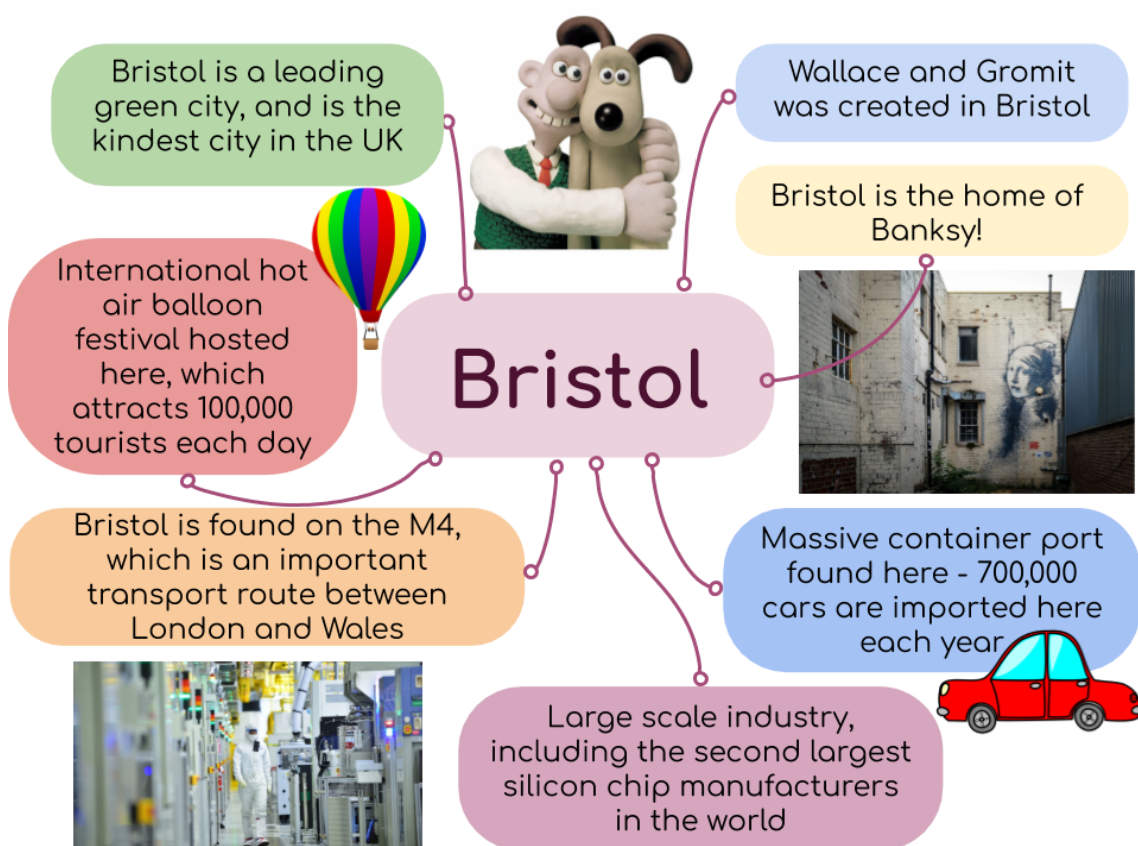


Urban Issues & Challenges: Bristol

Bristol is a UK city in the **South West** of England. Bristol can be found on the coast of **Bristol Channel** and is one of the **UK's ten core cities**.

There are many reasons why Bristol is a major UK city:

Source: *The Independent*



Bristol's Migration

Since the 1800's, Bristol has been a **multicultural city**; the city held an **international port**, so migrants would often come to live in Bristol for their business. Nowadays, **16%** of Bristol's population are of non-white **ethnicity** - Black, Asian, Mixed race.

Migration has contributed positively to the growth of Bristol:

- Migrants have been **employed** in jobs, where there has been a gap in skills to fill the position. This means that Bristol's **economy** has been able to **continue to grow** and no services have suffered shortages.

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- Migrants bring their **culture** to the city, which has resulted in Bristol's **entertainment** and **hospitality industries** becoming world famous. The **food industry** is especially wide and varied, with the community becoming accepting of new cultures.
- Bristol hosts **St Paul's Carnival** to integrate and celebrate all the migrants that live in the city. The Carnival attracts **40,000 visitors** each year, which in turn profits Bristol's economy.

However, Bristol's **population** is growing rapidly - especially the young population of under 16s - and this can cause problems for the city: **shortage of housing**, pressures on **services** such as education and healthcare. Therefore Bristol is changing and developing...

