

# BRISTOL city leap

*2026/27 five-year business plan*

**Executive Summary**



# Document overview: Bristol City Leap Business Plan

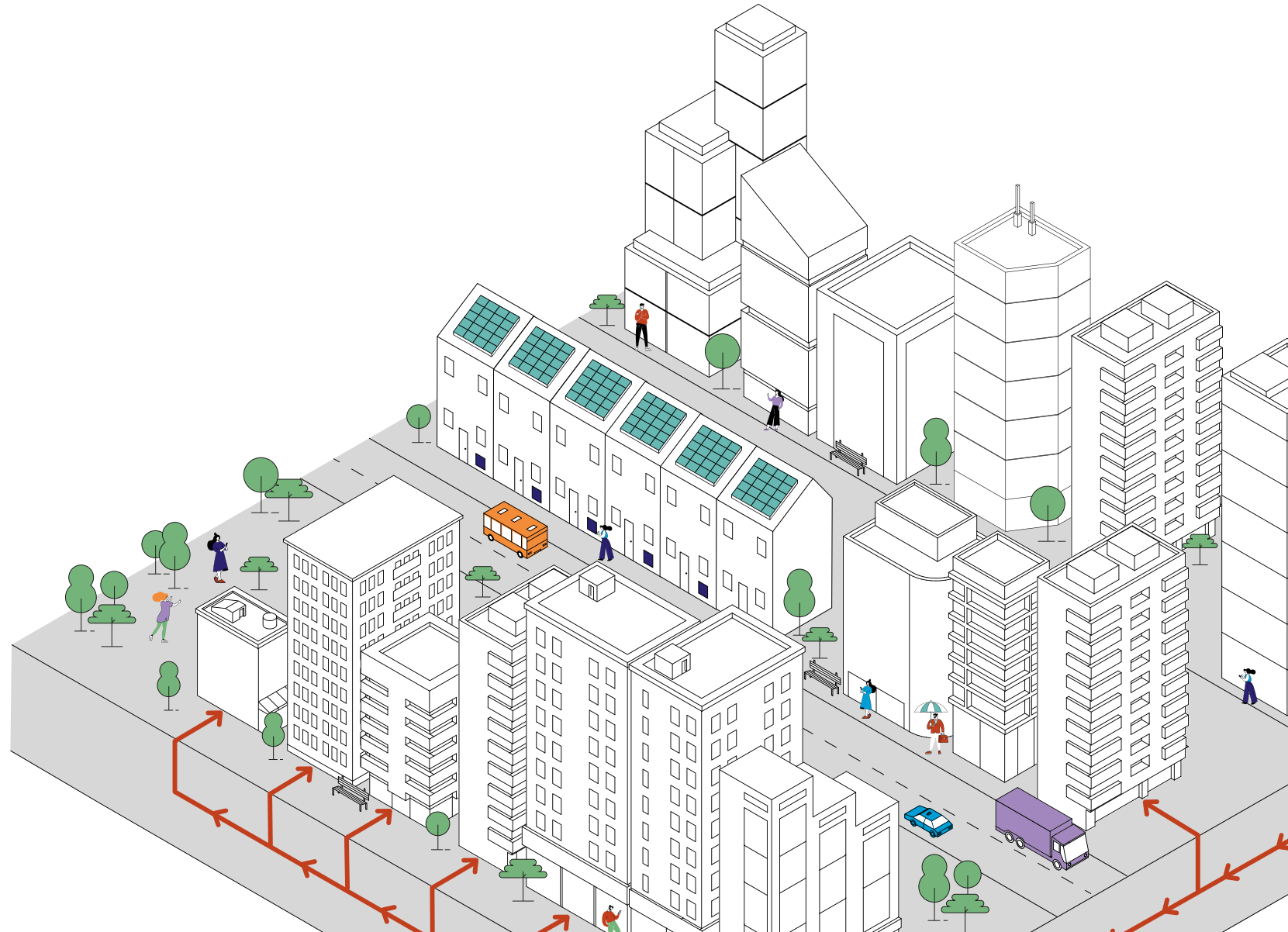
**Bristol City Leap is a groundbreaking partnership launched in 2023 to drive city-scale decarbonisation, bringing together Bristol City Council, Ameresco, Vattenfall Heat UK, and local partners.**

Its mission is to transform how energy is generated, distributed, and used across the city, reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, and ensuring a fair and sustainable transition to net zero.

