

Summary

Bristol's Quality of Life Index

Is Bristol becoming a more sustainable city with a better quality of life?

This report measures 150 indicators of quality of life and their trend over time can help explain if quality of life is getting better or worse. 25 of these indicators have been measured for 7 years or more and the index below can summarise trends since a baseline set in 1996. If each indicator starts with a score of 2, progress or deterioration can be tracked against this baseline. The sum of the score starts with a baseline of 50. The higher the score, the more sustainable we are.



- = 1 getting worse / staying poor / less sustainable
- = 2 standing still / no significant change
- = 3 getting better / staying good / more sustainable

The higher the score, the more sustainable we are, and Bristol is slowly moving in the right direction.

Quality of Life Index	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Energy efficiency in council housing	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Total domestic waste	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞
Recycling of domestic waste	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Traffic flow	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Fatal & seriously injured road traffic casualties	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞
Air quality	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Surface water quality	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Noise complaints	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Dog fouling complaints	😊	😊	😞	😞	😊	😊	😊
Water use / conservation	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Foodborne and waterborne diseases	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Rats (requests for treatment)	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞
Premature death (15 - 64 years)	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞
Infant death (less than 1 year)	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Homeless & priority need households	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞
% housing development on brownfield sites	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Unemployment	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Benefit claimants	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
New business registrations	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊
Secondary school achievement	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Primary school achievement	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Truancy from school	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞	😊	😊
Total crime incidents	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊
Children on the child protection register	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Visitors to City Museums & Art Gallery	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
TOTAL	50	57	61	58	57	55	58

Your Views – Quality of Life Index	2001	2002	2003
% of residents satisfied with their local area as a place to live	☹️	☹️	😞
% of residents satisfied with social and health services	☹️	☹️	😊
% of residents satisfied with jobs in their local area	☹️	😊	☹️
% of residents satisfied with the availability/cost of housing	☹️	😞	😞
% of residents satisfied with the appearance of the built environment (streets, public space, buildings)	☹️	😞	☹️
% of residents satisfied with the quality and amount of parks and green spaces	☹️	☹️	😊
% of residents with good access to local shops/supermarket	☹️	☹️	😊
% of residents who see birds nesting in their garden/allotment	☹️	😊	😊
% of residents with good access to childcare facilities	☹️	😊	😊
% of residents with good access to a sports/leisure centre	☹️	☹️	😊
% of residents with good access to a doctor	☹️	😊	😊
% of residents who participate in 3 or more cultural and leisure events each year	☹️	☹️	☹️
% of residents with educational and technical qualifications	☹️	😊	😊
% of residents with a smoker in the household	☹️	😊	😊
% of residents taking moderate exercise	☹️	😊	😊
% of residents who are satisfied with the bus service overall	☹️	😞	☹️
% of residents with a problem from traffic noise	☹️	😞	😞
% of residents with a problem from neighbour noise	☹️	😊	😊
% of residents who feel crime and safety has got better or stayed the same over the last 3 years	☹️	😞	☹️
TOTAL	38	41	46

The above table reflects public opinion on a range of quality of life issues. It is based on the views of residents who have responded to the annual Quality of Life in Your Neighbourhood surveys, using the same scoring system. Between 3,000 and 4,000 residents respond to these annual surveys. This index also shows an overall improvement.



St Pauls Carnival



Greening neglected spaces in Southville:

PHOTO: BRISTOL KARAOKE EQUALITIES COUNCIL

Photo: Sustainable Southville Project

Background -

Indicator development

Quality of Life / Sustainability indicators measure trends in quality of life and progress towards (or away from) sustainable development.

The Bruntland Commission in 1987 defined sustainable development as:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

1992

Following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 the world’s governments signed an agreement on **Agenda 21** – an Action Plan for the 21st century aimed at achieving sustainable development.

1995

Bristol first produced its own set of sustainability/ quality of life indicators in the State of the Local Environment Report 1995, which are updated annually.

1997

All local authorities in the UK were challenged by Tony Blair to adopt **Local Agenda 21 (LA 21)** strategies by the year 2000. This was about local people working together to build a practical plan to improve quality of life for all.

1998

The government proposed its own set of 15 National Headline Indicators that relate to quality of life:

- total output of the economy (GDP)
- investment in public assets (transport, hospitals, schools etc.)
- people of working age who are in work
- expected years of healthy life
- qualifications at age 19 (% of pupils with 5 GCSEs Grade C or above)
- housing judged unfit to live in
- emissions of greenhouse gases
- days of air pollution
- road traffic (vehicle miles)
- rivers of good or fair quality
- wild bird population
- homes built on previously developed land
- crime and fear of crime
- waste and waste disposal
- poverty and social exclusion

2000

Bristol published its LA 21 Strategy based on 12 sustainability topics, supported by quality of life indicators. The topic groups, in developing a strategy for sustainable development in consultation with the wider community, chose a vision and Headline Indicators for each topic. This report is based on these topics.

Bristol, along with 82 municipalities, signed up to measure 11 integrated **European Common Indicators** for local sustainability:

- satisfaction with the neighbourhood
- carbon dioxide emissions
- passenger transport
- access to open space and services
- air quality
- travel to school
- organisations with environmental and social management systems
- noise nuisance
- sustainable land use
- sustainable products
- ecological footprint (see Appendix 2 - personal footprint calculator)

The set of **European Common Indicators** was accepted by over 100 municipalities in Europe with Bristol as one of the **Peer Group** lead cities.

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a new duty on local authorities to produce a **Community Strategy** to promote social, economic and environmental wellbeing in its areas. This was based on community leadership and should build on the existing LA 21 Strategy and partnerships, and indicators of quality of life should provide a useful starting point to help explain objectives, focus on issues and monitor progress in the Community Strategy.

2001

The **Audit Commission** recommended local authorities use their set of **Quality of Life Indicators** to help support the Community Strategy. Bristol, along with 90 other local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships, agreed to pilot these indicators, as the majority were currently monitored.

Quality of Life in your Neighbourhood Survey 2001 was Bristol’s first Quality of Life survey. Residents were randomly selected from the electoral register and over 4,000 responded making it one of the biggest ward surveys ever undertaken. The response indicated residents were keen to have their voice heard on ‘quality

of life' issues close to their hearts. The questionnaire was linked to indicators and the results of this and subsequent surveys can be found in the annual Quality of Life reports and on the website www.bristol-city.gov.uk/qualityoflife.

2002

The Quality of Life Neighbourhood Survey was repeated and 3,100 residents responded.

Young Person's Quality of Life Survey

A survey of 11 - 16 year olds was piloted in 3 Bristol secondary schools and on the council web site during 2002. A similar questionnaire to the adult survey was produced and was filled in by 1240 school students. See www.bristol-city.gov.uk/qolsurvey

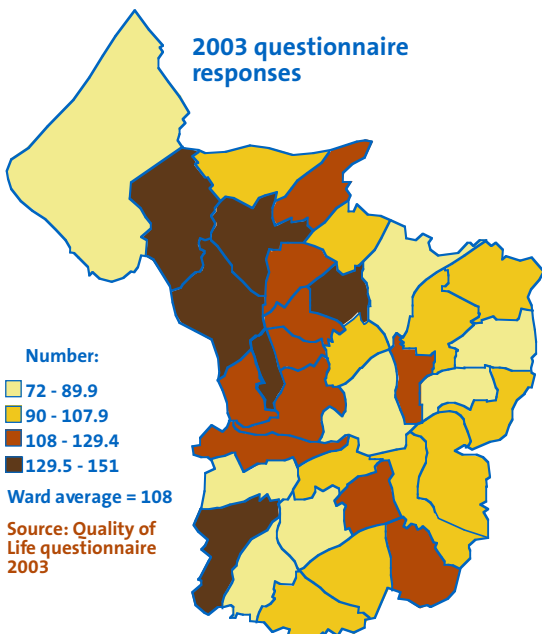
2003

The Bristol Partnership's **Community Strategy** was published in 2003. Quality of Life Indicators helped monitor the impact of this strategy.

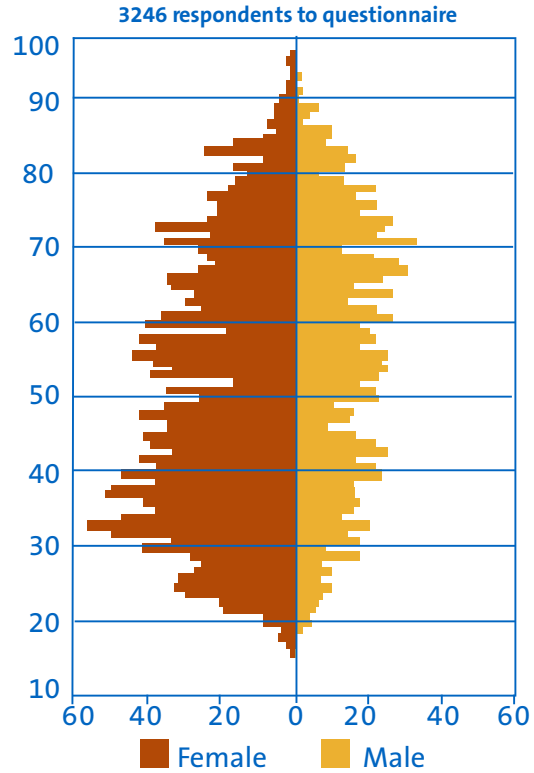
The **Quality of Life in Your Neighbourhood Survey** was repeated and there were 3,881 respondents in total

Profile of respondents	Bristol average
69% were between 25 –65 years	64%
60% were female	51% female
40% were male	49% male
55% were in some form of employment	60%
28% were retired	15%
3.5% were from ethnic minorities	8%
76% were owner occupiers	63%
22% had no educational or technical qualification	26%

Averages refer to 2001 Census



Age profile of questionnaire respondents



After the success of the Young Person's Quality of Life Survey pilot a larger survey was conducted at the end of 2003 involving 9 state and private schools from all parts of the city. The results are now available in the Area Profile of Children and Young People. Contact env-qual@bristol-city.gov.uk for further details.

How to use this document

This report is divided into the five themes adopted by the city council and within each theme are a number of topics. Each of these topics is measured by one or more indicators.

Many of the indicators are local and are represented as ward maps. Where information is represented as a graph, trends can be seen over time that show us if Bristol is becoming a better or worse place in which to live. This idea is represented by 'Traffic Lights'. Information that may explain why a trend is in a certain direction is found under each topic.



- Moving away from sustainability
- Standing still
- Moving towards sustainability

Sources of information

The information for these maps comes from a variety of sources that are shown on the map. Also shown is the ward average. For most maps data are separated into four classifications, two above the average (the darker colours) and two below the average (the lighter colours).

The Quality of Life Survey 2003 provided much of the information that is shown as ward maps in this report. As the questionnaire asked the respondent to provide their postcode it was possible to map the responses on a ward map. In total there were 3881 responses but 2% did

not give their postcode. For this reason the data from these respondents were included in the city wide totals which appear at the end of this report but could not be included in the ward maps.

Information is from various sources and these are included in Appendix 4. The Council measures approximately 60% of the indicators. The other 40% are measured by other local agencies, voluntary groups and the community to give a better picture of quality of life. All maps are Crown Copyright. All rights reserved: Bristol City Council 100023406.

Quality of Life Prize Draw Winner

Sarah McMahon, (left) presenting prize winner June Turner with an instalment of organic fruit and vegetables.



June Turner was one of 15,000 people who were sent the Quality of Life questionnaire in September 2003. Along with 3,880 other Bristol residents June completed and returned the questionnaire. She also completed the raffle form and on winning the £250 prize, chose to spend it on organic food over the following year.

As a local Bristolian, June decided to complete the questionnaire because she felt disappointed with her local play park which has nothing suitable for her 18 months granddaughter and is in a poor state generally. She hoped that by expressing her views on a range of issues, the city council would take action to improve things. She welcomed the opportunity to have a say on matters relating to her local neighbourhood, as she sometimes thinks it's a bit isolated and local voices are not heard.

Apart from the poor state of the local park, June has concerns about the unreliability of the recycling scheme and has made several phone calls in the past when her black box remained un-emptied on collection days. As well as the health risks of having glass bottles etc left on the pavement for days, June feels that this might put people off using the scheme and just tip everything in the rubbish bin.

June also expressed concern about the smell from a landfill site near Ashton where her daughter lives that was particularly foul last summer. Overall though, June is pleased with developments in South Bristol and feels hopeful things will improve further with amenities such as the south Bristol hospital.

Choosing organic food as her prize was an opportunity to see if organic tasted any different from other food and June was very surprised at the exceptional flavour, even the potatoes were much tastier. She also finds it really handy having an organic food box delivered to her door (and at Christmas a luxury food hamper including organic wines). As a district nurse she promotes healthy eating and already has had several people asking for the address of the organic suppliers.

June thinks Bristol in general is on the up and up, and although she finds the revamped 'centre' with its water features a bit disappointing (she would have preferred the re-instatement of the river Frome), enjoys walking round the harbourside with her husband who very much appreciates the range of architecture in the city centre.

Bristol Wards

Ward and community indicator themes:

Investing in a sustainable environment

Building a thriving economy

Achieving lifelong learning

Promoting health and well being

Strengthening local communities

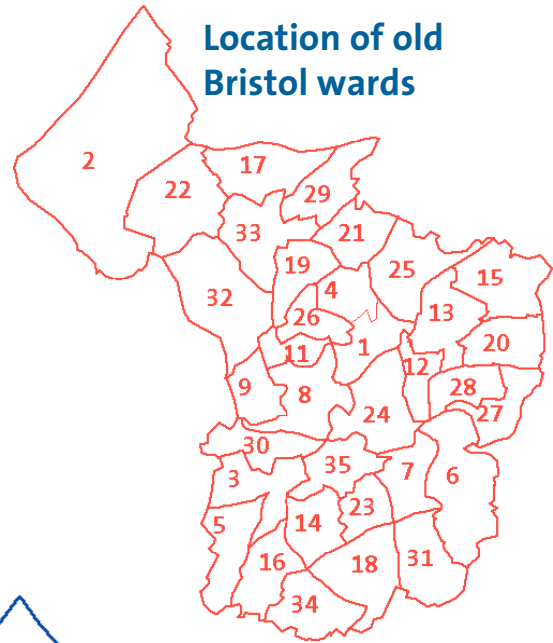
New ward boundaries were created in January 1999. Some figures are not yet available by 'new' ward and in parts of this report 'old' ward boundaries are still used.

Location of old and new Bristol Wards

Key to ward numbers:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ashley | 18 Hengrove |
| 2 Avonmouth | 19 Henleaze |
| 3 Bedminster | 20 Hillfields |
| 4 Bishopston | 21 Horfield |
| 5 Bishopsworth | 22 Kingsweston |
| 6 Brislington East | 23 Knowle |
| 7 Brislington West | 24 Lawrence Hill |
| 8 Cabot | 25 Lockleaze |
| 9 Clifton | 26 Redland |
| 10 Clifton East | 27 St George East |
| 11 Cotham | 28 St George West |
| 12 Easton | 29 Southmead |
| 13 Eastville | 30 Southville |
| 14 Filwood | 31 Stockwood |
| 15 Frome Vale | 32 Stoke Bishop |
| 16 Hartcliffe | 33 Westbury-on-Trym |
| 17 Henbury | 34 Whitchurch Park |
| | 35 Windmill Hill |

Location of old Bristol wards



Location of new Bristol wards

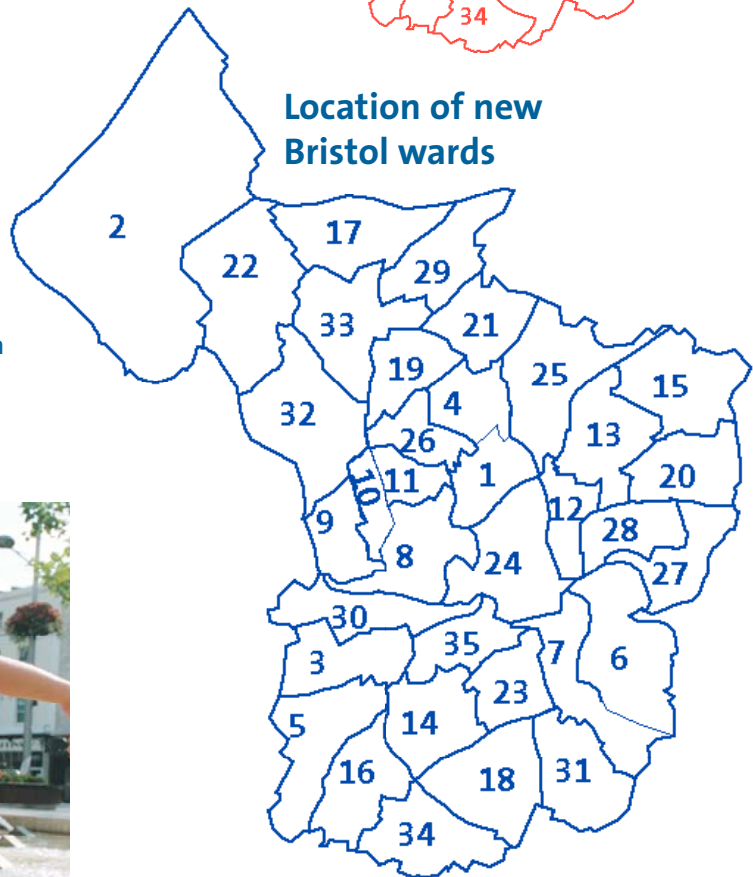


Photo: Making Play Matter, Bristol City Council

Bristol City Centre