Changes in Bristol



Source: Bristol Rovers

Bristol Rovers **Football Club** is constructing a new stadium near to the outskirts of the city

- 👍 Local sports clubs can hire the grounds, inspiring the next athletes and sports people.
- 👍 Businesses can hire the conference rooms, so the stadium can become a local fixture
- 👎 Some people disagree with how much stadiums and football clubs cost to run



Source: Food and Drinks Guide

Shopping centres such as **Cabot Circus** provide leisure opportunities for local residents.

- 👍 Job opportunities to work in retail for local residents
- 👍 Shopping centres use up derelict land and can reduce crime in areas, since gangs don't hang about the unused land
- 👎 Shopping centres attract shoppers away from the city centre, which will impact the high street.



Source: Bristol Barkers



The industry in Bristol is also changing. More **high-tech manufacturing** industries have been located to Bristol, because of its international links and government grants. This includes many aircraft companies.

👍 Tech industries offer good wages and regular salaries

👎 Do these companies contribute to global warming?

Bristol is trying to improve its environment, by increasing **green open spaces**. This is called **Urban Greening**. There are eight nature reserves as well as 30% of the city covered in trees.

👍 Green spaces are important for minimising urban sprawl and air pollution, which improves locals' quality of life

👍 Wildlife levels have increased in nature reserves

Challenges with Bristol's Growth

Growth isn't always positive; Bristol city is **struggling** with its **population growth** and evolving industry. Bristol faces **three** challenges that could damage its reputation:

1. **Dereliction** - Old industrial mills and buildings have been left **abandoned**, since new industries need high-tech buildings and cannot afford to renovate these buildings. Instead, they stand abandoned and empty, as well as becoming targets for **crime** and **vandalism**. This in turn pushes residents to further edges of the city, to live in a nicer and safer environment.

Solution: *The government is offering grants for businesses to renovate protected industrial buildings. Some of the buildings are listed, meaning they hold special historical meaning and cannot be demolished. Some industrial areas can become leading nightlife areas, especially for urban restaurants and modern art galleries.*

2. **Waste & Pollution** - With its growing population, Bristol now has a **growing waste** problem - it produces **half a million tonnes** of waste per year! Bristol doesn't want to use refuse sites for all of this waste, as landfills will become full quickly and the waste will take millions of years to **decay** underground. In addition, there is also an increase in **vehicles** on the road, which increases the levels of **air pollution**. Air pollution can cause **respiratory conditions** for locals - asthma, lung disease - as well as increasing the death rate for the population.

Solution: *50% of household waste is recycled, shipped to other cities across the UK for the correct recycling process. Pupils are taught in school about the importance of recycling, to encourage families to take part. To combat air pollution:*

- Pedestrianise some parts of the city centre
- Reduce the speed of cars on nearby motorways near to homes
- Constructing over 40 charging points for electric cars

3. **Housing Shortages** - With the growing population, there are more people trying to buy the few houses available for sale. This will increase the **house prices** in Bristol, and make first time buyers less likely to afford moving out. The government wants to build more houses, but



where to build? If the government builds on **greenfield land**, the city will **sprawl** and the city centre will decline.

Solution: The Government needs to build on a mixture of greenfield and brownfield land:

👍 There is a lot of greenfield land available, so larger houses with gardens can be built to attract wealthy families to the area.

👍 Developing brownfield land means that the city centre won't become derelict and run down. Brownfield sites can become apartments, but these can be high value.

Inequality in Bristol

Despite the improvements and schemes, some areas of Bristol have **developed** quicker than others. This has created a **difference** between the **quality of life** of some Bristol residents, leading to **social inequality**. We need to compare two areas of Bristol, and see the difference in quality of life:



Source: Geography.org.uk



Source: Ocean Home

Filwood:

- One of the top 10% of **most deprived** areas in the UK
- 94% of residents feel **street litter** is a problem for the area
- Many residents don't feel they have good health, with an above average number of children who are **overweight** and 56% of adults are overweight.
- **Crime** is higher in Filwood than the Bristol average, especially for antisocial behaviour.

Stoke Bishop:

- 20% of the population of Stoke Bishop are aged **above 65**, which is higher than the average for Bristol
- Stoke Bishop is in the **lowest 10%** of deprived areas in the UK
- Only 4% of households have a smoker, and only 37% of adults are **overweight**.
- **Crime** rates are significantly below the Bristol average
- 75% of the population **own** their home, with houses having on average 3 bedrooms.

