

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: For noting

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 23 January 2024

TITLE	Endorsing Bristol’s Just Transition Declaration	
Ward(s)	Citywide	
Author: Alex Minshull	Job Title: Sustainability City and Climate Changes Service Manager	
Cabinet lead: Cllr Marley Bennett, Cabinet Member for Ecology, Waste and Just Transition	Executive Director lead: John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	
Proposal origin: Mayor		
Decision maker: For noting Decision forum: Cabinet		
Purpose of Report: To note that the Council is endorsing the principles within the Just Transition Declaration and will seek to align them within its governance and ways of working.		
Evidence Base:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In December 2022, four Bristol citizens (Emma Geen, Olivia Sweeney, Kirsty Hammond and Rachel Moffat) went on a climate justice exchange with the US embassy along with other climate justice workers from the UK. Following a conversation with the Mayor, it was agreed they would author a Just Transition Declaration for Bristol. This was drafted from a series of engagement with community groups and unions led by the four citizens. 2. The Just Transition Declaration was written as a set of 10 principles that everyone working on climate change and nature loss in the city can use to make their plans as fair as possible. It was written to accompany Bristol’s Climate and Ecological Emergency Declarations and is supported by the Mayor and Cabinet and Full Council endorsed it on 12 December 2023. Organisations and groups across the city are now being encouraged to sign up to the principles set out in the Declaration 3. The 10 principles, not in order of importance, are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Centring the expertise of disadvantaged communities at every step of the journey 2. Good future-proof jobs for everyone 3. Empowering disadvantaged communities to take climate and ecological action 4. Supporting individual change through system change 5. Fair distribution of costs and benefits 6. Prioritising accessible communication 7. Standing in solidarity with those experiencing the worst climate and ecological impacts across the globe 8. Building inclusive resilience 9. Infrastructure for all 10. Embedding the process internally and at the beginning. 4. On 4 September 2023, the Just Declaration was endorsed via a Chair’s Business statement at Cabinet with a commitment to return with a report setting out how the Council is aligning its own strategies, policies and activities with the principles within the Declaration. 5. This report and the accompanying document (Appendix A) sets out how the Council’s activities and approach align with the content and principles of the Just Transition, demonstrating how the themes are embedded into 		

relevant areas of work throughout the council, at all levels.

The accompanying document (Appendix A) includes a summary of:

- i) The Just Transition Declaration and its 10 core principles
- ii) Alignment with the Council’s governance process
- iii) Alignment to Council environmental strategies and policies
- iv) Planned internal communications and partnership activity
- v) Next steps

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet notes and agrees with the summary of actions and next steps contained within the report (Appendix A)

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. One of the themes of the Corporate Strategy is Environment and Sustainability, which is defined as: “Decarbonise the city, support the recovery of nature and lead a just transition to a low carbon future.” This ensures that the priority areas within Environment and Sustainability are also guided by a just transition to a low carbon future.

City Benefits:

1. Bristol’s Just Transition frames the need for a fair and equitable transition to net zero across Bristol. This includes:
 - Empowering disadvantaged communities to take climate and ecological action
 - Fair distribution of costs and benefits
 - Prioritising accessible communication
 - Building inclusive resilience
 - Infrastructure for all
2. The Just Transition Declaration will be an area of focus at the next City Gathering, and the One City Environment Board has reviewed the current iteration of the Just Transition Declaration.

Consultation Details:

The Just Transition Declaration was drafted by partners within the city and informed by their own engagement and conversations. Further engagement included the City Gathering on November 24 2023. Bristol City Office will act as convener with city partners to explore how other organisations can endorse the Declaration.

Background Documents:

Appendix A – Summary Report
[Just Transition - Bristol Climate Hub](#)

Revenue Cost	£0	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input 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 asks that Cabinet notes and approves the summary of the actions and next steps arising from the recent Just Transition Declaration. Whilst there are no specific financial implications arising from this report, the integration of Just Transition considerations into planning, policy making and decision making will be undertaken within existing staff resources.		
However, it may be the case that implementing plans, policies of decisions to deliver the goals of the Declaration may require increased expenditure or replace current efforts. Where this is the case, any future decision will need to be considered on a case by case and must be undertaken within existing resources or the appropriate approval sought in line with council policy.		
Finance Business Partner: Ben Hegarty, Finance Business Partner (Growth and Regeneration), 15 December 2023.		
2. Legal Advice: There are no specific legal implications arising from this report which is for noting. The Just Transition Declaration principles should be applied in accordance with the Council’s decision pathway process.		
Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 11 January 2024		
3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.		
IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect 25 October 2023		
4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications evident		
HR Partner: Celia Williams – HR Business Partner – Growth and Regeneration 11 December 2023		
EDM Sign-off	John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	1 November 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Marley Bennett, Cabinet Member for Ecology, Waste and Just Transition	14 November 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off	Mayor’s Office	NON-KEY DECISION

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	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	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ 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