In its third year (2025/26), Bristol City Leap has delivered significant progress across multiple fronts: retrofitting social housing and private homes, expanding the city's heat network, developing renewable energy projects, and growing electric vehicle infrastructure. These initiatives have not only cut carbon but also created local jobs, apprenticeships, and volunteer opportunities. They have also delivered community grants, generating £40.8 million in social value.

Looking ahead, the next five years will see continued investment of approximately £374 million in energy-saving measures, heat networks, renewables, and electric vehicle infrastructure. The partnership remains flexible and responsive to changing policies, ensuring Bristol continues to lead the way in practical, high-impact climate action.

This Business Plan provides a record of achievements, a clear roadmap for future projects, and demonstrates Bristol City Leap's commitment to building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable city for all residents.



# Foreword

**Bristol plays a leading role in delivering effective climate action, with Bristol City Leap attracting strong interest from governments, local authorities, environmental groups and residents.**

In its third year, the partnership has expanded a growing portfolio of projects, maintaining momentum despite unforeseen challenges. Working with partners, communities and local businesses, it remains focused on accelerating decarbonisation through practical solutions that cut emissions, improve energy efficiency and deliver benefits across the city.

This Business Plan outlines progress over the past year and priorities ahead, reflecting the urgency of the climate challenge and Bristol's commitment to a low-carbon future.

As a first-of-its-kind, city-scale partnership, Bristol City Leap is breaking new ground. While the journey has brought challenges, it has also generated valuable insight that is strengthening delivery and informing approaches for other cities.

We have achieved about 67% of our carbon savings target at our first formal measuring date and are on track to reach 77% at our second formal measuring date, and we anticipate reaching this goal within the next six to nine months. This significant progress can be attributed primarily to the energy efficiency measures implemented in residents' homes. Furthermore, we have greatly exceeded our targets in Social Value delivery and the implementation of energy efficiency initiatives.

We are driven by a clear purpose: to transform how energy is generated, distributed, and used across the city, creating a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for those that live, work and learn in the city. We are also proud of the real progress already being delivered. Our programmes to retrofit homes and improve energy efficiency continue to expand

beyond what was originally expected, helping thousands of households enjoy warmer homes and lower energy bills, along with significant carbon reduction through our shared work.

Beyond energy improvements, Bristol City Leap is generating significant social value, supporting local jobs, skills development, and community investment – all areas where we are exceeding our initial expectations. This long-term partnership brings together the expertise, investment, and innovation needed to deliver meaningful, city-scale change.

