

# South Gloucestershire Set for the future







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South Gloucestershire



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# Aerospace, Advanced Engineering and Space

## Aerospace and advanced engineering

South Gloucestershire has a rich history of innovation in the aerospace industry. It was home to Concorde as the airframe and engines were predominately developed here, as well as the UK assembly line, and all UK Concorde made their first flight from the runway in Filton! Today the last flying Concorde is displayed at the Aerospace Bristol Museum and this legacy has translated into many of the world's top aerospace companies such as Airbus, GKN Aerospace, BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce and Leonardo choosing to be based in South Gloucestershire. This has also enabled supply chain companies like Bikar Aerospace to grow.



## Wide-ranging applications

The engineering expertise in South Gloucestershire does not just extend to aerospace. Businesses in the region are also at the forefront of composites, robotics, defence and space.

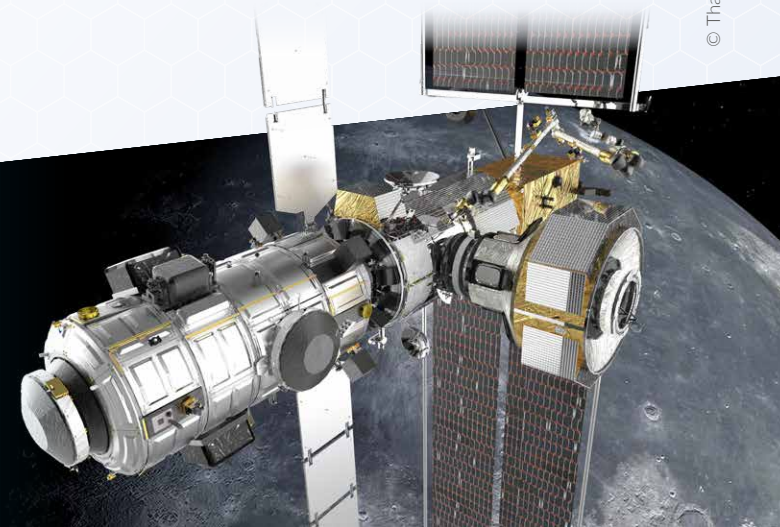
## Space

Space is a growing industry and generates an income of nearly £15 billion every year (gov.uk). South Gloucestershire is home to leading names such as Thales Alenia Space and Bristol Spaceplanes and it is supported by businesses like The Centre for Modelling and Simulation (CFMS) and CGI Group which work across a range of industries. It is no surprise that the West of England was chosen as one of the UK Space Agency's seven regional space hubs.

## Skilled workforce

South Gloucestershire's skilled workforce is another attractive feature for aerospace, advanced engineering, and space businesses.

A significant percentage (33%) of residents hold a level 4 qualification or above (ONS 2021), and the talent pool is continuously replenished by 28,000 undergraduates and post-graduates from the West of England's four top universities (Invest Bristol and Bath 2024).





## Excellence in education

The University of the West of England (UWE) is based in South Gloucestershire and has an excellent reputation for engineering and related courses.

Top 10

for Aerospace Engineering (The Guardian, The best UK universities 2024 – rankings).

17th

for Mechanical Engineering (The Guardian, The best UK universities 2024 – rankings).

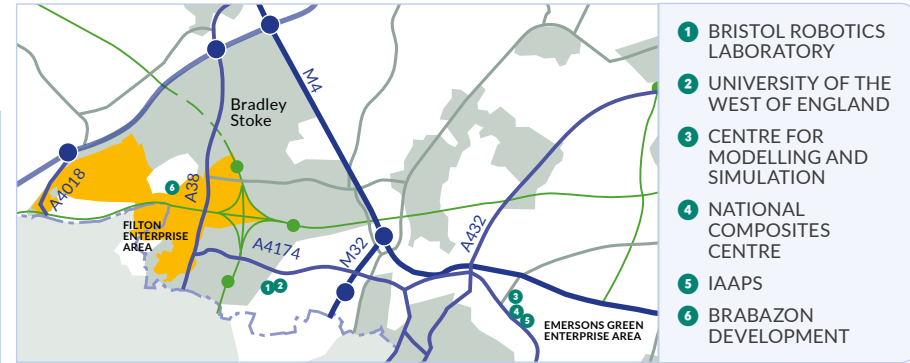
91%

of UWE graduates are in work or further study 15 months after graduation. (Graduate Outcome Survey 2020/21, published 2023).

