



Committee Report

PURPOSE: Policy Options Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Key decision affects 2 or more wards

COMMITTEE: Environment and Sustainability Committee

DATE: 25 July 2024

TITLE: Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plan – Options Paper

Ward(s): Citywide.

Officer presenting the report: Alex Minshull **Job title:** Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager

Committee Chair: Councillor Martin Fodor

Executive Director lead: John Smith: Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration

Proposal origin: BCC Staff

Purpose of Report:

1. To decide whether to continue with the preparation, with partners, of the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plans to support the achievement of the council's and city's climate objectives.
2. To decide on options for the committee's involvement in the process.

Evidence Base / Options to consider:

1. Bristol's One City Climate Strategy sets out the city's goals for achieving a climate neutral city and identifies at a high level the billions of pounds of investment that is needed to achieve this. It has been endorsed by the City Council and a wide range of partners.
2. The City Council has a significant programme of work to support the goals of the Strategy including the Bristol City Leap initiative which plans to make £1bn of investment. The central element of our approach to build on Bristol City Leap and secure further net zero investment into the city is the "Mission" approach, described below.

Background

3. Bristol's "Mission" approach is centred on the European Union's Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission. This is a programme to support 112 cities from Member State and from countries formally associated to the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, which includes the UK. The focus of the mission is to help cities to secure financial investment to achieve their net zero goals and ensure a just transition. Bristol is receiving technical support to develop a package of documents:
 - a. Statement of Commitment from the City Council and key partners
 - b. A Bristol One City Climate Action Plan which sets out the actions which the city considers necessary to achieve its climate goals

- c. A Bristol One City Climate Investment Plan which sets out the financial investment needed to deliver the action plan.
4. Cities that are part of the EU Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission are invited to submit the package this Autumn to receive official European Commission endorsement of their Plans. This endorsement by the European Commission will give the council and partners access to the emerging European Capital Hub which the EU Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission is setting up. This will support cities to access finance from private sector investors and national governments, and where applicable European Union funding programmes. This support could be very helpful for Bristol in accessing investment beyond the Bristol City Leap Business Plan, but also assist with delivery of that plan.
5. In the rest of this document the European Union's Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission referred to as the "Climate Mission".

Previous Approvals/Support for the initiative

6. The One City Climate Strategy was initiated by the One City Environment Board and endorsed by the City Council in 2020. This provides the goals, objectives and strategic direction for climate action by BCC and partners. The Board has supported the development of the Mission approach and the creation of the Transition Team, which includes representatives from some of their organisations.
7. In June 2022, Cabinet approved the participation of the City Council in the European Union's Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission to assist with achievement of the goals of the One City Climate Strategy, in particular securing additional investment in net zero projects.
8. In September 2023, Overview & Scrutiny Management Board recommended that the report of the Cross-Party Climate Change Working Group be submitted to Cabinet. This includes a recommendation supporting the council collaborating with partners to develop joined up action to support our climate goals and strongly supported the council's participation in the Cities Mission programme.
9. In December 2023, Full Council endorsed the Bristol Just Transition Declaration. The council's participation in the Climate Mission programme and resultant plans are and will be increasingly focused on ensuring financial investment to support a Just Transition to net zero.

Progress to date and proposed approach

10. Work has commenced on development of the above plans with the aim of submitting them this Autumn.
11. Central to the Mission approach is a recognition that a city council cannot achieve the transition for a city alone, and this mirrors and builds upon the Bristol One City Approach. We have therefore assembled a team of partners to work on the development of these plans and called this group the Transition Team. More details are included in Appendix A.
12. Along with Glasgow, the other UK city in the Climate Mission, Bristol did not start work on its Plans immediately on joining the Mission because our continued participation relied upon the UK Government formally associating to the Horizon Europe programme. That association took place in September 2023 and we commenced detailed work on the plans at that point. Due to this delay the Autumn 2024 "Submission Window" is the last one available to cities. Approximately half the cities in the programme will be submitting in this window.
13. Ideally, we would have longer to develop the plans but this is not possible given the constraints of the programme. However, thanks to funding from Innovate UK Net Zero Pathfinder Places Demonstrator Programme we will be undertaking substantial data analysis and community engagement through 2024 and 2025 which can inform future iterations and improvements of the plans. We have called that project "Mission Net Zero" to illustrate that it is part of an integrated

package of measures alongside the development of the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plans described in this proposal.

14. The first Bristol One City Climate Action Plan and Investment Plan should be seen as just that – our first iteration, from which we can revise and improve, drawing upon the technical support of the Climate Mission, engagement with the investment community and the in-depth work with communities supported by funding from Innovate UK.
15. In addition to the above, as a member of the Climate Mission, Bristol City Council has received £1.3m of funding from the European Union to pilot a new approach. In our case this was to enable the development of innovative new net zero finance mechanisms. This project is the “Net Zero Investment Co-Innovation Lab” which we anticipate will have generated an investment fund(s) of £50-100m for Bristol and the wider region by the end of the project in July 2025. This is the final component of our integrated programme.
16. A new funding opportunity has been offered to the members of the Climate Mission with the potential for a bid of up to €500,000 to support implementation of our action plan.
17. BCC’s Environmental Impact Assessment has determined significant beneficial impacts from the proposal (Options 2-4): the draft plans have the potential to make a significant contribution to Bristol’s decarbonisation pathway.

Options:

1. Cease work on the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plans described above and leave the European Union’s Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission. This would result in the loss of access to the European Capital Hub, to the technical support of the programme and potential to apply for further funding opportunities linked to the Climate Mission. It does not mean ceasing work on other parts of the council’s net zero work. One City partners would be unable to progress without Bristol City Council as the participation of the municipality is a requirement of participation in the Climate Mission
2. Continue work on the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plans and delegate to the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Policy Committee, the submission of the plans in the autumn submission window.
3. Continue work on the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plans and bring the plans for approval by the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 26 September 2024 for submission immediately after.
4. Continue work on the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plans and undertake informal briefing and engagement with some, or all, of the committee members on the details of the plans before bringing back to Committee on 26 September 2024. This would not be a formal working group but an opportunity for members of the committee to understand the initiative in more detail and review the draft documents. This would need to take place in August and early September because of the committee and submission deadlines.

Officer Recommendations: -

That the Committee for Environment and Sustainability:

1. Approves option 4: *Continue work on the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment Plan and undertake informal briefing and engagement with some or all of the committee members on the details of the plans before bringing back to Committee on 26 September 2024.*

Corporate Strategy alignment:

- Options 2-4 are aligned with Corporate Priority ENV1 Carbon Neutrality
- Option 1, to not submit the plans and leave the Climate Mission, would not be supportive of the delivery of this priority.

City Benefits:

- Options 2-4 support the council and partners in our efforts to secure investment in net zero projects and in supporting a just transition.

Consultation Details:

- In September 2023 Overview & Scrutiny Management Board recommended that the report of the Cross-Party Climate Change Working Group be submitted to Cabinet. Following the working group's consideration of the Climate Mission, they recommended supporting the council collaborating with partners to develop joined up action to support our climate goals and strongly supported our participation in the EU Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission programme.
- The Action and Investment Plans are being developed in collaboration with members of Bristol's "Transition Team" which is drawn from over 20 partner organisations, see Appendix A.
- The work draws upon previous engagement with citizens, including the Citizens' Assembly of 2020 and the Community Climate Action Plans which have been or are being developed by 18 communities across the city.
- Future iterations of the plans will draw upon the substantial public engagement planned as part of the Innovate UK Net Zero Pathfinder Places Demonstrator Project (Mission Net Zero) taking place in 24 and 2025.

Background Documents:

[Bristol One City Climate Strategy](#)

[Cabinet Paper: Expansion of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme \(7 June 2022\)](#)

[Oversight and Scrutiny Management Board Paper: Climate Change Working Group Recommendations \(4 September 2023\)](#)

[Full Council Paper: Just Transition Declaration \(12 December 2023\)](#)

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| Revenue Cost | N/A | Source of Revenue Funding | Within existing staff resource |
| Capital Cost | N/A | Source of Capital Funding | N/A |
| One off cost <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/> | | Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> If yes - existing or new saving? Choose an item. OR Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Professional comments section:

1. Finance Advice:

This report seeks the Committee's approval to continue working on the Bristol One City Climate Action and Investment plans. There are no financial implications at this stage as the cost will be met from within existing revenue resources. However, when agreed the investment plans may have financial implications

for the Council so we will need to be involved in their development.

Finance Business Partner: Ben Hegarty – Finance Business Partner: Growth and Regeneration, 14 July 2024.

2. Legal Advice: The proposal to develop an action plan and investment plan, whichever procedure is followed, raises no particular legal issues. Legal Services will provide support in connection with any grant/funding arrangements which may flow from the project, and/or any procurement activities.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews – Team Leader: Legal Services, 14 July 2024

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect, 20 May 2024

4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications evident

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner 23 May 2024

APPENDICES

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| Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal | YES |
| Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) | YES |
| Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment | YES |
| Appendix D – Decision Risk Assessment | NO |
| Appendix E – Exempt Information | NO |
| Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external | NO |
| Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix | NO |
| Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis | NO |