



Committee Report

PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Key decision affects 2 or more wards

COMMITTEE: Environment and Sustainability Committee

DATE: 26 September 2024

TITLE: Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plan

Ward(s): Citywide.

Officer presenting the report: Alex Minshull **Job title:** Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager

Committee Chair: Councillor Martin Fodor

Executive Director lead: John Smith: Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration

Proposal origin: BCC Staff

Purpose of Report:

1. To seek approval to submit the Bristol One City Climate Commitments, Action Plan and Investment Plan to the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative for their endorsement.
2. To delegate to Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration authority, to deal with any feedback from the Mission Programme.
3. To seek approval for continued participation in the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative.

Evidence Base:

Context

1. Bristol City Council, along with city partners, local businesses and communities across the city have been working hard to reduce the city's emissions for many years. We have seen reductions in emissions of 50% overall and 60% per person between 2005 and 2022. This is about 10% better than the national average for the same period. Emissions included these figures are those from electricity and gas use in homes, businesses and road transport within the city and span the first and last year for which we have local emissions data. Appendix A1 has further details.
2. Bristol's One City Climate Strategy builds on this work by setting out the city's goals for achieving a carbon neutral city. The Strategy identifies a series of objectives and provides a high-level estimate of the scale of investment that is needed to achieve this. The council and partners are working hard to deliver those objectives and facilitate that investment but it will require substantial investment from the private sector nationally and from the UK government.
3. The council is busy implementing a wide range of initiatives including investment in sustainable transport, energy efficiency improvements in homes, reducing waste and improving recycling and

reducing the council's own operational emissions and emissions related to the goods and services we buy.

4. A key initiative is the Bristol City Leap is planning investment of £770m during the period 2024 to 2029, with most of that investment being made by private sector partners.
5. The council and city partners want to facilitate additional investment to accelerate decarbonisation and ensure that this transition process is fair and just, ensuring that everyone in the city is able to benefit from the opportunities it presents. Central to this is working with partners, building on the One City Approach, with a focused programme called Mission Net Zero.
6. Mission Net Zero has three key elements:
 - i. Creating detailed investment plans and a pipeline of projects: working with partner organisations across the region, citywide and in three pilot communities
 - ii. Developing and accessing new financing mechanisms to deliver the increased level of investment in carbon reducing projects
 - iii. Seeking to ensure that Bristol's people and businesses can benefit from the delivery of that investment, including work on skills and the just transition.
7. This paper is focused on the approval of the citywide action and investment plan documents that form part of point (i) above and which are described in more detail below. As actions are developed into more concrete programmes of work, in line with the principles of the Just Transition, the focus will be on ensuring the city's residents benefit from the jobs, cleaner air and warmer homes which decarbonisation will deliver.

Background to the One City Climate Action Plan and Investment Plan

8. Bristol is one of only two UK cities that successfully secured a place in a Horizon Europe initiative – the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission. Horizon Europe is the Europe-wide research and innovation programme which the UK has joined alongside several other countries and the whole of the European Union.
9. The Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative is supporting 112 cities to secure financial investment to achieve their net zero goals and ensure a just transition. Bristol has received technical support to develop a package of documents:
 - Statement of Commitment from Bristol City Council and key partners
 - Bristol One City Climate Action Plan, which sets out the actions which the city considers necessary to achieve its climate goals
 - Bristol One City Climate Investment Plan, which sets out the financial investment needed to deliver the action plan.
10. Cities that are part of the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative are invited to submit the package this Autumn to receive official endorsement of their Plans by the initiative. This endorsement will give the council and city partners access to the emerging European Capital Hub which the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission is setting up. This will support cities to access finance from private sector investors and national governments, and where applicable European Union funding programmes.

Development of the Plans

11. The city's participation in the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative and the creation of the action and investment plans has been supported by the One City Environment Board and the City Council on several occasions.
12. The One City Climate Strategy and its objectives are the basis of the action and investment plans. Council officers identified the key stakeholders that were needed to deliver the objectives and invited organisations to join the Transition Team. See Appendix A1 for the 27 members of the Transition Team.
13. To create the Bristol One City Climate Action Plan, the Transition Team was subdivided into working groups focused on key emissions areas including transport, energy, buildings, waste and business. Throughout a series of workshops, groups collaborated to devise actions which aim to achieve the objectives of the One City Climate Strategy.
14. To create the Bristol One City Investment Plan, officers combined information from members of the Transition Team with work commissioned from consultants to create estimates for the cost of each action.
15. The plans have been developed rapidly to meet the requirements of the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative and provide us with a strong first version. Thanks to funding from Innovate UK Net Zero Pathfinder Places Demonstrator Programme, the council and partners will be undertaking substantial further data analysis and engagement with three communities through to October 2025 which can inform future versions and improvements of the plans. This funding is enabling us to deliver the other components of our Mission Net Zero Programme described in paragraph 6.