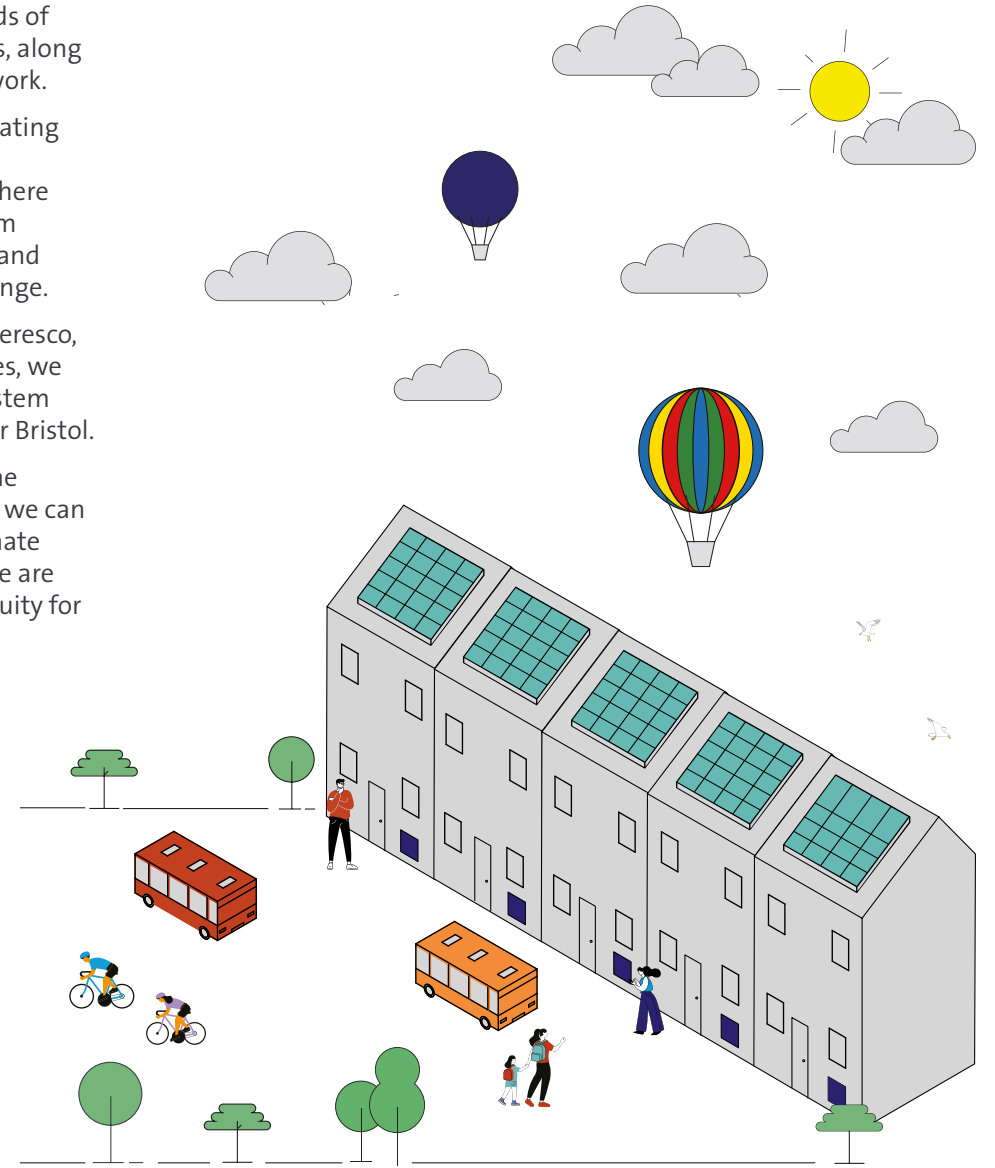
By working collaboratively with Bristol City Council, Ameresco, Vattenfall Heat UK, local organisations and communities, we are building a more sustainable and resilient energy system while generating wider economic and social benefits for Bristol.

The challenge ahead remains significant, but so does the opportunity. By continuing to collaborate and innovate, we can ensure Bristol remains at the forefront of city-scale climate action. Together with our partners and communities, we are committed to building a legacy of sustainability and equity for the city and its residents.



**Alexandra Coleman**

Senior Vice President  
at Ameresco UK



# Third year of operation (2025/26)

In our third year of the Bristol City Leap partnership, we strengthened our collective effort to identify and deliver city scale decarbonisation for Bristol, building on the long term commitments made by Ameresco as Bristol City Council's strategic partner.

## Home energy efficiency and retrofitting



More than **600 homes due to be retrofitted** over a three-year period, as part of the **£25 million Social Housing Rolling Retrofit programme**.



Major projects delivered at **Ledbury Road, London Road and Little Cross House** with retrofitting extended to **Easiform properties**.

## Owner-occupied homes



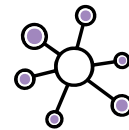
**340 homes** upgraded under **Homes Upgrade Grant Scheme 2**, targeting fuel-poor households.



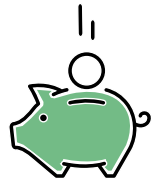
**£13 million Warm Homes Local Grant initiative** contracted, set to upgrade **~500 homes** over the next three years.

