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## Help shape the future of our city

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After listening closely to the views of Bristol people and organisations, Bristol City Council now presents its preferred option for the future development of the city.

This week, a six week consultation exercise is being launched by Bristol City Council to give people the opportunity to comment on the Council's Core Strategy preferred **Spatial Strategy Option** which will be at the centre of the Bristol Development Framework - an overarching set of documents which will help guide and manage growth and change in the city over the next 20 years.

Bristol's economy is booming and change is happening quickly; an extra 54,200 jobs, about 29,500 new homes and a 13% increase in population (53,800) are all predicted by 2026. The council is responsible for managing development to accommodate predicted growth whilst ensuring that essential services also grow to meet demand and negative impact is minimised.

In July Bristol people commented on **the Core Strategy Issues and Options paper**. This document highlighted key issues which need to be addressed in shaping Bristol's future, including economic, social and environmental changes. It also proposed three options for the direction of growth within the city.

Some 1,500 individuals, organisations and agencies were consulted including businesses, voluntary and community organisations and interest groups and statutory consultees such as health authorities, surrounding LAs and heritage groups and many gave their views on the issues and options for Bristol.

Bristol people's views and evidence about housing, employment, retailing and the environment and other issues, helped the council to develop a preferred Spatial Strategy Option comprising:

- A South Bristol focus for growth of housing and new employment provision to enable regeneration and to provide a counterbalance to the existing attraction of the north fringe of the city.
- 29,500 new homes proposed between 2006 and 2026:
- 11,000 homes in South Bristol by 2026,
- 10,000 new homes in the Central Area and St Philips
- 8,500 new homes elsewhere in the city.
- Continuing development in the City Centre to deliver economic growth with mixed use provision in part of St Philips, north of the Feeder.
- Identifying additional employment land to support new jobs for existing and future residents in the south of the city.

The six-week consultation starting on January 11, 2008 is the public's main opportunity to comment before the option is submitted to the government in June 2008. There will then be a formal examination of the document before it is adopted in Autumn 2009.

Councillor Mark Bradshaw, Executive Member for Access and Environment, said: "We have listened carefully to the views expressed during the earlier consultation and this is reflected in the latest document. This is a now fresh opportunity to have your say about the future shape of our city.

"Whether Bristol-born or a Bristolian through choice, we all recognise the importance of Bristol's quality of life and this is also important for visitors and investors. It is vital that we get the right balance between future growth and enhancing Bristol's attractiveness. This is not just about planning in isolation but is about our communities, future housing, access to work and learning, transport links and much else besides."

To get involved in the consultation process, download the documents and questionnaires from the council's website: [www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/bdf). Documents are also available from the Planning reception, Brunel House, St George's Road, and The Council House, College Green. All libraries in the city will also have the information needed to take part in the consultation process.

The papers will be open for consultation from Friday 11th January to Friday 22nd February.

For more information about the Bristol Development Framework and the consultation process contact the Strategic and Citywide Policy team on 0117 903 6720

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**For all media enquiries relating to this press release, please contact Corporate Communications on 0117 922 2650.**

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