

Bristol 2050

A 40 year Vision for the City Region

Did you know that around 100 years ago a book was written containing a plan for the city of Chicago? This book became one of the most recognised documents in town planning as its contents have influenced the city's later developments. Its plans have encouraged some of the city's most valued features in today's society: huge improvements were made to the lake front, road and other transport systems including the famous Wacker Drive, parks and regional forest preserves.

The plan of Chicago caught the spirit of its time and the character of a place that dreamed the impossible and often accomplished it.

Clear parallels can be drawn between the development of the plan of Chicago and the challenges we face in the Bristol region. Many of the statements and reasons behind the business community taking action in Chicago are equally relevant to our region today. That is why a similar project is now underway for the city of Bristol that aims to provide the same, if not higher, level of success that Chicago achieved.

The project is being led by the Bristol Initiative – an organisation originally formed 20 years ago by 12 businessmen to help address the flaws of the city. Since its inception the Initiative has grown to 250 people and helped steer projects such as the improvement of the retail offer in the city and regeneration of the harbourside. Its latest achievement is appointment of

prominent town planner David Lock to draw up a plan for the region's development until 2050. This plan will illustrate what Bristol growth could look like, where it might go and how it will be achieved.

The development of this vision meets many of the Bristol Initiative's original aims:

- Providing leadership to fill a void
- Ensuring the business voice is heard
- Promoting the sub region as "the" place to do business and a great place to live.

The plan includes many ideas already: various parklands and greenery, a transport system that's cheaper, faster and more efficient, a creative media hub hosting some of the well-known names of the media world. However we believe there are more ideas to come and we'd like to hear them.

There are many ways to get involved with the future of Bristol's City region. A conference is set to be held in 2011, we have twitter and Facebook pages and we have a website at www.bristol2050.com. You can also contact Tessa Coombes on 01275 370793 or at tessa.coombes@gwebusinesswest.co.uk to send your ideas.