## Heat network expansion

Key milestones this year include:



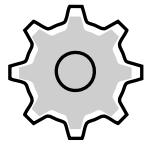
**5 new connections** delivered across Redcliffe, Old Market, Temple and Bedminster, including the University of Bristol's new **Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus** innovative heating and cooling system.



**£34.8 million in grant funding** secured for Frome (city centre) and Temple heat networks.



**Cost of Heat study** completed, confirming competitive pricing.



Launch of a **major asset improvement initiative** to enhance historic network reliability.

The business plan outlines our achievements in our third year and provides an update on our plans over the next five years to help Bristol achieve its decarbonisation goals.



## Low-carbon energy infrastructure projects

Bristol City Leap has been working closely with Bristol City Council and other partners to add capacity, specialist expertise and investment to deliver a growing range of decarbonisation projects across Bristol. In the past year, we signed seven new contracts with Bristol City Council to deliver more than £27 million of investment across the Council's estate. Projects are still pending approvals, necessary consents, and favorable grid outcomes.

### Electric vehicle infrastructure

**£2.94 million** worth of projects started or completed to expand and diversify Bristol's electric vehicle charging network.

### Social housing

Launched **£25 million** Social Housing Rolling Retrofit programme to retrofit around **600 homes** over three years. Continued delivering across largest projects on Ledbury Road and London Road, and at Little Cross House. Expanding retrofitting for Easiform properties.

### Corporate estate

Completed energy efficiency upgrades in **14 buildings**, including Bristol City Council's offices at 100 Temple Street. Solar photovoltaic (PV) delivery progressed for schools and leisure centres.

### Owner-occupied retrofit

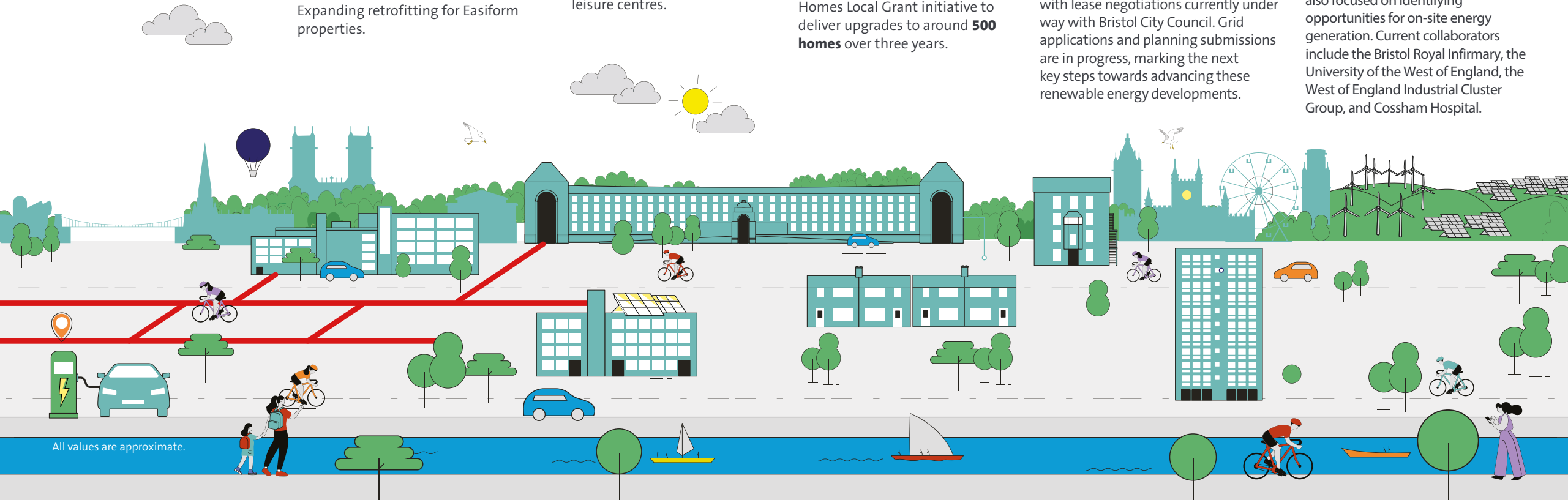
Completed the Home Upgrade Grant Scheme 2, delivering energy efficiency measures to **340 homes** for private homeowners in, or at risk of, fuel poverty. Contracted **£13 million** Warm Homes Local Grant initiative to deliver upgrades to around **500 homes** over three years.

