

BCC Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme

Summary

1. Our Approach

Bristol City Council is a leading voice in the UK's local authority-level response to the climate and ecological emergencies.

Building on a successful track record we were the first council to declare a Climate Emergency and we helped mobilise the whole sector through the Local Government Association. Over 16 city organisations have joined us in declaring climate emergencies and committing to action.

In February 2020 the Mayor and city partners also declared an Ecological Emergency in recognition of urgent need for nature recovery, in the city and globally.

The One City Approach

To address challenges like global emergencies of climate and ecological systems, we know that we need to come together as One City. The Mayor has created the One City approach to tackle these and other strategic challenges for the city. The One City Approach brings together a huge range of public, private, voluntary and third sector partners within Bristol. They share an aim to make Bristol a fair, healthy and sustainable city.

<https://www.bristolonecity.com/>

A Strategic Approach

In response to any major emergency one needs a clear strategy, supported by many organisations. To address the twin emergencies of climate and ecology the Mayor has worked with One City Partners to create two key strategies:

1. One City Climate [Strategy](#)
2. One City Ecological Emergency [Strategy](#).

These two strategies have been built on a substantial research and evidence base and with a wide range of partner involved.

The creation of these strategies has been made possible by the city council's contribution of funding and many partners' contributions and expertise.

An Integrated Approach

To deliver on the goals of the strategies the council needs to translate these into specific action plans it can build into its work. The first of these was the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan July 2019. This set in train some initial projects to start to enact the Council Motion. The key projects were:

- To develop the One City Climate Strategy, built on robust research and an evidence base. Completed.
- To train council staff on climate change to enable them to contribute effectively to the delivery of the strategy. We have developed training modules, tested them with colleagues, moved them on-line in response to Covid and launched them. Further modules will be developed.
- To engage with communities in the city. We have created the Climate Hub Website

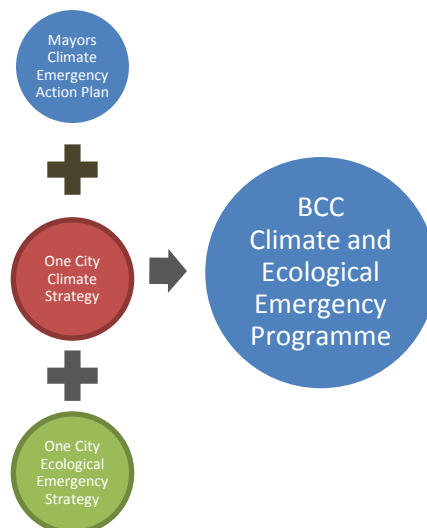
and supported the successful Bristol consortium bid to the Big Lottery, Community Action Fund which has secured funding for 6 communities in the city to develop their own climate action plans.

These projects have all completed their key phase of delivery and will be continued and developed through the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme.

2. The Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme

This Programme of work is comprised of projects and on-going work to make a rapid, impactful and affordable response to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies over the next 3 years. Specifically:

- A) Continued delivery of the Mayor's existing commitments in his Climate Emergency Action Plan
- B) Enabling delivery the Mayor's and council's commitments under the:
 - o One City Climate Strategy; and
 - o One City Ecological Emergency Strategy.



Programme Principles

The Programme has been developed with some key principles, which draw upon the agreed principles of the One City Climate Strategy:

1. **Strategic and evidence based:** The programme focuses on the Priorities of the agreed climate and ecological strategies. Projects in the programme support key strategic initiatives of the city council, for example the City Leap Programme, helping to accelerate investment in decarbonisation of the council's property estate. The programme also adds momentum to successful initiatives such as the Going for Gold sustainable food project, helping this to contribute to reductions in the carbon footprint of the city's food system. Several of the projects will enable us to improve our understanding of problems and opportunities thereby enabling more effective action.
2. **Transformative.** Using the programme's resources to multiply our impact. Every pound spent by the programme will lever additional funding and action by council services, partners and communities. We aim to directly lever £3 for every £1 we spend through the programme and influence much more. Through initiatives like training council staff we will give them the skills and confidence they need to embed

climate change in everything we do.



