

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 07 June 2022

TITLE	Expansion of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme		
Ward(s)	All		
Author: Alex Minshull	Job title: Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager		
Cabinet lead: Councillor Kye Dudd	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: <i>Councillor</i>			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To seek Cabinet approval to expand the existing Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme to include additional projects and expenditure of an additional £905,000 to increase the council's action to address the ecological emergency as set out in the Full Business Case. This is in addition to the £95,000 allocated to work on trees by Cabinet in February 2022 bringing the total new ecological emergency funding to £1m drawn from the dedicated Ecological Emergency Reserve. 2. To seek Cabinet authorisation for the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Energy & Waste, the Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Section 151 Officer, to approve the extension or addition of new projects to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and approve future spend (in accordance with the decision pathway) should further needs be identified and funds become available. 3. To note that Bristol has been accepted into the European Union 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and to seek Cabinet approval for the City Council joining this initiative and integrating this into the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and its wider work to assist with achievement of the One City Climate Strategy. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bristol City Council declared a Climate Emergency in November 2018 and Bristol an Ecological Emergency in February 2020. 2. The City Council is working with partners to help achieve the goals of the One City Climate Strategy 2020 and the One City Ecological Strategy 2020 in a wide range of service areas. This action is set out in the BCC Ecological Emergency and Climate Emergency Action Plans. 3. In Nov.2020 Cabinet approved "<i>the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme as Bristol City Council's initial response to these strategies.</i>" This programme is being successfully delivered and helping to enable new action in the city council and wider city using £1m of revenue and £3m of reserve funding. 4. The BCC Ecological Emergency Action Plan set out over 70 actions which the city council wanted to undertake in the period 2021-2025. This included actions where funding was already in place and these are progressing well. It also included actions for which funding had not yet been identified. The Council has allocated additional money to implement some priority projects from the action plan, focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Planning and demonstrating operational changes in parks and green spaces to benefit nature c.£95k o Planning and trialling approaches to reduce the council's use of herbicides c.£135k 			

- Preparing for the Biodiversity Net Gain regulations – ensuring we have the evidence, policies and processes to maximise benefits for biodiversity. c.£240k
 - Developing strategies and plans for green and blue infrastructure, informed by a robust evidence base to help us attract external investment c.£200k
 - Supporting action by partners to inform and inspire Bristol citizens about nature and leverage external funding. C.£235k
5. The programme is managed by a Programme Board who will ensure that projects are delivered to acceptable quality and timescales within the total budget envelope of the programme. The Board can move funds between projects as necessary as set out in the business case.
 6. As part of the existing Programme the city council applied to be part of the European Union’s 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission to help accelerate progress towards the city’s carbon neutrality goals. The Mission will support the cities with technical expertise, sharing of good practice and funding to support innovation and investment. The mission includes 100 cities from the European Union and 12 cities from non-EU countries which are or plan to be part of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme. The UK is in the process of joining Horizon Europe and if this is successful Bristol will be able to benefit from the Mission to deliver its climate neutrality goals. Bristol and Glasgow are the UK cities who have been included in the Mission.

Cabinet Member/Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve expansion of the existing Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme to include additional projects and expenditure of an additional £905,000 to increase the council’s action to address the ecological emergency as outlined in this report and the Full Business Case.
2. Authorise the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Energy & Waste, the Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Section 151 Officer, to take all steps required to spend the additional £905k including authority to procure and award the contract(s) necessary to give effect to the decision, within the budget envelope.
3. Authorise the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Energy & Waste, the Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Section 151 Officer, to take all steps required to approve the extension or addition of new projects to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and approve future spend (in accordance with the decision pathway) should further needs be identified and funds become available.
4. Note that Bristol has been accepted into the EU 100 Climate and Smart Cities Mission and approve the City Council joining this initiative and integrating this into the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and its wider work to assist with achievement of the goals of the One City Climate Strategy.

Corporate Strategy Alignment:

1. The additions to the programme are focused on achieving the priorities of ENV2 Ecological Recovery.
2. The Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission will contribute to priority ENV1 Climate Neutrality.

City Benefits:

1. The additions to the programme will lead to improvements in the biodiversity of Bristol.
2. The city’s involvement in the EU 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Missions will lead to reductions in the city’s carbon emissions.
3. The Programme aims to attract external funding to contribute to the goals of the strategies.

Consultation Details:

1. The strategies were developed with a wide range of partners.
2. The additions to the Programme have been developed in consultation with the relevant services and cabinet members.
3. Communities Scrutiny Commission were briefed on the proposed ecological projects and spend and were supportive.
4. Individual projects will undertake appropriate consultation with stakeholders in their design and delivery.

Background Documents:

- The [One City Climate Strategy](#)

- The [One City Ecological Strategy](#)
- [BCC Ecological Emergency Action Plan](#)
- Full Business Case – Appendix

Revenue Cost	New Costs £905,000	Source of Revenue Funding	Ecological Emergency Reserve
Capital Cost	£ N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
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:

The report seeks Cabinet approval to expand the existing Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme to include additional projects and expenditure of an additional £0.905m over the next 3 years.

The details of how this is to be spent are contained in Business case in Appendix A. This planned expenditure includes funds totalling £0.305m that will be allocated as a cash limit to fund specific initiatives over 2 years such as the Land Habitat and Herbicide Reduction. The remaining allocation, £0.6m will be spent over 3 years on a combination of internal employed staff and external consultants with a modest contingency for allied costs.

This along with the previously approved £0.095m will bring the total to be funded from the dedicated Ecological Emergency Reserve from the proposals in this report to £1m.

Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, 11 May 2022

2. Legal Advice:

Legal advice has been sought in relation to any procurement and related considerations arising from the proposed expansion of the Programme. Any contracts must be awarded in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's internal procurement rules where required.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, 11 May 2022

3. Implications on IT:

No implications for IT.

Digital Transformation Head of Service Improvement and Performance: Gavin Arbuckle, 17 May 2022

4. HR Advice:

The report sets out the additional staffing resource required to deliver the actions and outcomes of the expanded programme at Appendix A, 20.2. Recruitment to the new Strategic Ecologist role should follow BCC processes. There are no other HR implications evident.

HR Partner: Celia Williams, 12 May 2022

EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	05/04/22
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Dudd, Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Energy and Waste	11/05/22
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	09/05/22

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal Full Business Case - Appendix A	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO

Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment – see business case	NO
Appendix E – Equalities impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact impact assessment of proposal	YES
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