### Renewables

Continued developing a pipeline of council-owned renewable sites, following initial screening for planning and ecology. Initial designs for the solar PV and wind installations have now been completed, with lease negotiations currently under way with Bristol City Council. Grid applications and planning submissions are in progress, marking the next key steps towards advancing these renewable energy developments.

### Public sector partnerships

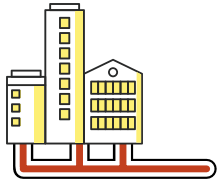
Bristol City Leap is actively cultivating partnerships with key public sector organisations throughout the city, facilitating early-stage discussions and supporting project development aimed at decarbonising their estates. We are also focused on identifying opportunities for on-site energy generation. Current collaborators include the Bristol Royal Infirmary, the University of the West of England, the West of England Industrial Cluster Group, and Cossham Hospital.



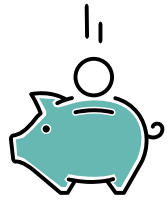
All values are approximate.

## Bristol heat network

In the past year, we continued expanding the Bristol heat network by:



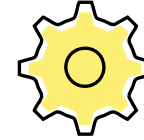
**Delivering five new connections** across Redcliffe, Old Market, Temple and Bedminster, including an innovative heating and cooling system for the University of Bristol's Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus



**Securing £34.8 million** in grant funding to support the Frome and Temple heat networks



Undertaking a **“Cost of Heat” study**, confirming competitive pricing compared with other low-carbon options and boosting stakeholder confidence



Launching a **major asset improvement** initiative for historic heat networks, to assure success of remaining assets



## Social value

As we support Bristol's transition to a low-carbon economy, delivering social value remains central to Bristol City Leap's mission. In the past year, we have strengthened existing partnerships and launched new initiatives designed to deliver lasting social, environmental and economic impact.

To date, Bristol City Leap partner Ameresco and its subcontractor Vattenfall Heat UK have delivered **£35.4 million** in social value, surpassing targets and continuing to grow year on year.

Key achievements in 2025/26 include:



**£30.14 million** spent through contracts with local supply chain including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)



**152** local jobs created through BCL projects



**£66,000** spent in the local voluntary, community and social enterprise sector



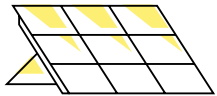
**49 weeks** of work experience delivered for young people



**361 hours** of career support sessions delivered



**538 weeks** of apprenticeships delivered



**£618,000** of grants delivered to community organisations as part of our Community Energy Fund



**410 hours** of school visits and education sessions delivered



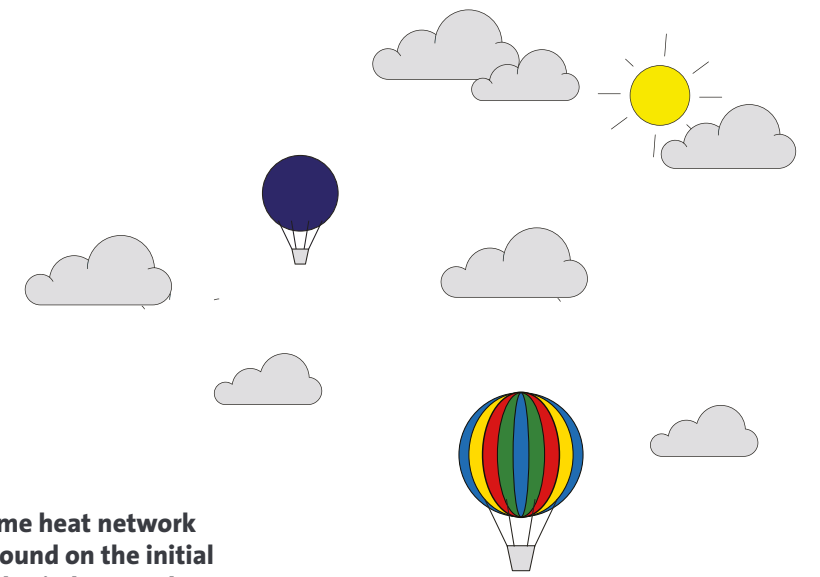
**895 volunteer hours** delivered for local causes