3. **Collaborative:** The strategies have been developed through collaboration and their successful realisation relies on that collaboration continuing through the One City Approach and more specific co-ordination, networking and support. By definition collaboration involves more than one party, but the city council will, through this programme provide support to key networks and contribute to specific initiatives. We are confident that partners around the city will join us in support this collaborative process.
4. **Fair:** A fair and just response to the climate and ecological emergencies is critical in itself and for achieving successful outcomes. The programme will ensure that the effects of each project are carefully considered and also includes specific work areas to increase inclusion and diversity in the environmental arena and to actively support communities with small grants funding.
5. **Learning and flexible:** The programme will learn from its actions and those of others to improve delivery of subsequent phases and it will be flexible to respond to changing circumstances and opportunities, whilst maintaining its focus on the strategic goals.

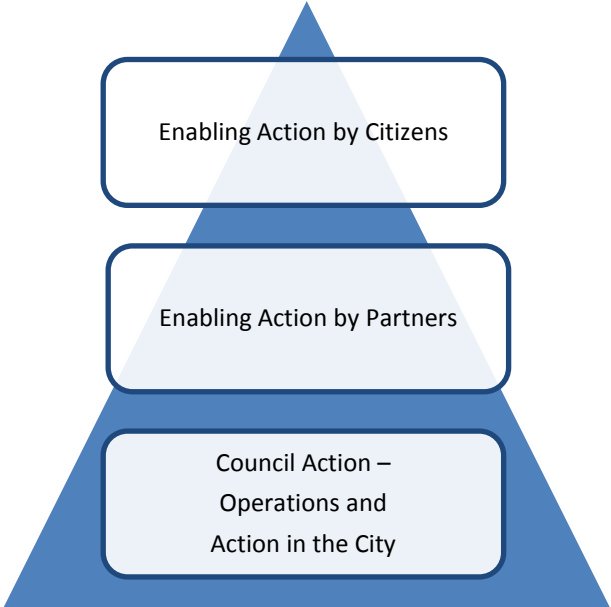
Programme Objectives

The programme has 3 key objectives:

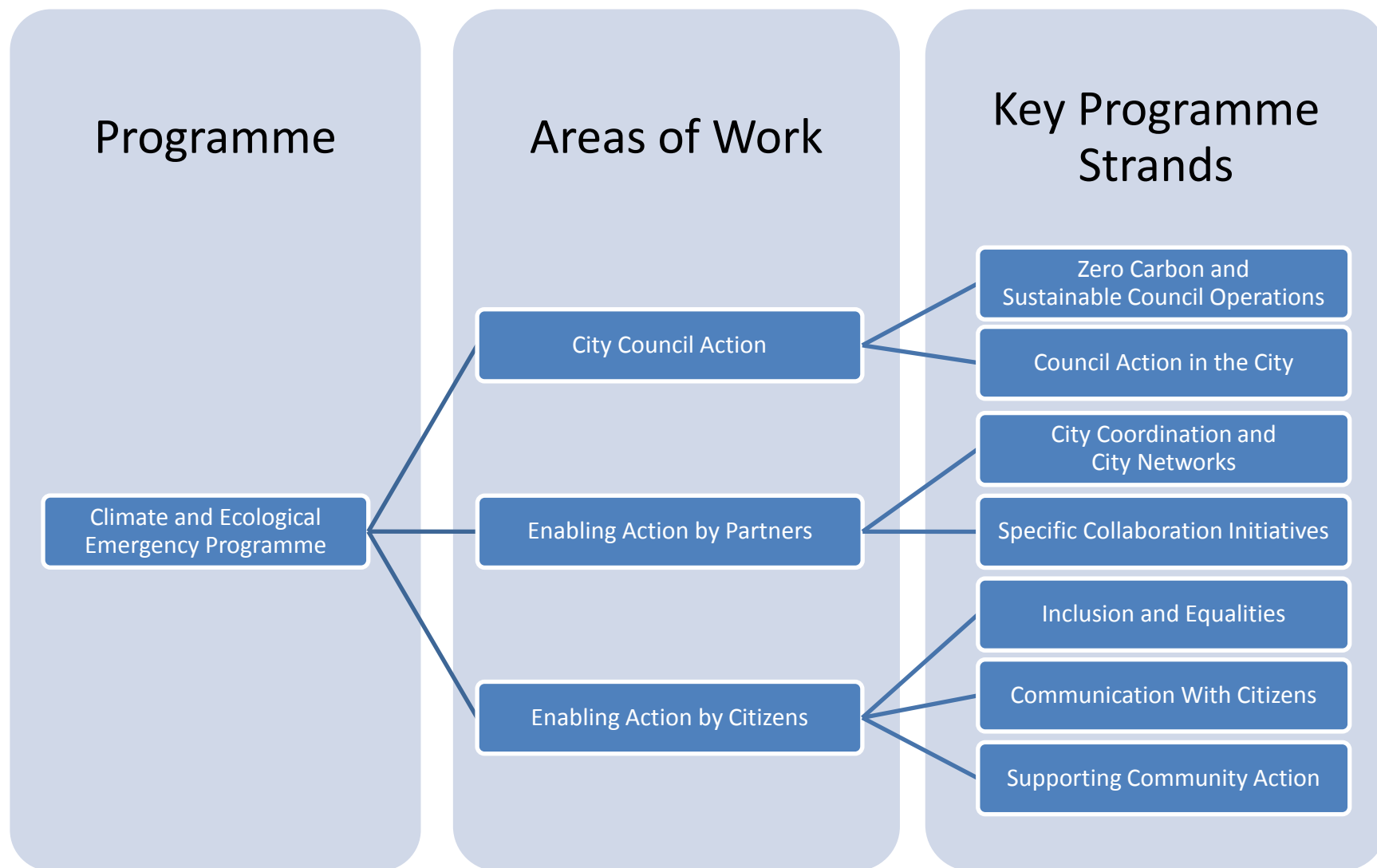
- Effective co-ordination of Bristol City Council delivery and partnership working with appropriate good governance
- Bristol City Council leads by example effectively meeting commitments for its own operations and by aligning its plans, services, projects and investments to the strategies
- Bristol City Council influences and enables inclusive, substantial, citywide collaboration and action by many partners and a diverse range of citizens.

Programme work areas, strands and projects

The programme is built in three key work areas each building on the previous.



Under these work areas the programme has 7 strands of work:



The Programme is then comprised of 20 projects. Some of these are very clearly defined and delivery can commence immediately, whilst others are outlined in the programme and details can be developed following consultation with stakeholders.

City Council Action	
Zero Carbon and Sustainable Council	P1: Sustainable BCC Estates Project: Undertake detailed analysis and produce a strategic implementation plan that will enable the Council to meet the carbon neutrality, climate resilience and ecological targets for both its operational and investment estates.
	P2: Sustainable Procurement Project: Develop a sustainable procurement policy and strategy and integrate into procurement team and practices and initial promotion to key suppliers.
	P3: Sustainable Capital Programme Project: Undertake a detailed analysis of the carbon footprint, climate resilience and ecological impacts of a sample of existing typical projects in the Council's building programme and develop recommendations and provide training and support for staff.
	P4: Climate Change Training Project: Enhance BCC officers, managers and politicians awareness, understanding and capability to enable them to effectively address climate change through their work.
Council Delivery in the City	P5: Heat Decarbonisation Delivery Plan: Develop a OCCS Heat Decarbonisation Delivery Plan to create a clear, agreed set of priorities and projects for investment by City Leap Partnership, utilities and others
	P6: OCCS Summer Over- Heating Resilience Plan: Develop a plan to understand and address the risks to human health and city infrastructure and services from overheating to enable more effective targetting.
	P7: OCCS Delivery Plan - Sustainable Food and Bite Back Better: A project to develop the success of Going for Gold into a strategic approach to reduce the carbon and ecological footprint of the city's food system.
	P8: Ecological Emergency Strategy & BCC Action Plan: Develop the BCC Action Plan to implement this strategy, implement initial actions and develop business cases and external funding bids for investment.
	P9: 100 House Retrofit Project: Pilot project testing whole-house retrofit on 100 homes for those in Fuel Poverty and linking with government energy grants
Enabling Action by Partners	
City Coordination and City Networks	P10: Co-ordination of partner action on the strategies: Multi-stakeholder engagement, management and visualisation, One City Environment Board, Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change
	P11: Maintaining capacity of key non-for-profit networks: Contribute to thriving networks of organisations committed goals of the strategies
Specific Collaboration Initiatives	P12: Bristol Climate Leaders Project: Contribute to a network of organisations providing peer to peer support to enable organisations to become Carbon Neutral and climate resilient.
	P13: Climate Risks and Extreme Weather Management Project: To assess future risks to key infrastructure, assets and services and develop business case for investments. Install new monitoring network.
Enabling Action by Citizens	

