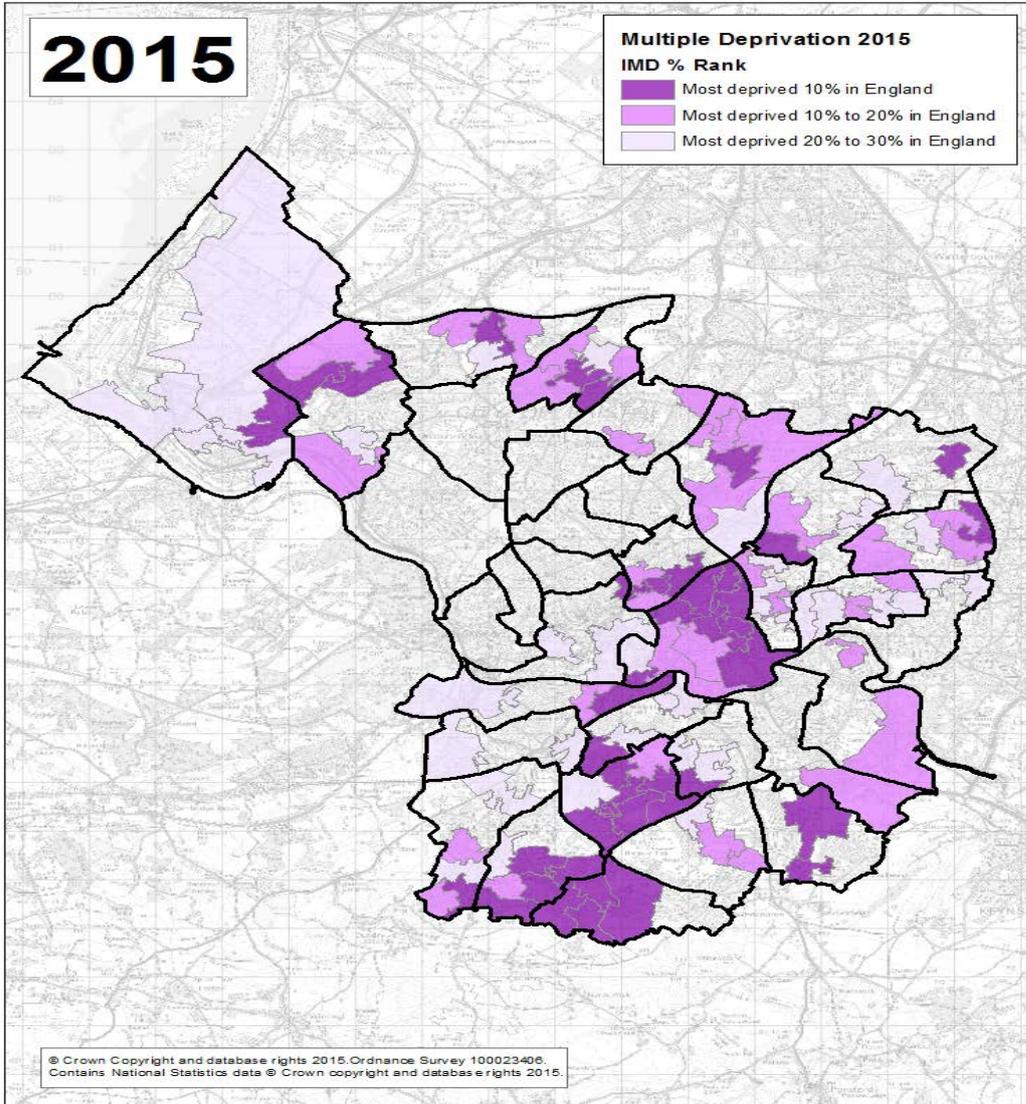
The table below illustrates the vast difference between wards in terms of voting numbers with a range of 27% to 61% and are closely aligned with the area of highest deprivation in the city<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Deprivation in Bristol. The mapping of deprivation within Bristol Local Authority Area November 2015