## Pioneering research

World-class research is also taking place at national centres of excellence, including:

- The Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAAPS), a wholly owned commercial subsidiary of the University of Bath.
- The National Composites Centre, which is part of the Catapult Network that supports businesses in transforming great ideas into valuable products and services.
- The Bristol Robotics Laboratory, a collaborative partnership between the University of the West of England (UWE) and the University of Bristol.
- The Centre for Modelling and Simulation, a not-for-profit specialist in digital engineering.



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## Filton Enterprise Area

The Filton Enterprise Area is the largest aerospace cluster in the UK and is the home of innovative aerospace and aviation technology. It is located in the north fringe of Bristol alongside the A38 and in very close proximity to the M4 and M5 motorway interchange. It provides direct east-west access to London and Cardiff and north-south access to the Midlands and the South West.

The area's centrepiece is the Brabazon development, a £2 billion project for a new mixed-use neighbourhood by YTL Developments. The Brabazon development comprises of 6,500 homes, student and later-living uses, and an arena with a capacity of over 17,000. Alongside this, there will also be over 3 million square feet of (B1 and B2) commercial space and higher and further education provisions will offer city centre quality accommodation in a 'green' environment. A new railway station will serve Bristol Temple Meads in less than 15 minutes.



Find out more about these sectors in the West of England here:

[www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/aerospace-advanced-engineering](http://www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/aerospace-advanced-engineering)

[www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/space](http://www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/space)



# High Tech, Digital and Life Sciences

South Gloucestershire is known for its innovation in high-tech, digital, and life sciences fields. This area of work is highly supported by South Gloucestershire Council and research undertaken by the four universities in the West of England:

- University of the West of England (UWE).
- University of Bristol.
- University of Bath.
- Bath Spa University.

Companies like Hewlett Packard Enterprise (which is building the new Isambard-AI supercomputer for the University of Bristol), Thales, eXmoor Pharma and Oxford Instruments are located here.

## Life sciences

Life sciences are a particular focus in South Gloucestershire, with a growing emphasis on medical and digital health technologies. Companies like Oxford Instruments and eXmoor Pharma are leading the way in their industries and have developed purpose-built facilities in the area. Several centres of excellence have been established in the region, such as the Clinical Biotechnology Centre (including the NHS Blood and Transplant Hub), the Health Tech Hub and the Institute of Bio-Sensing Technology, the latter two being based at UWE. UWE has also secured £5.8 million to invest in an Immersive Future Skills Lab as part of the School of Health and Social Wellbeing.

## Emersons Green Enterprise Area

Businesses that move to South Gloucestershire can benefit from world-class facilities within the Emersons Green Enterprise Area (EGEA). The Bristol and Bath Science Park (BBSP), which is owned by South Gloucestershire Council, is home to:

- IAAPS, who are developing propulsion systems that are capable of powering future vehicles using clean fuels and are developing a new facility to produce and store green hydrogen, and
- the National Composites Centre, which will be hosting the UK's Isambard-AI supercomputer from Summer 2024 and is part of the Digital Engineering Technology & Innovation (DETI) programme.

Vectura is due to join the BBSP in 2025 when it opens its Inhalation Centre of Excellence. The BBSP offers existing buildings and land with planning permission for appropriate future commercial development. The expertise located at the BBSP makes it the perfect place for science and technology businesses to accelerate their growth. For more information please visit [www.bbsp.co.uk](http://www.bbsp.co.uk)





