

BRISTOL CIVIC SOCIETY – WESTERN HARBOUR

Response to Turner.Works

The key points which we made at the meeting on 22nd September were the following:

1. We aren't opposed to change.

2. But we do want new development to respect, and gain value from, Western Harbour's setting and heritage. Both are of national, if not international, value. New development should also be designed to be suitable for low carbon living in a changing climate. We want future generations to take pride in Western Harbour, and not say 'why did they do that?'

3. These objectives won't be achieved if the assumptions that seem to have driven the work to-date drive the master planning. These assumptions include:

- accommodating existing traffic flows (and journey preferences);

- the shortage of housing in Bristol ipso facto means substantial housing must be accommodated in Western Harbour;

- new housing can underpin the costs of sorting out the crumbling road infrastructure.

4. Looking at the assumptions also means looking at a larger canvass than just Western Harbour. Strategic decisions about transport, both in terms of managing down volumes and rerouting, go wider than masterplanning Western Harbour. But without getting those decisions right, the Western Harbour that emerges from the masterplanning will be so much less than it could have been.

5. Similarly, it is lazy thinking to see Western Harbour as a substantial housing opportunity without considering the impact on future housing opportunities across Bristol, or the alternative contributions that Western Harbour could make to Bristolians' quality of life in what is increasingly a dense and bustling city. How *best* does Western Harbour contribute to a sustainable city?

6. It is important to recognise the very different character of Western Harbour from the harbourside that hosts Bristol's evening / night economies. It's where city meets country, and in places, offers tranquillity and, notably around Underfall Yard, an almost seaside ambience enjoyed by many.

11th October 2021