<b>Local elections 2016 5th May</b>			
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Turnout</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Electorate</b>
Hartcliffe and Withywood	27%	3443	12608
Filwood	29%	2680	9110
Central	36%	2603	7333
Southmead	36%	3089	8693
St George Central	36%	3425	9421
Hillfields	38%	3352	8724
Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston	39%	5960	15305
Hengrove and Whitchurch Park	40%	5403	13620
Henbury and Brentry	40%	3641	9165
Lockleaze	40%	3439	8585
Brislington East	40%	3579	8854
Bishopsworth	41%	3646	8931
Lawrence Hill	41%	3899	9513
Stockwood	41%	3769	9140
Horfield	44%	4046	9276
St George Troopers Hill	44%	1984	4480
Eastville	44%	4305	9682
Frome Vale	45%	4102	9087
Brislington West	46%	3870	8496
St George West	46%	2188	4757
Hotwells and Harbourside	46%	1826	3935
Knowle	47%	4528	9670
Clifton Down	47%	3754	7905
Bedminster	50%	4767	9480
Cotham	51%	3927	7727
Windmill Hill	51%	5019	9844
Easton	51%	4946	9641
Ashley	51%	6549	12745
Stoke Bishop	52%	4603	8912
Clifton	52%	4896	9373
Southville	53%	4788	8982
Redland	57%	5636	9899
Bishopston and Ashley Down	57%	5012	8800
Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze	61%	9127	15072

Map 1: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2015



The map shows that Hartcliffe , Filwood, Central and Southmead where voting in the local elections is lowest are also some of the most deprived areas of Bristol.

**Mayoral elections**

- Bristol Mayor

Count Area	Eligible electorate:	Votes cast:	Turnout:
Bristol	316,765	142,120	44.87%

- West of England Combined Authority Mayor

Count area	Electorate	Votes	%
Bristol	325,899	101,356	31.10%
Bath & North East Somerset	135,879	41,466	30.52%
South Gloucestershire	209,502	56,697	27.06%
Total electorate	671,280	199,519	29.72%

Area	Electorate	Votes	%
Bristol South	84,113	21,488	25.55%
Bristol East	74,294	21,092	28.39%
Bristol West	90,720	36,925	40.70%
Bristol North West	76,772	21,851	28.46%
Total Bristol	325,899	101,356	31.10%

## 2. National Elections

### EU Referendum

Ward	Electorate	Indicative turnout		Leave		Remain	
Bristol West	91,219	65,326	72%	13,530	78.7%	51,796	21.3%
Bristol South	81,464	57,641	71%	27,173	47.3%	30,468	52.7%
Bristol North West	74,742	50,895	68%	21,171	42.3%	29,724	57.7%
Bristol East	71,191	54,482	77%	25,495	46.6%	28,987	53.4%

## Parliamentary Elections

Count Area	May 2015	Electorate	Indicative Turnout:	June 2016	Electorate	Indicative Turnout:
Bristol West Results		91,219	71%		93,003	77%
Bristol South Results		81,464	62.4%		83,012	66%
Bristol North West		74,742	71.7%		75,434	72%
Bristol East		71,191	65%		72,415	70%
Total		318,616	66.88%		323,864	71.25%

The data illustrates that more people vote in the national elections than they do in local or mayoral elections and that people are more likely to vote in the more affluent areas<sup>2</sup>, with the highest turnout from Bristol West in the national elections and the lowest in Bristol South.

The EU referendum shows an increase in turnout in many Bristol areas and the 5 highest areas voting to leave the EU were – Hartcliffe and Withywood; Hengrove and Whitchurch Park; Bishopsworth; Stockwood; and Filwood. Hartcliffe, Whitchurch Park and Filwood are amongst the most deprived areas in Bristol.

## **Social Media**

- **Twitter** - BCC has 80,000 Twitter followers however only 52% are based in the South West and we cannot identify how many of these are in Bristol. 49% of followers are male and 51% female. The age range is as below and indicates that 25 – 34 age group are the most frequent followers and over 55 years the least likely followers.

### Age range      %

13 to 17	9%
18 to 24	15%
25 to 34	54%
35 to 44	13%
45 to 54	7%

<sup>2</sup> See map 1: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (page 6)

55 to 64            1%  
over 65 <        1%

- **Facebook** – The Bristol City Council facebook page has 2894 fans. 56% are women and 42% are men. 2124 are Bristol registered the remaining fans being either national or internationally registered. The age range with the most number of followers is 25-34 with 22% within that age range. Both under 18's and over 55's are least likely to follow our pages. Most followers (2136) list themselves as English.

The information available cannot tell us much about the user or followers of Facebook and Twitter. Clearly compared to the number of residents within the city these numbers are low and it is impossible to tell how effective our communications are via those channels, but it is generally accepted that UK residents expect businesses to have an on-line presence and social media is a part of that. It confirms that to get a message to a younger age group (25 - 34yrs) social media would be effective.

Many campaigns are now operated through social media and an example of a successful campaign with good outcomes is the work ACORN (a community organisation working towards better outcomes for tenants) is carrying out. Recently they partnered with 'marks out of a tenancy'<sup>3</sup> to improve renting in Bristol. When they announced the partnership via social media platforms, 100s of people jumped on-line to rate their home, their landlord or letting agent. Building up a database of rented properties, renters are able to make more informed choices.

During the recent general election, the labour party used facebook to great effect. Unlike the conservative party who focussed on national issues, the labour party used an on-line profiling tool to allow them to advertise local issues. Also according to Bloomberg Politics<sup>4</sup> they posted more, tweeted more and were shared more than any other political party. The outcome of this was that it changed voter patterns and encouraged people to vote, taking the Labour party to a much stronger position than they were in prior to the election.

Social media, when used to get information to the public is very effective and can be a useful campaigning tool.

## Quality of Life (QOL) Survey<sup>5</sup>

Quality of Life survey provides an annual snapshot of people's lifestyles and how they feel about living in Bristol. It gives local residents an opportunity to voice their opinions about

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.marksofthenancy.com/?link\\_id=3&can\\_id=&source=email-trip-advisor-for-renters&email\\_referrer=trip-advisor-for-renters&email\\_subject=trip-advisor-for-renters](https://www.marksofthenancy.com/?link_id=3&can_id=&source=email-trip-advisor-for-renters&email_referrer=trip-advisor-for-renters&email_subject=trip-advisor-for-renters)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-06-11/u-k-labour-s-savvy-use-of-social-media-helped-win-young-voters>

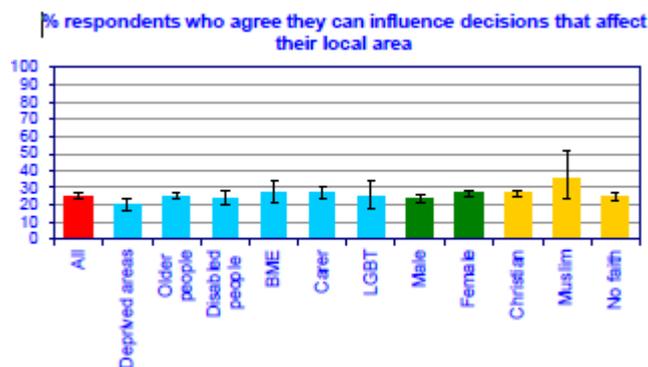
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/33896/Results+of+quality+of+life+in+Bristol+survey+2015+to+2016/2a83bda4-fed5-400d-b638-2d2c72f67507>

living in Bristol, local public services, and what they think needs to be done differently in their area. 29,100 households were randomly selected and in 2015-16 4,300 questionnaires were returned, a response rate was very low at 14.8%. This indicator can relate to a number of different areas provided by the council and partners. Responses to the survey show proportionately fewer people of Muslim faith, black and minority ethnic groups, disabled people, men and younger people responded compared to what might be expected from the census. Conversely, a higher response was received from women, older people, unpaid carers and people of Christian faith. The percentage of respondents from deprived areas matched the census profile.

The survey measures the extent to which citizens can influence services and decisions locally and feel part of the democratic process by asking two questions:

- 1) respondents who agree they can influence decisions that affect their local area
- 2) respondents who agree they can influence decisions that affect the public services they use

Local area: Only a quarter of residents (25%) felt they could influence decisions about their local area. The indicator has remained stable, over the range 23% to 26%, for the past four years, since a slight rise in the percentage who felt influential in 2011 (from 22% in 2010 to 25%). Just one in five people (20%) felt they could influence decisions that affected their local area. Residents felt the least influential in Hengrove & Whitchurch Park (11%), Stockwood (12%), Filwood (14%), Hillfields (14%) and St George Central (15%). The highest proportion of people who thought they could influence decisions lived in Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze, but this was still only two out of five (40%) residents. The following table shows how equalities groups respond to this question:



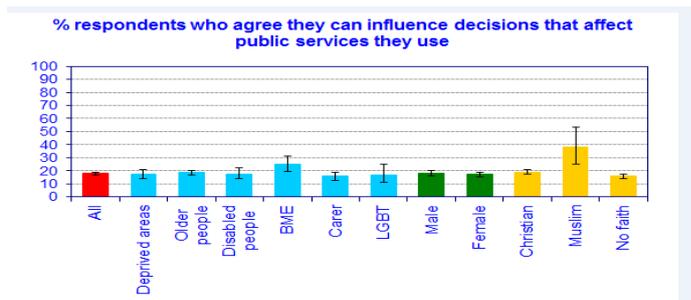
The table shows there is a similar level of dissatisfaction across all groups. The highest level of satisfaction is with the Muslim community which could reflect the work carried out around community cohesion with this group eg Building the Bridge and local level Partnership Advisory Group (PAG)<sup>6</sup>.

Public services: Less than one in five of residents (18%) believed they could influence decisions about public services, similar to the proportion reported for the past five years. People were particularly sceptical in Stockwood (5%), Hengrove & Whitchurch Park (6%),

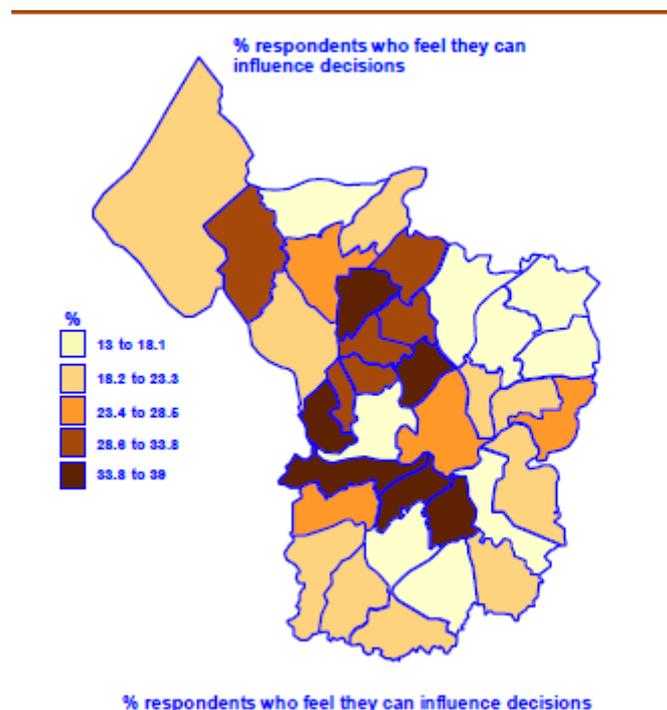
<sup>6</sup> <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/ethnicity/projects/building-the-bridge/>

Bishopsworth (9%) and Clifton (11%). There was less doubt expressed in Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze (25%) and Southmead (30%) that their views would be taken into account. Both people belonging to Black and minority ethnic groups and people of Muslim faith had greater trust in their ability to influence decisions, at 25% and 38% respectively.

The following table shows how equalities groups respond to this question as before there is a similar level of dissatisfaction across all groups apart from the Muslim community where satisfaction is proportionally higher which again could be related to community cohesion work within this specific group through PAG:



The following graphic illustrates the response to the question about influence on decisions that affect their local area at ward level.



This shows there is still much to do to generate trust from citizens to convince them that what they say in response to consultations is taken onboard and therefore they are influential in the decision making process. There is work to do not only to increase the number of our citizens that are involved in a consultative process, but make that involvement meaningful and its influence needs to be communicated back to those who

take part. In this survey only 25% of residents felt that they could influence decisions within their local area which is reflected in the turnout of the local elections being much lower than in national elections and in some of the more deprived areas (Hartcliffe and Withywood; and Filwood) having less than 30% turnout in the previous local elections.

Conversations with communities who voted highest to leave the EU have shown a dissatisfaction with the establishment and their ability to influence the decision. The desire for change and improvement in their lives and opportunities prompted a high leave vote. This is reflected nationally in that three main groups made up the coalition of voters supporting the leave campaign, these were: affluent Eurosceptics, the older working class and a smaller group of economically disadvantaged, anti-immigration voters<sup>7</sup>. The communities in Bristol with the highest leave vote are also the most disadvantaged with less than 10% BME residents and a high number proportionally of older people (60+).

In addition the quality of life survey does not receive high enough responses from some equalities groups, showing that there is still some way to go to ensure that people participate in this survey and that the results are representative of the whole of Bristol's community.

## **Partnership boards**

We work with representatives of vulnerable adults and partners from the public, voluntary, community and private sectors by supporting four Partnership Boards for:

- People with Learning Disabilities
- People with Mental Health problems
- Older People
- Carers

The Partnership Boards have a strategic influence, input and accountability. They ensure that people with a wide range of knowledge are involved in consultations, monitoring, designing, shaping and where appropriate implementing services so that we can improve people's quality of life, and wellbeing.

## **Neighbourhood Partnerships**

Neighbourhood Partnerships have existed since 2008 as one of the main ways for local people to get together to take local action and work with the Council on things that matter

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<sup>7</sup> Natcen 'Understanding the Leave Vote' [http://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/understanding-the-leave-vote/?gclid=CK7AgvLN\\_tQCFcFAGwodD14HLA](http://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/understanding-the-leave-vote/?gclid=CK7AgvLN_tQCFcFAGwodD14HLA)

to them. The Council recognises the value of engaging with communities on issues that affect them, but is in the process of re-assessing the current structure, with significantly less resources. Over the next 12 months, work will be carried out with communities and partners to help establish the new community-led arrangements. They are committed to ensuring that the resources available are focused on the areas and communities which experience the most inequality, with any remaining budget spent on arrangements to help people come together, organise and take action on the things that matter most in their community, enabling local people to influence the work of the City Council.

It is clear that the new voice and influence provider will need to work closely to develop their service alongside whatever local neighbourhood and community led models replace or building on Neighbourhood Partnerships.

### Consultation Team

In 2017/18 there were c.78 consultations started and so far this year there have been 36. Participation rates depend on the subject matter and the nature of the consultation and can range from 10 – 000's.

General consultations are placed on the Consultation Hub and notifications are sent out to a mailing list of 2265 number of citizens. Any supporting documentation and paper copies of the surveys can be sent out in the post on request, but this is largely a web based system.

#### Key consultations:

Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022
<p>A 12 week consultation taking place from 13/10/2017 – 5/1/2017. 1,259 individual responses were received (0.3% total population), of these 76 (6%) completed a paper survey with the remaining 1,183 (94%) completing the survey on-line. The most common age of the respondents was 25-44 (47%), followed by 45-64 (33%). The most common ethnicities were White British (77%), followed by Other White (7%), BME (5%) and 11% preferring not to say. Only 12% said they were disabled and 75% said they were heterosexual.</p> <p>In addition 24 organisations submitted statements, as did 10 MPs and 20 individuals. 7 events were held, with 4 open to the public.</p>

Bristol libraries for the future
<p>Split into two phases with phase 1 running from 4/11/2014 – 2/2/2015. This phase was designed to meet the widest range of people within the communities as possible and received an unprecedented level of feedback, with over 8,000 responses. The second phase ran from 4/3/2015 – 30/6/2015. Unlike the first phase which was looking at why people do not use a library service and what they would see the future purpose of the library service being, this phase focussed on specific proposals for the library service. Formal responses were through survey responses and dedicated meetings and workshops. In addition there were a large number of informal responses. Breakdown was as follows:</p>

<b>Method of consultation</b>	<b>Number of people who took part</b>
Survey – online	2,834
Survey - paper	1,818
Easy read survey	114
Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings	369
Equalities groups meeting	776
Primary School workshops	31
Secondary School workshops	60
Staff workshops	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,135</b>

The headlines of those responding are:

- 14% (555) were 24 years or younger
- 63% (2506) were female
- Less than 1% were transgender
- 44% were over 50 years old
- 8% (272) were Black or Minority Ethnic (BME)
- 92% of people who answered the question about ethnicity told us they are White
- 8% (283) were disabled
- 2% (73) Lesbian Gay or Bisexual
- 58% (1897) have a religion or religious belief

The response largely came from existing library card holders and frequent library users and the responses in respect to Wick Road and Westbury libraries is a much higher proportion than for any other library.

#### Lawrence Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Ambition Lawrence Weston started developing the NDP in 2012 when they carried out a doorstep survey which looked at satisfaction with the area and tried to identify what people wanted to see within a development in their area. From 2012 – 2015, the team worked with different sections of the community within the local area to write the NDP holding a series of one-off events in addition to regular formal and informal meetings. The formal consultation took place from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and lots of locally based consultation events took place as well as individual door knocking. 15 partners/statutory consultees responded with 91 residents and businesses completing forms and 50 residents completing feedback boards.

78 people completed the equalities questions within the survey and the data gathered from that is as follows:

- 81% of the respondents said they were heterosexual
- 12% said they considered themselves disabled
- 42% considered themselves to have a religion or belief

- 90% were White British, with 3% Other White and 3% BME
- There were no transgender respondents
- 59% were female and 41% male
- The most responses were received by people aged 18-65 (75%), with 22% being over 65.

Following this an independent examiner looked over all of the feedback and made recommendations and then a referendum was held to ask the local people if they wanted to use the Lawrence Weston NDP to inform local decisions. Results: yes – 598 (94%), no – 39 (6%), rejected papers – 2.

These three consultations are very different, but there are similarities. The Corporate strategy had a large number of individual responses when compared to other consultations, but with an electorate of over 300,000 residents 1,259 responses shows that there is some way to go to increase the numbers of individuals involving themselves in the decisions taken by the Council. In addition there were only 5% of the respondents said they were from BME background and 12% considered themselves disabled.

The library review received 8,000 responses in comparison. The large number of responses reflects the fact that communities were mobilised and acting against the proposals to close some libraries. However, the library review was a specific subject matter with clear outcomes which enabled residents to understand the impacts on them, their communities and the city. However, the large number of respondents was mainly in response to the proposals to close Wick Road library and Westbury library and again the responses from equalities groups were very low.

The Lawrence Weston NDP affects the community in Lawrence Weston and the consultation team worked hard with both members of the community, the council, housing associations and community groups to both gain involvement from the local community at an early stage and develop a plan together that all parties felt they could sign up to. This work is reflected in the final document and in the fact that the community both came to vote and supported the NDP. The NDP is a framework which will drive community regeneration for the next 13 years.

These three consultations have a mixed level of feedback and show that although a good response rate is preferable to gain opinions from a wide range of people from a variety of backgrounds and equalities groups, large numbers of response does not guarantee this. It is impossible to quantify whether a larger response, as in the library review, led to better outcomes. The large number of responses from mobilised communities was mainly focussed on retaining their community library service regardless of the cost to the service across the City.

An evaluation of some of the recent citywide consultations carried (including the Corporate Strategy consultation previously examined) shows the level of participation for equalities groups and has produced the following headline data<sup>8</sup>:

- There is a consistently poor response from under 24 year olds and an above average response from 45-64 year olds.
- There appears to be a low response from people identifying as transgender, but the data is only available from stonewall and only by LGBT as a headline group not by transgender. As the census doesn't currently collect this information there is work to do to understand the needs of these groups and ensure they feel able to participate.
- The number of BME respondents is lower than the population data as is the number of disabled people.

The data and evaluations of the consultations shows that there is benefit in carrying out focussed work within communities and this does lead to good levels of participation, but so far there isn't any evidence that this increases levels of participations from equalities groups. Across the City numbers of people responding from equalities groups and deprived areas remains low.

### **Citizen's panel**

The Citizen's Panel consists of 2,265 citizens who have been invited at random to join the panel and then selected on the basis of age, gender, disability and where they live so the panel would mirror the demographics of the city. Currently 520 members (23%) receive a paper or large print survey in the post with the remaining members completing the survey on-line. Questionnaires have been issued to panel members approximately 3 or 4 times a year. Questions come from within the council, the local health authority, police, Bristol Universities, and other local organisation. As not every panel member regularly answers every questionnaire that is sent to them, so there is a refresh every couple of years to replace panel members who no longer actively participate. The panel is currently overdue a refresh and this will be carried out in July/Aug 2017 with many new contacts being added which will change the demographic information. Current breakdown of respondents is:

Category	Bristol population	Citizen panel
Female	50.2%	53%
Male	49.8%	47%
Under 65	87%	76.5%
Over 65	13%	23.5%
White groups	84%	91.7%
BME groups	16%	8.3%
Heterosexual	94%	89.4%
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual	6%	4.1%
Long term limiting illness	16.7%	15%

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix A for full data set

Profiling by parliamentary ward:

Ward	General Election June 2016 electorate	Citizens Panel
Bristol West	29%	29.7%
Bristol South	26%	24.2%
Bristol North West	23%	22.9%
Bristol East	22%	23.2%

Response rates average at around 45%, making it an efficient way of reaching a wide range of people and the representative demographic allows views to be taken from a cross section of the population.