© Future Space



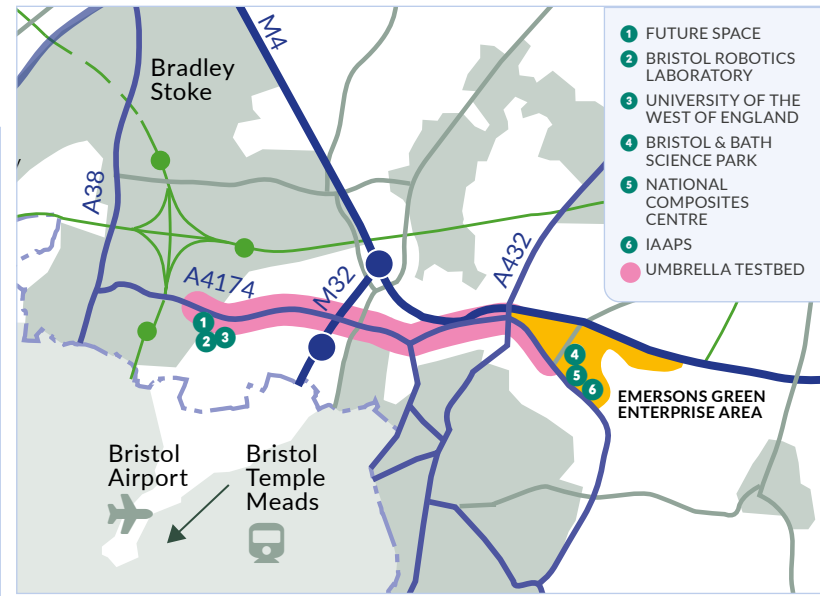
## UMBRELLA - innovation network

South Gloucestershire Council's UMBRELLA network is built in partnership with funding from Toshiba Europe Limited and the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, administered by the West of England Combined Authority. It invests in the research and development capacity in the region.

UMBRELLA is one of the largest and world-leading open programmable Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) networks connecting testbeds at South Gloucestershire's six innovation hubs below. This unique platform bridges the gap between the physical and laboratory worlds and evolves ideas beyond the boundaries of the lab and closer to the market.

- Bristol and Bath Science Park.
- National Composites Centre.
- IAAPS Advancing Propulsion.
- Bristol Robotics Laboratory.
- Future Space.
- The University of the West of England.

For more information, please visit [www.umbrellaiot.com](http://www.umbrellaiot.com)



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## Future Space

UWE has invested in facilities designed specifically for high-tech, science-based entrepreneurs and innovators. Future Space offers a range of office space, shared and dedicated laboratories, workshops, and coworking facilities on the UWE campus, and is managed by Oxford Innovation. It also provides access to leading University research and funding schemes, making it an ideal location for entrepreneurs and growing companies in the science and technology sector.



[www.bristolandbath.co.uk/  
key-sectors/life-sciences](http://www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/life-sciences)



[www.bristolandbath.co.uk/  
key-sectors/digital-tech](http://www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/digital-tech)

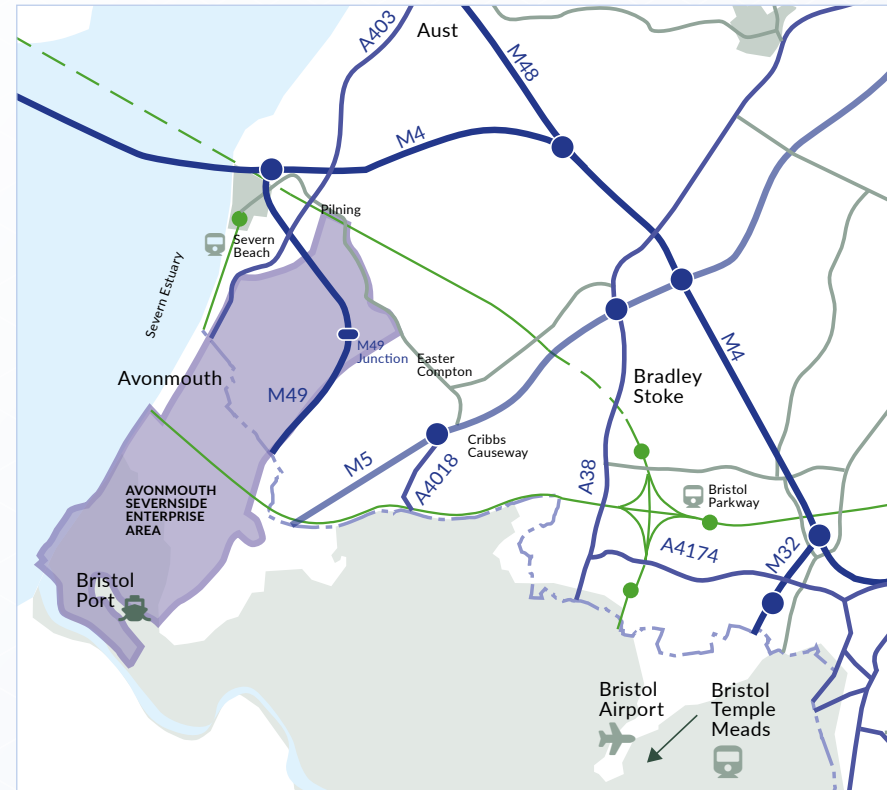
**Find out more about these sectors  
in the West of England here:**

