

**Question: CQ08.04**

**Cabinet – 3 November 2020**

**Re: Agenda item 8 – Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Anthony Negus**

The suite of documents that make up this item tick all the boxes but we must remain flexible to inevitable developments and responses. Throughout there is reference to 'the mayors Plan', 'the One- city Plan' and 'working with partners' and while an institutional model is important this is just another example of keeping within a comfort zone. There is no reference to a Peoples' Plan' that blocks out all the messaging and the usual suspects so that this ecumenical project may be owned by anyone else. The great majority of our residents who are going to initiate, implement and so believe in this crucial step-change will want it made by them not passed down to them if there is to be the popular momentum to make possible better lives for us all.

I'm pleased that this didn't get the basics wrong but although I'm not surprised that the money and the actions will be tightly controlled from the top, I regret that there is little trust shared with those that will lead on a personal level and within their communities.

Q1. Please explain how, apart from an 'engagement plan', this is to become a vehicle for motivating citizens to want to be part of a grand movement for making changes to the way we currently live?

- **We do want people to be part of it but we also need to reinvent city systems, decarbonising them, making them pro-nature so they are no longer reliant on consciousness, lifestyle and having spare money to live a low impact life. That is the route to making environmentalism a middle class luxury – this was the case made during the mayor's appearance before the EFRA committee earlier this month.**
- **The Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme considered by Cabinet today will engage people. It is a programme of work which focuses on three areas:**
  - **The Council leading by example.**
  - **Supporting action by partners**
  - **Supporting action by citizens – with deliberative democracy, communications and community grants.**
- **More than £1,000,000 is being allocated to this engagement with citizens and we aim to attract co-financing from other organisations to assist this.**
- **One of the projects which the council is supporting through the programme is the Lottery funded Climate Action Fund Project which is working with 6 communities in the city to help them create their own climate action plans.**

- **And on a city scale the programme is contributing to the Deliberative Democracy project and key issues, related to climate change like action on travel, energy, businesses will form part of that project.**