### Membership of Equalities Forums

The equality forums are grant funded organisations that from voice and influence for specific equality groups and work together on common issues. This includes campaigning, having a membership, having a website, responding to consultations and raising awareness.

The forums	Forum Membership <sup>9</sup>
Bristol Disability Equality Forum	264
Bristol Older Peoples Forum	2800 ( over 55yrs)
Bristol Women’s Voice	1802
Bristol Multi faith Forum	No data, no membership
BME Voice	No data, no membership
LGBT Bristol	401

### Key Issues for equalities groups

Following the lead of BME Voice the other equality forums have been tasked by the Council to work with their members and with their communities to produce a manifesto<sup>10</sup> for action based on the key issues that the groups identified. The manifestos have many differences for example, fair access to education and employment is higher up the agenda for BME than it is for the older people’s forum. There are however cross cutting themes and these are:

1. Political influence
2. Education & Employment
3. Housing
4. Health

<sup>9</sup> Data taken from monitoring information completed by forums

<sup>10</sup> See appendix 2

5. Transport
6. Digital inclusion
7. Crime

## National Picture

Other Local Authorities have in place similar consultation practices, partnership boards and community or neighbourhood engagement to Bristol. However there isn't any published evaluation of those processes and neither is there any indication that if they are looking to change their system that they have a plan to implement changes.

Research carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)<sup>11</sup> takes the view that it is hard to quantify whether citizen or user involvement makes a measurable difference in local services, but does state that community engagement does not necessarily translate into community influence. This is supported by the evaluation of our own consultations as even with the Lawrence Weston NDP it is hard to say with clarity that the community influenced the plan all we can say is that they accepted it. JRF further support this by stating that a significant benefit from involving citizens is that it creates links and networks between communities and service providers, and between different communities and that there needs to be clarity about where the benefits for involvement are or there can be disenchantment on both sides.

National research<sup>12</sup> that included a study in South Bristol showed that feeling part of something matters – and so does having a voice. People need to have someone/thing local that they can go to for advice and information. It concluded that everything is linked – neighbourhood satisfaction, health satisfaction, and social support. There seems to be a link between people's satisfaction with their neighbourhood and their satisfaction with other areas of their lives, such as their health.

Work carried out by Operation Black Vote prior to the general election in June 2016, substantially increased the number of voters from diverse backgrounds by use of social media, personal visits and a good web presence. They encouraged people to register and gave supporting information. They also provide political leadership campaigns and have made it possible for more people of a BME background to enter the political sphere. However it is really difficult to quantify how many people from a BME background have actually voted. A YouGov Survey<sup>13</sup> carried out after the last election showed how the nations' political character is shifting and age is the new predictor of voting intention in British politics. They asked some questions about occupations and education, but do not report on ethnicity so even when a national survey is completed this information is absent.

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<sup>11</sup> JRF Citizen involvement in local Government: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/citizen-involvement-local-governance>

<sup>12</sup> Levitas, R., Pantazis, C., Fahmy, E., Gordon, D., Lloyd, E. and Patsios, D. (2007) The Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Social Exclusion. Department of Sociology and School for Social Policy, Townsend Centre for the International Study of Poverty and Bristol Institute for Public Affairs, University of Bristol

<sup>13</sup> <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2017/06/13/how-britain-voted-2017-general-election/>

## Conclusion

The information in this report is not the whole picture and further information would enable a better assessment of the level participation in political life. For example, it is not clear how many people are members of a political party or other action groups. The number and spread of campaign work is hard to estimate or describe in detail. We do know that social media is really good at mobilising social action and delivering good outcomes, but we need to carry out further evaluation of our own campaigns taking good practice forward across the organisation in order to achieve success.

The picture it does paint clearly illustrates that there is a large opportunity to increase the voice and influence of the citizens of Bristol, particularly amongst certain groups and geographic communities. The count for national elections is very low for such an important event. There are campaigns in place on a national scale and local level to increase voting amongst BME, young people, homeless people and LGBT people.