# Logistics and Distribution

The Severnside area in South Gloucestershire is an ideal location for large scale warehousing and distribution, with excellent transport links by road, rail, sea and air.

## Key facts:

- The area's proximity to the M4/M5 motorways means that 85% of the UK's population live within a 4.5-hour drive.
- A new M49 junction is due to open in 2026 and will improve access to this area.
- The area is adjacent to Bristol Port, which is the UK's most centrally located deep sea port.
- Bristol Airport is just a 30-minute drive away.
- Greater connectivity across the region is being supported by MetroWest and Mass Transit. The early stages of these projects will improve transport services between Bristol Temple Meads train station and Severn Beach.
- Around 300 acres of land can be developed as it benefits from extant planning permission.
- The area's future is currently being secured by 10.5 miles of flood defences being built along the coastline.



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## Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area

Severnside is part of the Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA), a globally significant enterprise area covering almost 4,500 acres of land along the River Severn estuary and incorporating Bristol Port. Its accessible location and high-quality facilities appeal to regional, national and international businesses. The three largest employment sectors in Severnside are transport and storage, wholesale, and manufacturing. These reflect the area's attractiveness for large-scale industrial, warehousing, distribution, energy and waste processing uses, in addition to the activities of the port and its storage and distribution facilities and associated industries. Amazon has a 500,000 square feet distribution centre that supplies the area with around 2,000 jobs. Warburton, DHL and Lidl also have distribution centres located at Western Approach Business Park. The new Panattoni Park Avonmouth offers 1.3 million square feet of space of grade-A warehousing.



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## Severnside Masterplan

The final masterplan sets out a locally informed vision to help shape the future of Severnside in the medium and long term, up to 2050. It builds on all of the different strengths that the area has.

The masterplan takes into account the:

- character of existing coastal villages and rural communities.
- strong economic sector unique to Severnside.
- unique natural environment.
- climate and nature emergency.
- new economic and development opportunities.
- need for sustainable travel solutions.

For more information, please visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/severnside-masterplan](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/severnside-masterplan)



Find out more about these sectors in the West of England here:

[www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/logistics-distribution/](http://www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/logistics-distribution/)



# Our Nuclear Vision

## The Western Gateway

South Gloucestershire Council is a proud part of The Western Gateway, a pan-regional partnership for South Wales and Western England. The Western Gateway is made up of Local Authorities, a Combined Authority, City Regions, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Governments (in Wales and Westminster). The Western Gateway has four primary workstreams:

- Net-zero.
- Supporting innovation.
- Connecting communities.
- Investment.



© The Western Gateway

## Severn Edge

At the heart of the Western Gateway low carbon energy supercluster, that includes new nuclear, tidal, wind and hydrogen opportunities, Severn Edge is ready to deliver a net zero future while levelling up communities and boosting the economy.

Led by the Western Gateway Partnership, Severn Edge is a collaboration of industry, academia, communities and political leaders, which champions the development of a low carbon energy hub – fostering innovation in renewable energy, hydrogen and new nuclear technology. It supports the development of two decommissioning nuclear power plants in Oldbury-on-Severn (in South Gloucestershire) and Berkeley (in Gloucestershire).

Oldbury-on-Severn has approximately 370 acres of land that is nationally designated for nuclear development (EN-6) with existing assets and grid infrastructure. In March 2024, The UK Government announced a £160m deal for Great British Nuclear to acquire the Oldbury-on-Severn and Wylfa sites from Hitachi with a view to completion by Summer 2024.

Berkeley is home to a University Technical College for engineering and cyber, plus ground-breaking R&D facilities to support low carbon and renewable energy technology. The Chiltern Vital Group have been unveiled as the preferred bidder at the Berkeley Science & Technology Park and are now proceeding to complete acquisition of that space. The Group has created a consortium with Rolls Royce SMR and with the University of Bristol (which hosts the South West Nuclear Hub) to support the growth of a skills and innovation programme at the site, also in partnership with SGS College.

The Chiltern Vital Group has announced a collaboration with Industria S.A. in Poland to include cooperation in the following areas: training and skills development for Polish students and professionals; exchange of know-how to expedite the licensing process for components dedicated to the nuclear industry; joint development of related technologies to create future large low-emission regional zero carbon industrial technology parks; and creation of private funding models to support the financial viability of Small Modular Reactor projects.







# Food and Drink

The West Country is renowned for its agriculture and its production of a wide range of produce used throughout the country. Additionally, there are numerous innovative producers in the food and beverage industry who are introducing new products to the market, gaining recognition both nationally and internationally.

## Drinks

An established brand for almost 30 years, [6 O'clock Gin](#) has its roots in South Gloucestershire. It is based in Thornbury and the gin is distilled using their unique double sphere copper pot. 6 O'clock Gin is widely available in outlets across the country, and also exported to Europe, USA, Canada, Southeast Asia and beyond.

[Bath Ales](#) also has its main, state-of-the-art brewhouse in Warmley, which opened in 2018 following a multi-million-pound investment by St Austell Brewery (its parent company). Hare Brewery has doubled the west country brewer's previous brewing capacity to 50,000 brewers' barrels of beer.



© 6 O'clock Gin

[Chew Valley Distillery](#), a newcomer to the drink's scene, was established in 2020. Despite its short time in the industry, this family-run business based in Bitton has made a significant impact in the gin world. Since its inception, the distillery has relocated to facilitate its growth and has won several awards, including the World Gin Awards and The Gin Guide Awards.

## Food

Given that parts of South Gloucestershire are agricultural, producing quality food is something we take pride in.

[Marshfield Farm Ice Cream](#) has been in business for over 30 years and now offers more than thirty award-winning flavours of dairy ice cream. Marshfield Farm remains a thriving dairy farm, with over 250 British Friesian cows being the sole source of milk for their ice cream, which is produced on-site. The business has grown significantly, now supplying over 8,000 independent ice cream parlours, cafes, restaurants and farm shops across the country.







© Forge and Fern

© GingerBeard's Preserves

## More food

South Gloucestershire is home to award-winning preserves.

[Single Variety Co.](#) has relocated to Warmley to expand its business, now selling jam to the US and Canada, and having over 500 stockists across the UK. The company won the best retailer in the Bristol Life Awards and has been consistently winning Great Taste Awards for several years, officially earning the title of Great Taste Producer.



© Forge and Fern

Another growing business in the area is [GingerBeard's Preserves](#) which was founded in 2014. They currently produce around 200,000 units per year by hand in their unit at Station Road Workshops in Kingswood. GingerBeard's preserves have won multiple awards including Taste of the West Gold awards.

## Station Road Workshops

Station Road Workshops (SRW) provides an ideal space for new food or drink businesses, as GingerBeard's Preserves has discovered. Owned by South Gloucestershire Council and managed by New Work Trust, SRW offers workshops and offices, including some suitable for catering companies. For more information please visit [www.newworktrust.co.uk](http://www.newworktrust.co.uk)

## Hospitality

South Gloucestershire boasts a wide variety of exceptional food and drink products and, as a result, there are numerous outstanding eateries where you can sample them. Some of these include:

- [Thornbury Castle](#) – This beautiful 16th century building, which once hosted King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn on their honeymoon, now houses three AA Rosette dining rooms where you can enjoy its rich history.
- [Hattusa Restaurant at Berwick Lodge](#) – Set in beautiful grounds, Berwick Lodge offers a unique, luxury dining experience in its two AA Rosette restaurant, creating a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.
- [Ronnie's of Thornbury](#) – Chef Patron Ronnie and Rob offer a distinctive fine dining experience, showcasing their creativity, knowledge and passion for fabulous food. The restaurant has been awarded two AA Rosettes for 2023-24.
- [Curious Kitchen](#) – a double Rosette award-winning restaurant at the Aztec Hotel and Spa, with a menu inspired by flavours from around the globe.
- [The Forge & Fern](#) – an independent gastro pub in Staple Hill with a focus on using local produce and supporting the community. This new business has won two Bristol Life Awards in 2023. Sample some of their gin, honey and herbs produced on-site.

Find out more about Food & Drink Innovation:

[www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/food-drink-innovation](http://www.bristolandbath.co.uk/key-sectors/food-drink-innovation)



# Investing in Our Communities

South Gloucestershire is a wonderful place to live, and we are committed to maintaining its appeal. We have developed masterplans to address the needs of our communities, including their housing requirements. Additionally, we have invested in our high streets, recognising their significance as vital community spaces where local people shop, socialise, work, access services or simply take a moment to pause and watch the world go by.

## Masterplans

The Council is investing in its future by developing a series of strategic infrastructure-led masterplans that outline a vision for the area's future up to 2050 and beyond. These comprehensive and ambitious place-based documents capture how each area should evolve to support its community, including managing development and encouraging growth. The masterplans are committed to addressing the climate and nature emergency, reducing inequality, creating healthy and resilient communities with good housing and transport to ensure that children thrive.

## Housing

We are collaborating with partner organisations to achieve our vision and ambitions for housing, as outlined in our housing strategy. For more information, please go to [www.southglos.gov.uk/housing-strategy](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/housing-strategy)

Over the past five years, South Gloucestershire Council has been the [highest performing local authority in England for delivering social rented housing](#) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2023). This showcases our dedication to providing access to quality, affordable homes for all.

## High streets

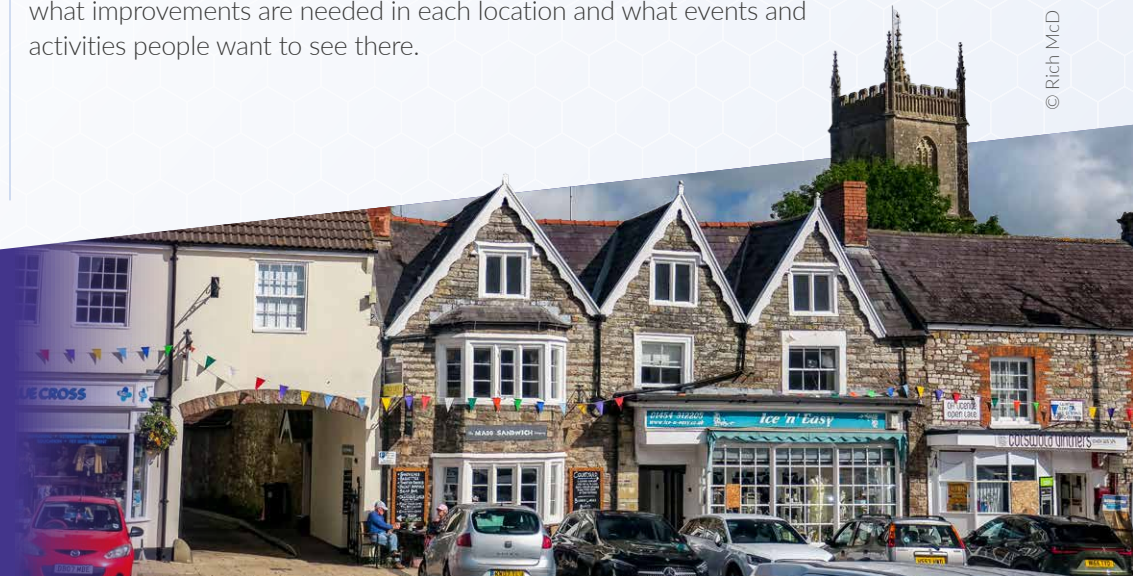
We are providing a range of support and investment to help improve and regenerate our eight high streets, each with its own unique identity.

In response to the feedback we have received from surveys about our high streets, we have:

- distributed £400,000 of funding to help community groups and businesses with the reopening of high streets.
- supported High Street Partnership Groups, Chambers of Commerce and other local business groups to recover and re-open post-Covid.
- set up a new skills hub in Kingswood.
- helped businesses with events and projects designed to attract more visitors.
- improved and refurbished public areas with new planters, seats, signage and public toilet facilities.

We continue to work closely with our high street partners to understand what improvements are needed in each location and what events and activities people want to see there.

© Rich McD





## Regeneration projects

We have collaborated with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and Bristol City Council on a strategic infrastructure-led masterplan for the **North Fringe** of Bristol. More details can be found at: [www.southglos.gov.uk/north-fringe-masterplan](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/north-fringe-masterplan)

A masterplan has been completed for **Bristol Parkway Station** and its surroundings, funded by WECA and Local Enterprise Partnership through the Investment Fund, administered by WECA. For further details visit: [www.southglos.gov.uk/parkway-station-masterplan](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/parkway-station-masterplan)

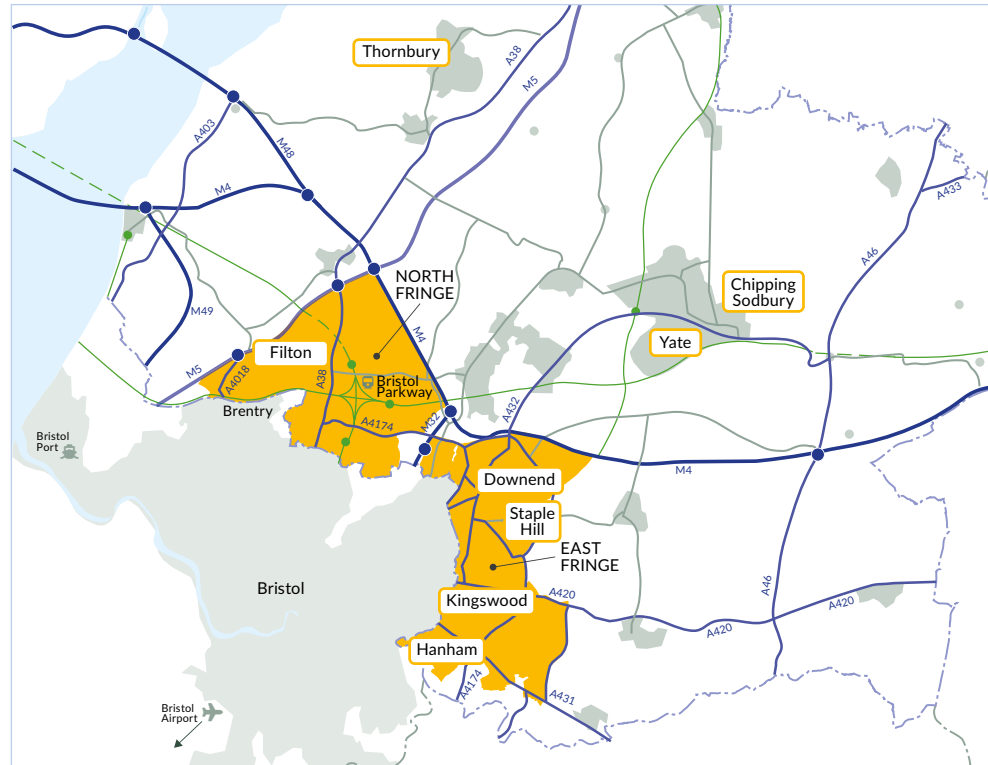
The council is developing a comprehensive plan for the **East Fringe** area, including a vision and strategy for the Ring Road, covering short, medium and long-term proposals.



Over £4.6 million has been invested in **Thornbury Town Centre**, thanks to WECA funding.



A masterplan has been completed for **Yate**. More details can be found at: [www.southglos.gov.uk/yate-town-improvement-masterplan](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/yate-town-improvement-masterplan)



Affordable housing is being developed in various locations across the district – including the creation of homes for social rent and shared ownership in **Brentley**. Alliance Homes and Woodstock Partnerships are collaborating to deliver a scheme of 29 affordable homes. These homes will also be environmentally friendly too, featuring solar panels and air-source heat pumps.



A masterplan has been completed for **Kingswood**, a £25 million commitment to regenerate the town centre and surrounding areas, and preserve its rich history.



Funding from the Love our High Streets Fund by WECA is being utilised for enhancing public spaces in **Hanham**.

Find out more about these sectors in South Gloucestershire here:

[www.southglos.gov.uk/community-and-living/shop-local](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/community-and-living/shop-local)



[www.southglos.gov.uk/masterplanning-place-shaping](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/masterplanning-place-shaping)



# South Gloucestershire Set for the future