Friday 3rd June 2022

Urban Change in Bristol

The Importance of Bristol

* Has two universities
* Transport Hub for the South-West of England:
  + International Airport
  + Strong rail links to Europe
* One of the 10 core cities in the UK
* Popular Attraction include:
  + Avonmouth Docks
  + Clifton Suspension Bridge
  + Bristol Old Vic Theatre

Impact of Migration on Bristol

* Population of 440,500, with a **9% growth since 2000**
  + International Migration accounts for ~50% of this growth.
  + Most International Migrants come from Poland, Somalia, India, and Jamaica.
* Many people and businesses have **moved from London** due to the rising cost of rent – **land is much cheaper in Bristol.**

Growth Opportunities

Social:

* Increased cultural mix in Bristol has led to more diverse social gatherings
* Bristol has two football teams:
  + Bristol City
  + Bristol Rovers

Economic:

* Below-Average unemployment rate
* Large Technology company offices (eg Toshiba)
* Development areas (such as the Cabot Circus) have been rebuilt, with new opportunities for growth in the entertainment and retail industries.
* Integrated Transport System (ITS) links Bristol Temple Meads Station with Park + Ride sites.

Environmental:

* Urban Greening policy – Government aims to make 30% of the city green spaces
* 90% of the population live within 350m of a park/waterway

Growth Challenges

Filwood:

* An example of Urban Deprivation and Social Inequality
* One of the Top 10% of most deprived areas in the country.
* Average of 1300 crimes per year
* Life Expectancy of 78 years compared to National Average of 81

Stoke Bishop:

* One of the most affluent (wealthy) areas in the country
* Less than 300 crimes per year
* Life Expectancy of 83 years

Environmental Challenges:

* Bristol produces 500,000 tonnes of waste per year, with most of it being sent to landfill.
* Many industrial buildings in the Stokes Croft area were abandoned after WWII.
* The population growth of Bristol has led to building on brownfield sites.

Urban Sprawl:

* Urban Sprawl – When a city spreads into the rural-urban fringe surrounding it
* New houses continue to be built on greenfield sites to the North of Bristol