

Redcliffe & Temple BID – A37/A4018 Strategic Corridor (Victoria Street) Consultation Response

The Redcliffe & Temple Business Improvement District (BID) is a business led initiative whereby a levy scheme is used to deliver projects to improve the Redcliffe & Temple area of Bristol.

At ballot in April 2021 businesses voted in favour of establishing the BID with a vote of 89% in favour by number of votes cast, and 93.5% by rateable value. The turnout was 47.6%.

Context

Our vision is for a Redcliffe and Temple area that is vibrant, thriving, sustainable, inspirational, and welcoming.

In our Business Plan (January 2021) we committed to represent the views of businesses and work with partners to improve public realm and sustainable transport within the BID area.

During our consultation (March 2019 – March 2021), a desire to improve the look, feel and safety of Victoria Street was referenced as a key priority by a number of businesses:

In our November 2019 survey the following statements were the top two priorities for respondents: *‘Work with Bristol City Council to improve public space in terms of pedestrian routes, signage, lighting and air quality.’*

‘Work with Bristol City Council to improve cycle routes, parking and secure storage facilities.’

During our consultation meetings with prospective levy payers, many businesses referenced a desire to see Victoria Street made a more interesting, greener, vibrant welcome to the BID area and Bristol itself.

In June 2020, a business on our Advisory Board, Barton Willmore, produced the following document including some images for Victoria Street to start a conversation about the potential of Victoria Street:

[Barton Willmore - Victoria Street - A vision for a green recovery?](#)

The work was well received by the business community following this article in Bristol 24/7:

[A new vision for Victoria Street \(bristol247.com\)](#)

Consultation feedback:

Overall the Redcliffe & Temple BID is supportive of the council’s ambition to improve sustainable transport and improve public realm within the City Centre.

The BID supports the following aspects of this proposal:

- The overall principles for the changes to Victoria Street
- The creation of a segregated cycle lane to connect Temple Meads to Baldwin Street
- The creation of expanded public realm on the West side of Victoria Street.
- The creation of continuous footways
- Additional crossing points at the Counterslip/Victoria Street junction



- The creation of new planters and the planting of new trees on the West side of Victoria Street and on the Bristol Bridge/Baldwin Street junction.
- The simplification of the Bristol Bridge/Baldwin Street junction to make it more friendly for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The removal of the right turn from Counterslip onto Victoria Street to reduce through movements throughout the BID area, especially reducing the movement through to Redcliffe Street.
- The creation of public realm on the St Thomas St/Victoria St junction, Temple St/Victoria St junction and Church Lane/Victoria St junction.
- The extension of the bus stops on the northern section of Victoria Street

Further considerations regarding this proposal:

- The BID is conscious that the small retail businesses on Victoria St have not engaged with BID led conversations about the proposals. It is likely that concerns over the removal of parking need to be dealt with sensitively. We recommend the city council map out alternative parking sites in the local area and share this with local traders.
- To reduce conflict and potential for collisions between cyclists and pedestrians, we would encourage the council to ensure the cycle lane is well signposted and is a clearly distinguished from the footway.
- We encourage the council to ensure that any planting schemes are well populated and well maintained, choosing the appropriate plants for the location. Some planters around the city currently look very sparse due to a range of factors including choice of plants/lack of plants/lack of maintenance. The Redcliffe & Temple BID would be happy to support with the selection of appropriate plants.
- The BID is keen to explore how we can work together with the restaurants and pubs in the vicinity of Church Lane to enable outdoor seating, particularly during the summer.
- The BID is planning to work with English Heritage to develop public seating in front on the park and open up the park visibly from the road.
- We would encourage the council to consider the above two ideas regarding Church Lane when planning the detail of the Victoria Street scheme.
- For future projects we would welcome the opportunity to work with the council to co-design and collaborate, (hosting workshops for example) and encouraging engagement from the business community and local residents. This will enable people to feel part of the development of the scheme and is more likely to result in a positive outcome for the council from the consultation.

