Route to Zero Draft Call to Action

Presentation to Sustainability and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16th December 2020



The Purpose of the Action Plan

- The aim of the Action Plan is to focus in on the priority actions that will move us forward over the next couple of years. Actions have been selected that will deliver the largest impact in reducing carbon emissions.
- The Action Plan will: outline policy and legislation, examine the need for systems change and climate justice, identify what we can control and influence and will set out how we are working with partners.
- Main emphasis will be on the priority actions, they will sit under topic areas. For each topic we will look at what has already been achieved, what the next steps are, what we need to do to get us there and where we need to lobby for legislative or policy change or funding to deliver.

Introduction and Context

- Background to Climate Change – Legislation
  - Outlines key national and international legislation and policy of note.
- Background to Climate Emergency Declaration
- Our current carbon footprint-City Council and City Wide Emissions
  - Briefly summarises data published in the Anthesis report for context.
- The Need for Systems Change
  - Describes the key institutional problems we face now and outlines why we need to change this.
  - We have already set up a cross party R20 working group committee.
  - Internal working group improving cohesion across the council.
  - We need to embed carbon reduction across all directorates and establish climate change as key priority, organisation wide.

Context

- Climate Justice and Social Justice
  - Identifies the scale of the challenge and the fact that any transition must be just.

- Working with Partners
  - Outlines how we already work collaboratively with GBSLEP and the WMCA.

- What can we control and influence?
  - Identifies which carbon emitting areas are within the council's direct control, or strong, medium or weak influence.

Priority Action - New Build Housing

- What have we done to date?
  - Passivhaus pilot at Dawberry Fields is underway.
  - ERDF bid, review of BMHT spec, work with SHAP.
- What are the next steps?
  - Using learning from the passivhaus pilot to improving the quality of the Council's new build as soon as is practicable.
  - 7,000 units of social housing to be constructed to the highest standard possible by 2031 to deliver the highest carbon savings possible.
  - Review of BDP in 2021 to help improve standards of new construction
- What do we need to get us there? /Lobbying
  - Lobby central gov for more ambitious buildings targets to allow us to request higher standards from developers.
  - Lobby and work with partners (e.g. UKGBC) to develop investment models.

Priority Action – Retrofit of Existing Housing Stock

- What have we done to date?
  - BCC Capital Investment
  - Retrofit Conference – July 2020
  - East Birmingham Community Heat Taskforce – inception meeting Oct 2020
  - Submitted a consortium bid for a retrofit demonstrator through WMCA.
- What are the next steps?
  - Impact analysis for council retrofit, create a plan for citywide retrofit in to include a trial 2021, with a view to scale up towards 2030.
  - Move EBH TF forward, to identify investment models for retrofit, potential for pilot.
- What do we need to get us there?/Lobbying
  - To Promote/educate all key stake holders about benefits of retrofitting and decarbonisation.
  - Funding for staff to deliver large scale retrofit and deliver Government's warm homes grant.
  - Lobby central government for investment model to support retrofit.
  - Lobby more widely for funding for retrofit agenda.

Priority Action - Transport

- What have we done to date?
  - Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP) – on hold due to COVID
  - Birmingham Emergency Transport Plan (BETP)
  - E-cargo Bike pilot – 20 units won via bid
  - Hydrogen Buses – 20 double deckers to kick start the market
  - Electric buses on the 6 route Birmingham to Solihull – 19 fully electric buses.
- What are the next steps?
  - City centre segments
  - Increased programme of pedestrianisation and segregated cycle lane delivery
  - Delivery of CAZ in 2021 – investing in electric taxis as part of this work
  - Work with industry and TfWM to develop zero carbon public transport network by 2025.
- What do we need to get us there?/Lobbying
  - Officer support in transport, to focus on research, action development, and coordination of the transport decarbonisation work with the R20 programme
  - Lobby for bus service franchise

Priority Action – EV Charging Points

- What have we done to date?
  - Funding secured for 197 chargers. Planning underway for first tranche.
- What are the next steps?
  - Goal is to rollout 394 Fast & rapid charge points by 2022, 9000 chargers by 2030, of which 600 will be rapid.
  - Promoting a switch to electric
  - Create an efficient regulation framework to enable the scale of change for the installation of public charge points.
  - Produce a wider EV charge strategy by March 2021
  - Addressing the challenge of EV home charging at terraced properties
- What do we need to get us there?/Lobbying
  - Need to simplify the framework for the network (apps etc.)
  - Attend CA electrification taskforce
  - Lobby developers on EV inclusion and lobby government for more support on EV.

Priority Action - Waste

- What have we done to date?
  - Waste Strategy 2016, Waste Capacity Study 2014
- What are the next steps?
  - Look at total waste arisings rather than focusing on household.
  - Approach the Combined Authority, to commission a joint study looking at waste movements across the conurbation.
  - New waste contract for household waste that will explore the potential for enhanced recycling rates and consider future use of Tyseley incinerator.
  - Two new waste HUBS to have EV charging capability designed in.
  - New waste strategy in progress
  - Working with WMCA on the Circular Economy and the associated waste reduction
- What do we need to get us there?/Lobbying
  - Work with the Chamber of Commerce to lobby central government to encourage large commercial operations to reduce the amount of waste they produce.
  - Continued partnership working with the Combined Authority, local authorities, waste management and disposal companies, and other relevant organisations.

Priority Action – Energy

- What have we done to date?
  - BEIS Decarbonisation of Heat Programme – Outputs shows that 16 scalable and 'fit for purpose' heat decarbonisation interventions shortlisted. If implemented from 2020-2050 they could potentially achieve around 80% reduction in carbon.
  - Birmingham District Energy Company (BDEC) – work to decarbonize the network
  - Tyseley Energy Park
- What are the next steps?
  - Creating a blueprint for systems thinking that is capable of being applied at a city scale.
  - Working with regulators to overcome barriers to investment
  - Developing skills and training in a commercial environment.
  - Maximise the development of Tyseley Energy Park
- What do we need to get us there?/Lobbying
  - Lobby for Tyseley to become the National Centre for Decarbonisation of Heat
  - Submit proposal for ERDF and other funding to acquire additional space for business incubation.
  - Maximise opportunities for partner working, such as with UoB

Priority Action - The Natural Environment

- What have we done to date?
  - Future Parks Accelerator – ‘Naturally Birmingham’
  - Cole Valley Route – ERDF bid and GBSLEP Expression of Interest
- What are the next steps?
  - Rehabilitation of green space, including increasing canopy cover – increasing cover to a minimum of 25% in all wards citywide.
  - WM National Park Concept
- What do we need to get us there?/Lobbying
  - Additional staff resource for canopy cover project and to ensure comments can be made on planning applications at an early stage
  - Lobbying in communities with low tree canopy cover

Next Steps for the Call to Action

- All of these projects will be taken forward over the next two years and each of them will make a significant and valuable contribution to achieving net zero carbon.

Moving Forward:

- The Call to Action will be presented to Full Council on 12th January 2021

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