

# Future for Portbury Avonmouth Severnside Working view for discussion

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, SevernNet



# An overview – key points

- **Cohesive coastal community** embracing industry, villages and nature
- **Port-City Industrial area** – economic engine for the West of England
- **Centre for logistics** ... and so much more
- **Area of excellence** for circular economy, resource and energy management and generation
- **Pilot Circular Economy Zone** – Circular Economy Vision for 2030
- **Development space available** and more as flood works complete
  
- **Area provides platform for net zero, circular, development**
  - Building on strengths and opportunities to draw in synergistic businesses including manufacturing enabling higher value jobs and careers
- **This is SevernNet's vision.**
  - We'd like to work with you to realise it and create the vision and sense of place around it

# Key challenges

## Three key challenges

- Transport
  - Skills and employment
  - Shared vision and supporting development & collaborative approaches
- 
- and enabling investment

# Key challenges in more detail

## Transport

- Under/slow to realise investment in transport infrastructure
  - Severn Beach Line – half hourly and hourly services delayed by 3-4 years
  - M49 Junction – junction has now been complete since Dec 2019 – no link road likely (optimistically) until summer 2022
  - No public transport joining Portbury and Avonmouth
  - Very limited public transport joining Avonmouth & Severnside
  - Significant 'last mile' journeys
- Need to think orbitally as well as radially – transport systems not dependant on Bristol as a hub; and direct links from areas with labour pools we want to connect to work

## Skills and employment

- Desperate shortage of people to fill vacancies exacerbated by transport challenges
- Deprived and un/under employed local communities not engaged
- Locally delivered higher education, training and skills development was lost
- Need to upskill, add higher value jobs and deliver training & skills development locally via an 'Academy without Walls'

## Shared Vision and supporting development and collaborative approaches

- For Portbury Avonmouth Severnside ... shared by all three Local Authorities, WECA **and** local business and residential communities.
- Strategic and common sense approaches to building out the area – circular and net zero thinking from outset
- Necessary infrastructure incl. water, power, sewerage, communications installed at scale rather than piecemeal – more efficient and constant digging up roads has high economic cost

# The last 12 years – key points

- **Developing a local network** – enabling cooperation and collaboration to address common challenges and provide a voice
- **Portbury Avonmouth Severnside** – helping gain recognition for the importance of this economically important coastal community; and grow a sense of place
- **Developed SevernNet Area Coastal Community Economic Plan** – with funding from MHRC Coastal Communities
- **Transport is key** – poor transport infrastructure is the root cause of many of the area’s challenges. *We’ve:*
  - Brought together all 3 local authorities and other stakeholders regularly to support action
  - Campaigned for M49 Junction and now for missing link, improvement in rail services and bus services
  - Established private bus services in absence of public, as step to commercial provision
  - Hosting an important 5G trial with Port at Centre
  - Supported and are supporting active travel through campaigning for local walking & cycling network; secured some investment; developed successful Severn Ride & Stride active travel support service
- **Skills and training is key** – with a shortage of jobseekers we must make the area attractive to work in and provide valued career paths for the area’s workforce. *We’ve:*
  - Regularly brought together LAs, other stakeholders and businesses to discuss and support action
  - Developed local community and employment hubs through Coastal Community Fund and Port Resilience Fund
  - Placed proposals to WECA for Skills Academy feasibility
  - Developed a concept – PASSPORT Bristol – UK CRF Fund Bid Pending – with job seekers needs and a PAS Academy without walls at its heart
- **Net Zero and Circular Economy is key** – the area is already ahead with exemplars in their field. *We’ve:*
  - Initiated a resource efficiency culture which led to business behaviour change and related savings
  - Brought together all 3 local authorities and other stakeholders regularly to support action
  - Participated in Bristol Energy Smart Systems Transformation initiative
  - Developed a pilot Circular Economy Zone concept and opportunity for regional Centre of Circular Expertise based locally
  - Developed links with Port of Amsterdam and others with net zero and circular economy at the centre of their strategy
  - Recommended, and are recommending, a more strategic, collaborative and visionary approach for Portbury Avonmouth Severnside

# What now?

- Working collaboratively has enabled progress, provides mutual benefits and drives value creation
- We want to work with Bristol City Council to:
  - Build upon the strong foundations, incorporating NSC and SGC
  - Enable a much more strategic and visionary approach for area
  - Help us build a better sense of place and recognition for the value of Portbury Avonmouth Severnside as a place to live, work and play; and build on the natural environment of this coastal community
  - Put net zero and circularity at the heart supported by the needed skills and transport infrastructure
  - Support us to secure the resources needed to facilitate our mutual aims
    - Funding for PASSPORT Bristol is also critical