

# Bristol Parkway Station and Surrounds Draft Masterplan

Executive Summary  
July 2022

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## A masterplan for the future of Bristol Parkway



Bristol Parkway will become a 21st Century Living Station that will be a valued destination for local people and the renewed gateway to the global businesses located in the north fringe of Bristol.

This masterplan report contains a future vision and blueprint for change at Bristol Parkway over the next 10 years and beyond. It sets out the nature of the place that could emerge and the benefits that can be realised by radically rethinking the role, function and physical shape of the station and the area immediately surrounding it. It reimagines Bristol Parkway as a new destination complete with a new station, places to work, meet and gather, and new parks and habitats.

This masterplan is the critical first step in a longer process which will be shaped and crafted by future engagement and consultation, technical studies and detailed work on delivery and funding strategies.

### Renewing the gateway for the north fringe of Bristol

In 2022, Bristol Parkway celebrated its 50th birthday. During this time, it has provided invaluable access to the rail network linking thousands of local people and world leading enterprise in north Bristol with cities and towns across the UK and beyond.

But the world has changed beyond recognition since the advent of the park and ride idea where cars were a central part of the story. Climate change, changing work/life patterns

following Covid, sustainable economic growth and a radical rethink on the function of train stations has reshaped our view on Bristol Parkway.

## **Tackling climate change**

There is an urgent need to address the way in which Bristol and its surrounding communities grow and evolve sustainably.

This means;

- Moving from car-based developments to developments integrated with public transport.
- Increasing not decreasing biodiversity through development.
- Using innovative design to increase energy efficiency and reuse and adapt where possible.

As one of the most significant assets in north Bristol, it is essential that the future of Bristol Parkway leads this change.

## **Life after Covid – a focus on localism**

The Covid pandemic refocussed our attention on the benefits of providing more services, workplaces, and community infrastructure within local communities. The station and its surrounds can become the centre of a 15-minute neighbourhood model or thriving local centre to help communities become closer and drive greater localism. A 15-minute neighbourhood provides residents access to most, if not all, of their needs (such as jobs, homes, shops, and GP services) within a short walk or bike ride from their home.

## **Driving economic growth**

We need to ensure that we maintain and create high skilled jobs to help the local and regional economy prosper. Bristol Parkway connects world-leading enterprise with a national rail network and broader international links. It should become a place that reflects the importance of the area to the wider economy through high quality design and ease of access by sustainable modes of transport to existing and future jobs.

## **From a parkway to a ‘living station’**

The role of the station is changing from a place where the only purpose is to access the rail network to bustling places which serve the wider community and deliver outstanding passenger experience. This idea of a ‘living station’ is proposed for Bristol Parkway where in the future you could access daily needs and wants such as workspace, cafes, and restaurants to creche facilities, gyms, and places to live.

## **From a car-orientated place toward walking, wheeling, and cycling**

There is now an opportunity to design a station for the 21st century that empowers the community to travel through sustainable, flexible, and healthy means of transport, that

clearly prioritises public transport (such as bus and train), shared travel (such as hire bikes), and active travel (such as via bike, foot, wheelchair, mobility scooter and wheeled walker) over private car use. A fitting gateway for the north fringe of Bristol, South Gloucestershire and the wider region, this vision epitomises transport decarbonisation, climate change mitigation and a people centred destination.

The station has the potential to act as a multi-modal mobility hub, through improved connectivity and by offering integrated and innovative local infrastructure and facilities and services that spark behavioural change and enable a seamless, people-focused transport experience.

This modal shift is only possible through local stewardship and a partnership approach showing the importance of community-led activity in partnership with the rail industry, government, and other partners.

## New places

The masterplan proposes new recognisable places that will become destinations over time.

The living station at the heart – a new station will be the centre of the scheme. The station will be located alongside a new bus interchange, ample cycle parking, vehicle access and connected into surrounding neighbourhoods by new walking, wheeling (such as via wheelchair, mobility scooter, and wheeled walker) and cycling routes to ensure that sustainable transport is the most attractive way of travelling locally.

A new street lined by parks, workplaces, cafes, restaurants, community facilities and the new station building will be created. It will create direct bus and cycle routes to the station and provide a new address for business. Innovations in landscape design will be incorporated to use planting rather than concealed sewers to manage rainwater and create habitats.

Ample space for nature and the local community will be provided to increase the overall biodiversity of the area and give people new places to walk, enjoy and take ownership of. Two key green spaces are proposed, St Michael's Green to the west and a new community/habitat park in the centre of the plan.

## New development

Although exact uses are not known at this stage, the masterplan proposes new employment space and opportunities for retail, restaurant and café type uses to support the station and help create a sense of place. Subject to demand, planning and the outcomes of engagement, these could be further complimented by other uses such as places for education or skills development, health, and care.

There is also the opportunity to create new homes for people within walking distance of the train station. To west of the scheme, it is suggested that new community uses could be set in and around the new St Michael's Green area.