

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: For noting

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 18 January 2021

TITLE	COP26 Glasgow Outcomes		
Ward(s)	City-wide		
Author:	Shelley Nania		Job title: Head of International Affairs
Cabinet lead: Mayor Marvin Rees / Cllr Nicola Beech	Executive Director lead: Mike Jackson		
Proposal origin: Mayor			
Decision maker: For noting Decision forum: For noting			
Purpose of Report: To update Cabinet on the outcomes of Bristol’s presence at COP26 with attendance by the Mayor, Cllr Beech, officers and partners.			
Evidence Base:			
Bristol’s presence at COP26			
<p>COP26 was the 2021 United Nations climate change conference held in Glasgow from October 31st to November 12th 2021. COPs, or Conference of the Parties, bring together almost every country from across the globe to reach agreements on tackling climate change. COP26 in Glasgow, was seen as an important and urgent COP to ensure that countries updated their plans in order to reach the 1.5 degrees climate change limit set out in the Paris Agreement at COP21 (5 years before) and therefore help to prevent catastrophic climate change.</p> <p>In addition to national government leaders and negotiators, other stakeholders attend COP26 as well to influence and raise issues on tackling climate change. These stakeholders include civil society, business, academia, and networks of cities.</p> <p>Cities consume around 70% of all energy and generate three-quarters of global carbon emissions, therefore it is important that the voices of cities are present and heard at COP. Bristol was asked to attend COP26 collectively with influential international networks of cities that we have strong and proactive partnerships with including ICLEI (‘Local Governments for Sustainability’ who are the formal route for cities and regions into the UN COP process), C40 Climate Leaders network, Mayors Migration Council, Eurocities (Europe’s largest network of cities) as well as the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission. Bristol’s international leadership and participation in international events such as COP means that we are proactively helping to shape the external context and forces that affect life of all citizens and businesses in the city.</p>			
<p>Bristol’s objectives for COP26 were discussed in advance of going to Glasgow with the One City Environment Board, Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change and the International Strategy Board. The objectives were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage and collaborate with government/s and finance sector to put in place the right policy frameworks and develop place-based finance mechanisms for delivery of cities’ ambition on tackling the climate and ecological emergencies. - Profile Bristol and UK cities as leaders on tackling climate change and green industry sector strengths. - Encourage action by local businesses and citizens using the momentum of COP26. 			

- Influence international agreements through ICLEI, C40 and other global networks with a focus on increased engagement of cities in the UN climate decision-making process, investment for the net zero and nature transition and raising the importance of a socially just green transition that gives everyone the opportunity to share in the jobs and benefits that moving to a low carbon economy will generate.

COP26 activities included:

- A COP related event held two weeks before in London at **Clarence House with Prince Charles, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and other Commonwealth institutes**, focused on the need for collective action across the commonwealth and the important need to engage cities.
- Mayor Rees spoke at two events on behalf of the **UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UKCCIC)** demonstrating the potential net zero investment opportunities amounting to £200 - £300 billion across the UK's 12 largest cities, engaging the UK government and private sector in how to take this forward. The UKCCIC is composed of UK Core Cities, London Councils, Connected Places Catapult and with support from the City of London and financial institutions.
- As part of the **main UN programme on Cities, Regions and the Built Environment, supported by UK COP26 champion Nigel Topping**, Mayor Rees launched an action agenda on behalf of C40 cities network and Mayors Migration Council on inclusive climate action and raised the issue of proactive, organised and accessible finance for cities, as well as launching a Global Climate Fund for Inclusive Climate Action with £1 million funding from Bosch.
- Cllr. Beech spoke at the **Green Horizon Summit** organised by the City of London Corporation and the Green Finance Institute on **delivering net zero cities**.
- Stephen Peacock, Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration spoke at a **UK Green Building Council event on decarbonising the UK's green building stock**.
- Mayor Rees spoke on how Bristol is embedding the low carbon transition in its post-COVID recovery plans at **the EUROCITIES and Mayors Alliance for a European Green Deal** event, which brought together mayors to debate how the Green Deal is 'localised' in their cities, new ways to actively combine social and environmental policies and the tools that cities need to accelerate a sustainable and inclusive transformation.
- Mayor Rees participated in two **UN Nature TV interviews** with outreach to over 100 broadcast outlets including BBC, Sky, China TV (CCTV) among others, covering financing ecological recovery and Covid-19 and the nature transition.
- Others representing Bristol included the **Black and Green Ambassadors, the Bristol Energy Network, Bristol University** (formal observers to the UN process), **University of the West of England, MPs Darren Jones and Kerry McCarthy**, and **Bristol's industry via the DIT Global Investment Summit, with a focus on clean aerospace and company Vertical Aerospace**.

The City Council's costs to attend COP26 in Glasgow were £8,300 including travel, accommodation and expenses. The accommodation (Easyhotel and Eurohostel) had to be block booked in advance over the two-week COP26 period.

Activities in Bristol linked to COP26:

- COP26 was marked in Bristol with an official **COP26 regional 'Green Zone' event organised by BCC and Business West exploring the economic and business opportunities in Bristol from decarbonising the local economy** and the £billions of investment needed to deliver on this. **Bristol businesses were encouraged to commit to become Net Zero by 2030 and to develop and implement an Action Plan** echoing the Bristol Climate Ask launched by the Mayor at the October City Gathering. The costs to BCC for this event were £14,000. UK Government Department Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) match funded 50% of the total costs.
- A **'Mock COP' was hosted by BCC, University of Bristol and Praxis**, where over 50 A-Level students from 10 state schools were tasked with navigating, negotiating and voting on key climate issues. The City Council contributed £2100 to this event.

Local public engagement throughout COP26:

The local Climate Action Campaign (**#BristolClimateAction**) was launched at the beginning of October. A number of community climate action films were released before, during and after COP26 to demonstrate action at a local level

and to engage citizens in the climate conversation:

- Stakeholders and partners were supportive of the campaign and shared social media posts
- Engagement of social media posts were medium to high
- Sentiment on social media posts was mixed
- Local and national media were very interested in and positive about Bristol's climate action
- 95 tweets during COP26 using #BristolClimateAction (Potential impressions on Twitter 1436922, potential reach of hashtag on Twitter 376049) (18/11)
- Films viewed over 9500 times on YouTube and social media to date (5/1/2022)

Key outcomes achieved and next steps:

Increased engagement of cities in the COP process: The need for urgent engagement of cities and regions to meet the 1.5 degrees climate change ambition was incorporated into the final UN texts for the first time. Bristol as part of ICLEI, UK Core Cities Network, UK100 and the LGA will follow up with UK government on how this will work for UK cities to ensure that future policy and action reflects the needs and ambitions of cities. ICLEI, the main channel for cities to feed into the UN COP process, have asked Bristol to continue to work in partnership with them as a key city voice in the run up to COP27.

Increased momentum on investing in net zero projects in cities: Overall International governments and the finance sector acknowledged the accelerated need for financing cities. £130 trillion of private sector funding was announced by Mark Carney, former Bank of England Governor and UN Envoy on Climate Finance Mark, as part of the Glasgow Climate Finance Alliance for Net Zero that is composed of big businesses globally. Bristol will keep track on what this means for financing projects in cities collectively as part of international networks.

Bristol as part of the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission successfully engaged private sector companies and UK government in the net zero investment potential across various sectors including waste, green infrastructure energy, housing and transport. This has initiated debate about the type of financial models that could be used to fund projects to meet net zero targets. A UKCCIC initiative to develop five low carbon demonstrators in five of the UK's Core Cities and London has attracted seed funding which is subject to formal announcements. These will test different financing models, working with UK Government and finance sector. The investment will be used to develop technical capacity of cities and set up mechanisms that will attract and draw in private sector finance. Bristol's active participation in COP26 and UKCCIC puts us in a strong position to be considered for one of these demonstrators. The UK Treasury Minister also agreed to taking forward the work with the UKCCIC including a mapping session to look at what needs to happen next to fund the low carbon projects in cities.

Bristol is also following up directly with the Green Finance Institute to discuss potential options for funding our carbon neutral infrastructure in the city, such as green bonds.

As Mayor Rees represents the UK on the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, following COP26 we will be working with key stakeholders including World Economic Forum, Overseas Development Institute, Open Society Foundation, C40 Climate Leaders network and the Princes Foundation to look at the net zero investment opportunity across commonwealth countries and how to take this financing forward ahead of the Commonwealth Government Heads of State Meeting in June.

Focus on a socially just and green transition: the need for a more socially just trust transition was raised on many platforms at COP26, and was incorporated into the final texts, thereby influencing future UK government policy in this area.

Profile and reputation strengthened as a leader on ambition and action for tackling the climate and ecological emergencies: Bristol's Mayor and Cabinet Lead were given the opportunity to speak on high level platforms virtually and physically seen by hundreds and thousands of businesses and organisations. These include potential partners who could help us to deliver on our carbon neutral ambitions in terms of policy, technical collaboration and financing.

Some contacts we are already following up with including the Green Finance Institute, Volvo CEO to look at our bus programme, Bosch, the Princes Trust as well as banks and investors through the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission.

Increased business and public engagement on taking climate and nature recovery action:

The regional COP26 event attracted 280 attendees from across the business world, increasing engagement with local businesses, developing new relationships and profiling the range of businesses taking action to reduce emissions. Although early days, 30+ businesses have committed to the Bristol Climate Ask and we are following up with these to create visual comms to continue the profiling of business action and to build momentum around the Climate Ask. With an expectation that businesses will publish an action plan within 6 months we will be following up on such commitments in Q2, and we are evaluating options for a business engagement piece to support the 2025 One City objective that 50% of Bristol businesses have actively made changes that support the goal of a carbon neutral and climate resilient city.

The films and images produced for the Local Climate Action Campaign continue to be used throughout the city - currently as a New Year campaign to encourage new climate and nature actions.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

For Cabinet to note outcomes in this report:

- Increased engagement of cities in the future COP process tackling climate change
- Increased momentum on financing net zero projects in cities
- Strengthened profile and reputation as a leader on ambition and action for tackling the climate and ecological emergencies
- Increased focus on a socially just and green transition
- Increased public and business engagement on tackling climate and nature recovery action.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

ENV1 – Carbon Neutrality
ENV5 – Global Leadership

City Benefits: To support the City’s climate emergency programme therefore improving sustainability and health outcomes for residents.

Consultation Details: COP26 objective planning included the One City Environment Board, Bristol Climate Advisory Committee, International Strategy Board.

Background Documents:

Revenue Cost	N/A	Source of Revenue Funding	
Capital Cost	N/A	Source of Capital Funding	
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: Costs of participation in this summit were met from in-year Cabinet approved budgets. There are no direct financial implications arising. The Council is exploring potential future funding opportunities with partners.

Finance Business Partner: Jemma Prince, Finance Business Partner 7 January 2022

2. Legal Advice: There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 7 January 2022

3. Implications on IT: There are no specific IT implications arising from this report.

IT Team Leader: IT, 7/1/22

4. HR Advice: No HR implications evident.

HR Partner: James Brereton, HR Business Partner, 07 January 2022		
5. Procurement Advice: There are no specific procurement requirements within this report however Strategic Procurement & Supplier Relations Service have recently developed a Sustainable Procurement Policy that would align to the COP26 and Bristol's Carbon neutrality plans, and the One City Climate Strategy. If there is a need to procure any goods/services or work this will comply with BCC Procurement Rules or PCR 2015.		
Procurement Partner: Niotia Ferguson, Category Business Partner, 7 th January 2022		
EDM Sign-off	Mike Jackson	07/01/22
Cabinet Member sign-off	Mayor's Office pp Mayor Marvin Rees	07/01/22
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off		

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	No
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO