

The Bristol Forum 2019

Video transcript

[Katherine Dunleavy, Bristol Forum Co-ordinator, University of Bristol] The Bristol Forum was an opportunity for both the universities in Bristol - University of Bristol and UWE - to come together with the City Council and the Mayor's Office, and really look at the challenges facing our city, and how we can all work together to improve that.

Bristol is a really good city for interaction, and people are working together already, but this is the first time we've done something on this scale. We had over 70 speakers registered, we had 15 different stalls and posters, and games going on, so there were lots of interactive elements too; three public walking tours that went out into the city, and probably about 200 delegates in the end. So we've yet to do the final count but it definitely exceeded expectations when we first started planning.

[Helen Manchester, Reader in Digital Inequalities and Urban Futures, University of Bristol] It's been about how the universities might collaborate more with people in the city; so how might businesses, community and civil society organisations, and universities work together to solve or tackle some of the really difficult problems that the city has.

[Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol] What everyone's engaging in today is an act of city leadership, not necessarily with formal political positions, but they are contributing to what the city's going to prioritise, in the sequence in which we will lay out those priorities, in the One City Plan.

[Robin Hamilton, Emeritus Professor, University of the West of England] Sharing insights and understandings about our city and our city region - trying to understand it better, but also share ideas about how action could be taken to improve the city, in particular in the context of the Bristol One City Plan.

[Nasra Ayub, University of Bristol Students Union] We've got the whole community coming together to talk about certain issues within Bristol, and also how we can better have partnerships amongst universities and companies, as well as just the local community. So that was fantastic and very, very empowering.

[Joanna Burch Brown, Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Bristol] I think this is a really important event, and it's really a positive thing to be bringing together people with all these different expertises. There are pockets of people doing tons of stuff around different parts of the city, who aren't connected to each other, and that's been true for a long time. This just gives that platform for lots of people to get networked and connected, who haven't made connections before, so I think it's really, really fantastic.

[Sam Budd, Chief Executive, University of Bristol Students Union] It's about ideas, about conversations, but also about tangible actions, and that's great.

[Luke Pritchard, Student Ambassador, University of the West of England] It's very exciting for me as a student who's trying to - ideally going to - live in Bristol in the future. For me it's amazing to see that the whole city is working together collaboratively, so we can actually get something good from our experiences, and hopefully push together as a whole community.

[Will Awad, Student Ambassador, University of Bristol] Our key messages, I think, are that the city is looking at problems that it faces currently, and it is trying to collaborate with people, and I think in a city like Bristol where there is a lot of people who want to collaborate but don't necessarily know how, that's really important.

So I think one of the key messages is: the City Council and local people are trying to work together, and that is something that's being done.

[Helen Manchester] The University is there as a key resource in the city. It's something that people should think of as somewhere you/they can all go. It's a place where researchers are working. It's a place where students are learning, and that the students and the researchers are a resource for the city, should be something that people in different organisations in the city consider.