The vote count for local elections reflects that many people do not see the connection between their lives and who their ward councillor is. The voting pattern reflects to a degree other data sets such as social and economic deprivation in the city, for example areas of deprivation within Bristol produced the highest vote to leave the EU possibly as a way of expressing dissatisfaction with the current systems. Notable exceptions are that Ashley, Easton and Windmill Hill where levels are higher than Cotham and Clifton Down. The mayoral elections also attracted a small turnout suggesting the same lack of connection.

In addition, consultations run by the City Council do not always reach a wide audience or attract a large number of responses and where they do receive a large number of responses, the numbers of people responding who are living in a deprived community or from an equality group, remains proportionally low. There has been some isolated evidence of good work, for example the Lawrence Weston NDP which has set the community on a path for many years to come. However, this still did not have proportional representation from equalities groups. Overall evaluation of 3 citywide consultations shows there is low participation from some groups (BME and disabled people specifically), this is also reflected in the responses to the quality of life survey. Currently, consultations do not collect geographical information in enough detail to compare areas from which the most responses are gained. Evaluation of the responses to the library consultations shows that although high numbers of responses were received many of those were in response to the closure of Wick Road Library and Westbury Library so proving that high numbers in itself is no guarantee of a consultation being representative.

We want the new service to work with equalities and disadvantaged groups to improve the evidence we have of who is participating and where we need to focus future development work to increase voice and influence for these groups. Equally we will expect evidence of where voice and influence work has led to a positive outcome.

## Appendix A

### Equalities Scrutiny of the Three Largest City Wide Public Consultations 2016-17

		The 3 Largest City Wide Consultations 2016-17			
		Your Neighbour hood	Devolution	Corporate Strategy	Bristol <sup>14</sup>
		% respondents			
Age	Under 18	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	18.4% <sup>15</sup>
	18 – 24	2.3%	2.1%	2%	15.6% <sup>16</sup>
	25-44	46.0%	11.8%	38%	31.7%
	45-64	34.8%	19.6%	32%	20.2%
	65-74	11.4%	18.6%	14%	6.5%
	Over 75	1.9%	19.7%	9%	6.6%
	Prefer not to say	3.2%	18.0%	5%	N/A
Gender	Female	62.7%	34.1%	48%	50.8%
	Male	31.5%	58.4%	45%	49.2%
	Prefer not to say	5.5%	6.0%	7%	N/A
	Not Answered	0.3%	1.6%		
Transgender	Yes	0%	0.8%	0.2%	Not collected
	No	91.1%	83.1%	85%	
	Prefer not to say	7.3%	11.5%	15%	
	Not Answered	1.6%	4.6%		
Ethnicity	White British background	80.5%	79.7%	78%	78.9%
	Other white background	6.0%	5.2%	7%	5.1%
	Mixed / Dual Heritage	1.9%	1.1%	2%	3.6%
	Black / Black British	0.3%	1.6%	1%	2.5%
	Asian / Asian British	1.2%	1.4%	1%	5.5%
	Other ethnic group	0.5%	0.5%	1%	0.9%
	Prefer not to say	8.8%	9.6%	11%	

<sup>14</sup> 2011 Census

<sup>15</sup> Under 16 years

<sup>16</sup> 16 – 24 years

	Not Answered	0.7%	0.9%		
Disability	Yes	9.5%	11.5%	12%	16.7% <sup>17</sup>
	No	82.6%	77.6%	78%	
	Prefer not to say	7.7%	8.4%	10%	
	Not Answered	0.3%	2.5%		
Religion	Any other religion or belief	2.2%		3%	0.7%
	Sikh	0%		0.2%	0.5%
	Hindu	0%		0.2%	0.6%
	Buddhist	1.6%		1%	0.6%
	Christian	33.8%		34%	46.8%
	Jewish	0.4%		1%	0.2%
	Muslim	0.5%		0%	5.1%
	No religion	49.7%	52.1%	49%	37.4%
	Prefer not to say	10.5%	16.4%	13%	8.1%
	Not Answered	1.1%	2.8%		
	Yes		28.7%		
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual (straight)	78.9%	75.2%	75%	
	Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual	6.3%	8.4%	4%	6% <sup>18</sup>
	Prefer not to say	14.4%	15.1%	21%	
	Not Answered	0.4%	1.3%		

<sup>17</sup> Limiting Long-term Illness or Disability: Source: 2011 Census Office for National Statistics © Crown Copyright 2012

<sup>18</sup> Stonewall Index - national data only as not collected for census 2011