The Plans

16. The plans are included in the Appendices:
 - A1: Introduction to the plans
 - A2: Bristol One City Climate Commitments
 - A3: Bristol One City Climate Action Plan
 - A4: Bristol One City Climate Investment Plan
17. The plans are substantial documents which have been created using the templates of the Mission Programme. It is important to note that action to address the city's greenhouse gas emissions needs a collaborative approach involving action locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
18. The Bristol One City Climate Action Plan describes 26 high level "individual action outlines" to progress towards carbon neutrality – in reality, each of these is a very substantial programme, rather than a single action, but this is how the Mission initiative describes them. For example, there is one "individual action outline" to describe the whole of the expansion of the district heat networks in the city, and one to cover the installation of heat pumps in homes.
19. The Investment Plan then estimates the investment needed for these actions where possible. The investment figures relate to the whole of Bristol (not just the council's or Transition Team organisations responsibilities) and total some £7.8bn. The scale of actions detailed in the plan is larger than previous climate action in a UK city and therefore results come with considerable uncertainty but nonetheless provide a useful guide to assess the scale of investment opportunities and requirements.
20. Clearly, investment on this scale will be dependent on investment from all parts of the economy and

from national government, not just the actions of the council and city partners. The UK Committee on Climate Change advises national government on progress towards the UK's statutory climate targets. With regard to the national 2030 target, the committee recently reported that *"the country is not on track to hit this target"* and that *"only a third of the emissions reductions required to achieve the 2030 target are currently covered by credible plans. Action is needed across all sectors of the economy, with low-carbon technologies becoming the norm."* The new government elected in July is bringing forward new climate policies and plans which it is hoped will accelerate climate action in the UK and therefore Bristol.

21. It is anticipated that any government funding will be focused on investing in infrastructure, enabling investment by the private sector and supporting lower income households to save energy and switch to cleaner heating systems.
22. Investment in climate action creates substantial opportunities for Bristol including in jobs, cleaner air and reduced fuel bills. These benefits have been described at a high level in the documents and as actions are developed in more detail will be explored further as the business case for investment is made.
23. This high level approach enables:
 - The Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative to combine the plans of all 112 cities to understand the activity and investment priorities of cities as a whole, in order to present these investment opportunities at scale to potential funders and investors.
 - Bristol city partners to refine the One City Climate Strategy into more specific activities and to have that overview of the investment needs of the city.
 - The relevant Bristol city partners can then work up selected actions in more detail into fundable/investable programmes to accelerate climate action.
24. BCC's Environmental Impact Assessment has determined that implementation of the actions in the plans would create significant beneficial impacts and make a significant contribution to Bristol's decarbonisation.

Officer Recommendations:

That the Committee for Environment and Sustainability:

1. Approves the submission version of the Bristol One City Climate Commitments, Action Plan and Investment Plan to support the achievement of the council's and city's climate objectives.
2. Agrees submission of these documents to the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative for their endorsement.
3. Delegates to Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, to amend the documents and take other necessary steps to respond to the feedback, in order to secure the endorsement above.
4. Endorses the council's continued participation in the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative and to delegate to Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, to take steps as necessary to secure benefits for Bristol from participation in the initiative.

Corporate Strategy Alignment:

1. The proposals are strongly aligned with Corporate Priority ENV1 Carbon Neutrality.

City Benefits:

1. The proposals support the council and city partners in our efforts to secure investment in net zero projects and in supporting a just transition.

Consultation Details:

1. In September 2023, Overview & Scrutiny Management Board recommended that the report of the Cross-Party Climate Change Working Group be submitted to Cabinet. Following the working group’s consideration of the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative, they recommended supporting the council collaborating with partners to develop joined up action to support our climate goals and strongly supported our participation in the EU Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission programme.
2. The Action Plan has been developed in collaboration with members of Bristol’s “Transition Team” which comprises 27 partner organisations, see Appendix A. The objectives of the One City Climate Strategy 2020 have been used to shape the actions and this was developed in consultation with a range of city partners.
3. The work draws upon previous engagement with citizens, including the Citizens’ Assembly of 2020 and the Community Climate Action Plans which have been or are being developed by 18 communities across the city.
4. The draft Actions have been reviewed by the One City Environment Board and by the Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change and amendments made to reflect their feedback where appropriate.
5. Future iterations of the action and investment plans will draw upon the public engagement being undertaken as part of the Innovate UK Net Zero Pathfinder Places Demonstrator Project (Mission Net Zero Project), working in depth with communities in Knowle West, Southmead and Easton.

Background Documents:

[Bristol One City Climate Strategy](#)

[Cabinet Paper: Expansion of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme \(7 June 2022\)](#)

[Oversight and Scrutiny Management Board Paper: Climate Change Working Group Recommendations \(4 September 2023\)](#)

[Environment and Sustainability Committee decision to proceed with the project \(26th July 2024\)](#)

[Full Council Paper: Just Transition Declaration \(12 December 2023\)](#)

One City Action and Investment Plans Methodology and Assumptions Annex

Revenue Cost	N/A	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>		Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> If yes - existing or new saving? Choose an item. OR Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	

Professional comments section:

1. Finance Advice: This report sets out the next steps to deliver the One City Climate Strategy that was endorsed by the Council in 2020. Co-ordinating the strategy and plans will be delivered using existing resources within the Council so there are no new direct financial implications to the Council. However, more broadly, delivering the Strategy requires private sector and central government investment given the scale (nearly £8bn). Securing the endorsement and therefore access to a wider range of capital investment through the European Climate Capital Hub is critical to accessing that funding.

Finance Business Partner: Ben Hegarty, Finance Business Partner Growth and Regeneration, 5 August 2024.

2. Legal Advice:

The proposal to develop an action plan and investment plan, and its submission to the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission initiative raises no particular legal issues. Legal Services will provide support in connection with any grant/funding arrangements which may flow from the project, and/or any procurement activities.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews – Team Leader: Legal Services, 7 August 2024

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect, 7 August 2024

4. HR Advice: There are no direct HR implications in this report as existing staff will develop the business cases for external investment. If funds are secured, additional staff may be required by BCC in due course.

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner 7 August 2024

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	YES
Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment	YES
Appendix D – Decision Risk Assessment	NO
Appendix E – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix	NO
Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis	NO