All values are approximate.



# Over the next five years

Having established a robust pipeline of projects, we will continue to deliver and launch key decarbonisation programmes across the Council's corporate estate and social housing, the Bristol heat network, local renewables and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. With clear visibility of upcoming projects in each area, and continued collaboration with Bristol City Council and strategic partners, we remain confident in our ability to deliver sustained decarbonisation at scale across Bristol.



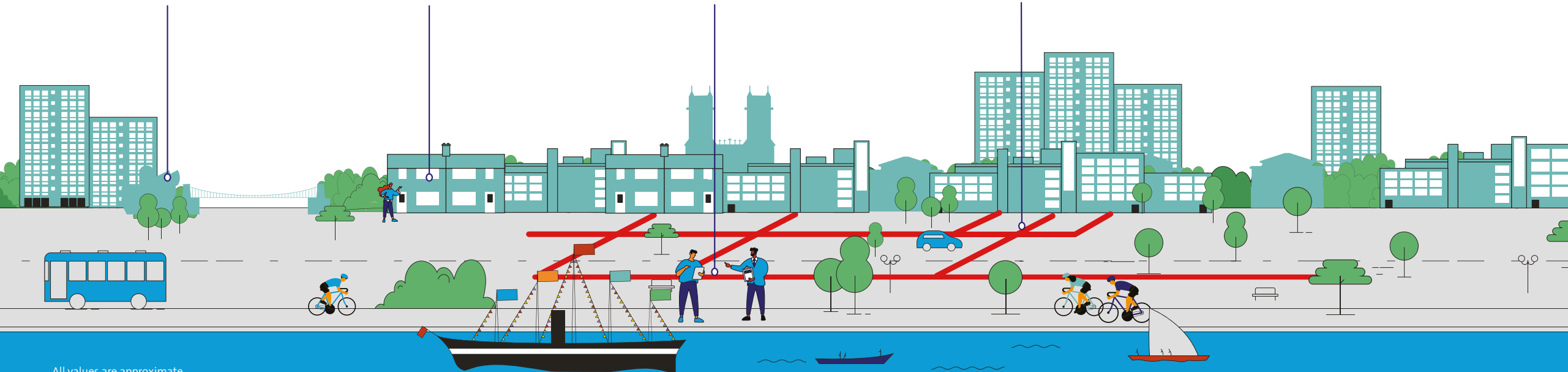
Over the next five years, we are continuing investing in the Bristol heat network to:

**Deliver 4 new connections  
agreed in 2025/26**

**Continue to build out the  
Temple heat network**

**Build the Bath Road Energy Centre  
to connect and integrate the Redcliffe,  
Old Market and Temple heat networks**

**Develop the Frome heat network  
area and break ground on the initial  
sections of the buried network**



All values are approximate.

# Thank you for reading our 2026/27 business plan

This business plan was published in March 2026 as a refresh of our initial business plan published in December 2022. This is a rolling five-year plan which will be updated on an annual basis. Bristol City Leap's next annual business plan is expected to be released in early 2027.

This summary of the Annual Business Plan will be published on the [Bristol City Leap website](#) alongside other associated data such as progress against the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and individual social value metrics such as number of jobs created.

Stay up to date with the latest projects and developments on the Bristol City Leap website: [www.bristolcityleap.co.uk](http://www.bristolcityleap.co.uk) or via our social media channels overleaf.

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VATTENFALL 



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