

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission

Date 14th September 2020



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Title: Update on the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan and development of BCC Climate Programme

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Scrutiny Commission are asked to:

- * note the progress of the key actions in the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan
- * note the work being undertaken to develop the Bristol City Council Climate Change Programme for consideration by Cabinet in November 2020.

1. Summary

The Mayor published his Climate Emergency Action Plan in July 2019. This set out a range of actions which the Council would take in response to the Climate Emergency, both internally and as a contribution to wider action in the city. This report provides an update on the Key Actions in that plan.

The largest area of activity has been the rapid development of the One City Climate Strategy, led by the One City Environment Board¹, co-chaired by the Mayor. The strategy was approved by the Board on 26th February 2020 and by the Mayor at Cabinet on 3rd March 2020.

Progress has continued on the other actions in the plan, however, these have been affected and delayed by Covid-19 impacting on BCC's and partners capacity.

Additional funding has been provided in on-going revenue funding and ear-marked climate change reserves funding.

A new BCC Climate Change Programme is under development and the business case will be considered by Cabinet in November.

2. Policy Context

The UK Government has set a statutory target for the UK to be net-zero carbon by 2050.

The Mayor of Bristol has declared a Climate Emergency and set the Goal for Bristol as a city to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 for all emissions, both direct energy and transport (Scope 1&2) emissions and consumption based (Scope 3²) emissions and become a climate resilient city. The Mayor has also created the One City Approach and the City Office with its thematic boards, including the Environment Board.

The Bristol City Council Business Plan 2020/21 included the delivery of the Mayor's action plan and of the council's contribution to the One City Climate Strategy. A Covid-19 Recovery Edition was approved by Cabinet on 1st September 2020, maintaining these key actions.

Clearly, Covid-19 has impacted on the City Council's and partners abilities to progress action on the Mayor's Action Plan and the One City Climate Strategy.

2. Update on the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan

The Mayor reported to Full Council in July on the action being taken in response to the Climate Emergency. Initial progress on the implementation of this plan was reported to Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission in September 2019 and again in January 2020. The following table provides a further update for the Commission.

If focuses on those actions which are focused solely on the Climate Emergency and does not include the much wider delivery programme of projects, such as the City Leap Energy

¹ The Environment Board was initially called the Environmental Sustainability Board

² The Scope of emissions are defined in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and further details are given in the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Partnership, sustainable transport plans etc many of which have been considered separately by Scrutiny.

Key Action	Update
Establish effective city governance structures to enable and support climate action	<p>The Mayor has established two effective groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One City Environment Board – key leaders in the city from a wide range of partners who have led the development of the One City Climate Strategy, as well as helped to integrate climate change into the One City plan and the Economic Recovery Statement of Intent. • Bristol Advisory Climate Change Committee – leading experts from academia, industry, public sector and community organisations – to provide independent advice to the One City Office and City Council. Their first annual report will be published in November.
<p>Call on government for increased powers and resources and to lead through national policies, taxation etc</p> <p>Call on government to review the societal impacts of achieving net-zero carbon</p>	<p>The Mayor is the Climate Change portfolio holder for the Core Cities Cabinet and has led the production of the Core Cities Climate Emergency Declaration.</p>
Develop and deliver a One City Climate Strategy, working with City Office Partners	<p>The Mayor provided human and financial resources for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a comprehensive evidence base on emissions from all scopes and climate resilience has been produced and published. • The development of the One City Climate Strategy, built on the evidence base. It was adopted by the Board in February 2020 and endorsed by the Mayor March 2020. <p>Promotion of the strategy and development of delivery plans has been delayed due to Covid-19.</p>
Deliver a climate change public engagement programme	<p>Supported the successful Bristol bid to the Big Lottery's Community Action Fund – this will support 6 communities to develop their own Climate Action Plans. This has secured £375k for this project – significantly multiplying the council's financial investment in the development of the bid. Over 600 applications were received for this fund and only 19 projects funded.</p> <p>The Bristol Climate Hub website has been developed and will be launched shortly. This will provide key information and a guide to action for citizens. It will be further developed. It has been produced in-house and therefore delayed due to reallocation of communications staff to Covid-19 response.</p> <p>A 3 year communications and engagement plan is being developed as part of the BCC Climate Change Programme.</p>

	<p>It draws upon advice from leading climate change communications experts and will be reviewed by the BACCC.</p>
<p>Commit to the Council being carbon neutral for our direct (Scope 1 & 2) emissions by 2025</p> <p>Quantify the Council's indirect (Scope 3) emissions</p>	<p>This commitment has been made and a plan is being developed to ensure it can be delivered in the most sustainable way possible. This will form part of the Climate Programme.</p> <p>Scope 1&2 emissions have been quantified and an action plan to neutralise them by 2025 is being developed as part of the Climate Programme.</p> <p>Scope 3 emissions scope and estimated for key areas of capital projects and procurement. Actions to understand these better and reduce them will form part of the Climate Programme.</p> <p>A new Climate and Environmental Impact Assessment tool has been developed and is being tested with colleagues at present. This will be applied much earlier in the development of initiatives than present system.</p> <p>Further work on the carbon budgeting process will take place as part of the Climate Change Programme.</p>
<p>Train city leaders, councillors and council staff in climate change to enable them to respond to the climate emergency in everything they do</p>	<p>Many City Leaders and Stakeholders attended the Climate Reality presentation in November</p> <p>Climate Change Learning and Development Advisor appointed</p> <p>Face to face Carbon Literacy training piloted prior to Covid-19 restrictions</p> <p>Bespoke BCC on-line training courses being developed on Climate Awareness, Approaches and Solutions and Climate Leadership</p> <p>A full 2 year training project is being developed as part of the Climate Change Programme.</p>
<p>NEW: Covid Recovery Planning</p>	<p>The Mayor has promoted the use of the Sustainable Development Goals. The One City Covid-19 Economic Recovery Statement of Intent aims to contribute significantly to the achievement of the One City Climate Strategy and this is being reflected in the detailed planning for recovery.</p> <p>Action is also being taken to maximise the benefits for Bristol of the government grants for home and public building retrofit.</p>

3. Resources

The Mayor has provided the following additional financial resources to our climate change work.

- £250k one off in 2019/20 (Cabinet 2/9/19)
- £150k additional revenue budget in 2020/21 rising to £300k from 2021/22 onwards (Council Budget Feb 2020)
- An allocation of £3m of Reserves for specific projects (Council Budget Feb 2020).

The additional resources had allowed the creation of a new Climate Change Team, a new Team Manager has been appointed, existing staff reassigned to the team and further recruitment will take place in the coming months.

4. Development of the Bristol City Council Climate Programme

A new Climate Change Programme including more specific projects is being developed and this will be considered for approval by Cabinet in November 2020, and will be funded from a combination of the on-going revenue and reserve funding.