Inclusion and Equalities	P14: Inclusion and equalities projects to engage with key communities, including but not restricted to Black and Green (B&G) Ambassadors Project. A package of projects to engage with a range of communities including, but not restricted to, the Black and Green Ambassadors Project. Led by BGCP and Ujima Radio this project will recruit, mentor and support 9 emerging leaders with environmental and social justice ambitions
Communication With Citizens	P15: Integrated Council Communications: Integrate and align existing BCC communications and behaviour change activities with the Climate Strategy – for example, to encourage more sustainable travel
	P16: Bristol Climate Action Hub and Sustainable Food Websites: Develop and promote an effective climate change website, for general citizen engagement and update sustainable food website.
	P17: Communications and Engagement activities including deliberative democracy related to climate change. Aiming to increase citizen and partner action and targeted initiatives to reach the whole community, understand community priorities and understand and address barriers for specific communities.
	P18: The One City Climate Communications Toolkit: Create the tools and resources that will enable an impactful, coherent, inclusive and effective programme of C&E by partners across the city.
Supporting Community Action	P19: Community-Led Action: Support community led action on climate change project in which 6 communities will develop their own local climate action plans.
	P20: BCC Community Action Grants – A small grants scheme to help communities in the city with climate action – both planning and delivery. The focus is on empowering communities and enabling them to secure funding/ investment from elsewhere.

3. Resources

Alongside the adoption of the strategies the Mayor proposed a budget which was approved by the City Council in February 2020 to increase the city council's climate change and ecological resources. This budget increased £150k in 2020/21 and a further £150k in 2021/22) has enabled the creation of a small Climate Change Team in the city council, the appointment of an Ecological Emergency Project Manager and funding for on-going secretariat support of the One City Environment Board and the Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change.

The agreed budget also allocated £3m of funding from Council Reserves to enables us to deliver a more substantial programme of specific projects.

This programme includes the on-going work of the team and the additional projects funded from reserves. This equates to funding in years 2020/21 to 2023/24 of £4.05m.

4. Governance and Co-ordination

The Governance model is built on the principles of the ISO14001, the international standard for environmental management systems (EMS), to which BCC is independently certified. Action on climate change and ecology will be form an integral part of the goals for our management system.

Drawing upon this, BCC will put in place effective governance of its own activities in respect of delivering the climate and ecological strategies. This is particularly important given the cross cutting nature and wide range of services which need to be involved.

The Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration is responsible for the Council's response to the strategies. Each Director and Head of Service is responsible for the alignment of activities in their portfolios with the goals of the climate strategy.

The programme forms part of the G&R Portfolio and new governance arrangements are being put in place for that. Operational co-ordination group(s) may be formed from officers as appropriate to ensure that the Programme and associated action plans are delivered effectively.

The One City Environment Board will establish Co-ordination Groups to support the delivery of the strategies, drawn from its members, those of other boards and other partners as appropriate. The City Council's Sustainable City and Climate Change Service will support these groups within available resources.

5. Review and Progress Reporting

At a city level progress towards the goals and objectives of the strategy will be monitored annually by the Co-ordination Groups and reported to the One City Environment Board, and other boards as appropriate. All boards may receive or request progress reports on the implementation of any Delivery Plans relevant to their area.

Within the City Council an annual report on the progress of the city council's action plans and the programme will be reported to Council in line with commitments made in the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan.