

# **Appendix A1: Summary of Proposal to develop the Bristol Climate Action and Investment Plans**

## **Introduction**

Bristol adopted its [One City Climate Strategy](#) in 2020. This set out the key objectives and areas of action needed to achieve its goals of carbon neutrality and climate resilience. It set out six 'enabling conditions' which were necessary for the city to achieve its goals. One of these was 'funding' and the evidence base for the strategy enumerated the c.£9bn of investment needed to achieve the net zero goal.

The European Union's Horizon Europe innovation programme recognised a similar need for investment in cities across the Union and created the 'Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission' for 2030 to support cities in securing this investment. The Mission was open to cities in the European Union plus those of several countries like the UK who associated with the Horizon Europe programme. Following a competitive process two UK cities - Bristol and Glasgow - were accepted as part of the 112 cities in the Mission.

The Mission's approach is that the member cities want to decarbonise and have set out some ambitious goals. Member cities are committed to involving their communities in planning the delivery of these goals and ensuring a Just Transition. However, cities are often unable to attract the scale of finance needed, on the right terms, to deliver the scale of investment required, despite there being significant private sector investment seeking net zero projects.

This approach echoes the Bristol City Leap approach. In that initiative we identified the investment opportunity on the council's estate and created a prospectus for would-be investors and have since been able to secure partners seeking to make a very substantial investment. The Mission provides a more structured and pan-European approach to this as a means of attracting investment at scale.

## **Process**

Following a process recommended by the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, the Mission cities are encouraged to form a multi-stakeholder 'Transition Team' which is a group of city-wide organisations who control or influence key parts of the city's decarbonisation activities. Cities are also supported by City Advisors to create three documents:

1. A Statement of Commitment which sets out the main actions that the council and city partners have already committed to take – for Bristol these are actions in relation to the One City Climate Strategy
2. A City Climate Action Plan which sets out the actions needed to deliver the goals of the One City Climate Strategy – these encompass the actions city partners have committed to take but also describes the additional actions required for decarbonisation
3. A City Climate Investment Plan which sets out the investment/funding needed to deliver the Action Plan – it is expected that a large investment need will be identified

These three documents form what the Horizon Europe programme has termed a 'City Climate Contract'. However, it is not a 'contract' in the usual sense of this word, but more a compact, or statement of intent, co-created by the Transition Team detailing the local context and rationale for climate action, along with specific actions, their costs, co-benefits and contribution to greenhouse gas reductions. It is not legally-binding.

## **Benefits of the City Climate Contract**

Mission cities are invited to submit their City Climate Contract to the European Commission via the NetZero Cities portal for the review and, following a positive assessment, the plans are endorsed with a Mission Label. Crucially, the Mission then provides support to facilitate access to private finance through the newly created European Capital Hub. This would put Bristol at an advantage when seeking support for decarbonisation projects – aiming to fill the investment need identified in the Bristol Climate Investment Plan. In addition, the Mission platform provides necessary technical, regulatory and financial assistance to cities to help us secure investment from the private sector or national institutions.

The Mission Label also facilitates the creation of targeted funding opportunities in the Horizon Europe programme for which Bristol is eligible. Through our participation in the Mission we have already secured £1.3m of funding from Horizon Europe Pilot Cities Programme to support the development of our “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 project end in July 2025.

Furthermore, the Mission’s approach has provided the inspiration for Bristol City Council’s wider Net Zero Programme. We have used that to secure £5m of funding, for a BCC led consortium, from Innovate UK for our Mission Net Zero Pathfinder Demonstrator Project based on the Mission approach. This is extending the city level planning to both the neighbourhood level - with the creation of three Community Climate Investment Plans - and to the regional level with the West of England Climate Investment Plans. In this way, we will create a suite of plans owned by the relevant key communities and stakeholders that can facilitate investment into everything from community buildings and street retrofit projects to regional scale infrastructure.

## **Our approach**

Bristol’s ambition to be carbon neutral presents huge opportunity but also a city scale challenge. This requires the involvement not solely of Bristol City Council but also other willing city partners to help the city achieve its carbon reduction aims. To this end, Bristol City Council convened a Transition Team in 2023. The Transition Team was brought together following an initial stakeholder analysis exercise. The group comprises approximately 50% public sector organisations and 50% from the private sector, see below.

### **Transition Team Members**

Bristol City Council (coordinator) Bristol & Bath Regional Capital, Bristol Energy Network, Bristol City Leap, Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership, Bristol Waste, Bristol Water, Business West, Cabot Institute, City of Bristol College, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Enterprise Mobility, Future Leap, National Grid, NatWest Bank, North Bristol NHS Trust, City Office, OVO Energy, Retrofit West, TLT Solicitors, Wales & West Utilities, West of England Combined Authority, Wessex Water, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, Vattenfall UK.

The Transition Team has been working to develop the Bristol Climate Action Plan and will continue, if the committee approves the continuation of the project, to create a Bristol Climate Investment Plan.

To create the Bristol Climate Action Plan, the Transition Team was subdivided into working groups focussed on key emissions areas including transport, energy, buildings, waste and business. Throughout a series of workshops, groups collaborated to devise actions aiming to achieve the objectives of the One City Climate Strategy.

- The Bristol Climate Action Plan will detail how the city should seek to address the gap between Bristol’s current baseline greenhouse gas inventory and the carbon neutrality 2030 target, including the planned and further required climate action. A portfolio of transformative and cross-sectoral actions are co-created to bridge gaps in policy, regulation, funding, finance, and social aspects.
- The Bristol Climate Investment Plan will be a systemic map of the costs and capital that Bristol (as a whole city) needs to reach carbon neutrality and aligns closely with the Action Plan by quantifying the capital needs and proposed sources to deliver the portfolio of actions.
- In addition to the Plans, a “Commitments” document will describe the outcomes of the co-creation process with partner organisations across the city, which establish new commitments and ways of working together to meet carbon neutrality.
- Facilitated by the BCC Climate Strategy Co-ordinators and the Climate Change Team, the Transition Team are now nearing completion of the first draft of the City Climate Action Plan.

### **Related plans in development**

The Bristol Climate Action Plan will cross-reference actions set out in the Bristol City Council Action Plan for Decarbonisation of Heat. Both of these action plans will complement the Housing and Landlord Services Decarbonisation Plan (currently under development).

### **Timeline**

If options 2-4 are selected the proposed timeline for the production is proposed to be as follows:

August 2024 -	First draft of Bristol Action and Investment Plan completed
26 September 2024 -	Approval of Commitments, Action Plan and Investment Plan by Executive Director or Committee
Early October 2024 -	Submission to European Commission for review-