

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

30 July 2019



Subject: Additional Climate Change Commitments for the Council
Report of: Director - Inclusive Growth and Assistant Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Waseem Zaffar – Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
Relevant O &S Chair(s): Councillor Liz Clements – Sustainability & Transport
Report author: Varun Sitaram, Uyen-Phan Han
Uyen-Phan.Han@birmingham.gov.uk
Varun.Sitaram@birmingham.gov.uk

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 006602/2019		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report summarises the existing and planned activity being undertaken by the Council to tackle climate change and sets out a number of further potential commitments for the Council to take in respect of climate action.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note and endorse the existing and planned commitments that the Council is undertaking to tackle climate change, while supporting the further exploration of additional actions as set out in Section 3.8 of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets the UK's emission reduction targets and the framework for Climate Change commitments. These are "legally binding" targets for carbon emissions (CO₂) reductions of 80% by 2050 (against the 1990 baseline). This limit was designed as a contribution to halving global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. More recently the UK Government has announced that it will amend its target to zero emissions by 2050 in response to recommendations published by the Committee on Climate Change in June 2019.
- 3.2 The UK has ratified the 'Paris Agreement', adopted in 2015 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), which sets out a global action plan to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. To achieve this aim, the Agreement additionally sets a target for net zero global emissions in the second half of this century.
- 3.3 In 2013, the Council set its own ambitious target of 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2027. This represents a reduction from 6.874m tonnes baseline in 1990 to 2.750m tonnes by 2027.
- 3.4 The Council monitors carbon reduction data which shows that Birmingham's CO₂ emissions have decreased by 33.7% against a 1990 baseline. The main source for carbon emissions data is reported via the Government retrospectively every 2 years. Current data for Birmingham shows that the total CO₂ emissions for 2016 was 4.467m tonnes, where;
- 33.4% of emissions were from industry and commercial sectors;
 - 33.9% from domestic; and
 - 32.7% from transport.
- 3.5 Current climate commitments the Council has signed up to include;
- Carbon Road Map – In 2013, Birmingham committed to a target to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2027, against 1990 levels.
 - Covenant of Mayors - Birmingham has a commitment to the Covenant of Mayors, to monitor carbon emissions through a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan. In October 2015, the European Commission launched the new integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which goes beyond the objectives set for 2020, with the signatories of the new Covenant committing to reduce their CO₂ emissions and to adopt a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
 - C4 fossil fuel agreement – signed by the Council, September 2018, committing to all new procured buses in the City Centre from 2025 to be zero emission, also identify key city areas to be zero emission.
- 3.6 Existing Activity

The Council has a number of existing activities aimed at tackling reduction of carbon emissions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These include:

Planning and Development

- The adopted Birmingham Development Plan (2017) which sets out a development strategy and planning policies to promote a sustainable, inclusive and connected city. This includes policies on sustainable construction, low and zero carbon energy generation, promoting a low carbon economy, management of flood risk and water resources, maintaining and enhancing the green infrastructure network.
- The most significant parts of the Green Living Spaces Plan have been absorbed within the Birmingham Development Plan and will be further supported through the New Birmingham Parks Model, (see below section 3.7).

Sustainable Transport

- Birmingham Connected and the emerging Birmingham Transport Plan seeks to reduce the impact and minimise the contribution of the city's transport to climate change.
- Providing more sustainable transport alternatives (public transport, walking and cycling) and encouraging people to reduce, remode, retime and reroute their journeys.
- Reducing the reliance on the private car and promoting behaviour change through the development of Green Travel Districts.
- Introducing ultra-low and zero emission vehicles within the Council's fleet and contracts.
- Supporting business fleet transition to low/zero emission vehicles.
- Working with the private sector to accelerate the development of retrofit solutions for public and private sector vehicles to enable Clean Air Zone compliance.
- Delivering Council's car club scheme (operated by Co-Wheels) with low emission vehicles.
- Regional policies include Movement for Growth and 10 year delivery plan, the Cycle Charter and the Bus Network Development Plans, supporting more sustainable transport.

Heating and Powering the City

- Since 2006, a partnership between ENGIE, Birmingham City Council, Aston University and Birmingham Children's Hospital has been providing low carbon heat, electricity and chilled water to a range of buildings in Birmingham through a 20MW District Heat Network. The network saves circa. 17,000

tonnes of CO₂ per year. The City Council is exploring how to further decarbonise the network to increase the reduction of carbon savings.

- Accelerating investment in how we heat and power the city with support to create more local renewable energy.
- Tackling fuel poverty through collaboration with Housing Services, Public Health and regional agencies to support targeted actions around accessing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) energy efficiency opportunities; fuel poverty information, advice and guidance; training opportunities; and energy company corporate social obligations.
- Refurbishing high-rise residential buildings which have been identified as the most energy inefficient and likely to contain residents that are living in fuel poverty.
- LED conversion programme for street lighting (91,000 lights already converted since 2015).

Research

- Birmingham City Council are partners in the West Midlands Air Quality Improvement Programme –a five-year project to apply environmental science research expertise to improve air quality in the West Midlands, delivering health, economic and environmental benefits. The project is led by the University of Birmingham, in collaboration with over 20 local partners providing direct and in-kind input, and is supported by a £5 million award from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

Partnerships

- Working with regional academic experts, businesses and industry through Energy Capital to understand how the transition to a decarbonised system can work for the West Midlands.
- Working with Core Cities around housing and transport agendas.
- Network of UK100 local authorities focused on climate and clean energy policy.
- Participating in the LGA's 'Encouraging Innovation' working group to improve practice towards the public procurement of innovation.

Other

- Including a 'Green and Sustainable' theme in the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility, asking signatories to protect the environment, minimise waste and energy consumption, use resources efficiently and contribute to Birmingham's Clean Air Zone.
- Green Bridges Supply Chain: supporting SME supply chain companies operating in or expanding into green economy with capital or revenue grants between £20,000 - £150,000 (and potentially up to £1m).

3.7 Planned Activity

In addition to existing activity, the Council is exploring the potential for a number of further activities, including:

Planning and Development

- Developing innovative construction methods such as modular construction through the BMHT programme and the requirement for social value actions to address carbon reduction targets from building design, materials used, standards for heating and power through to providing EV charge points.
- The emerging Development Management Development Plan Document proposes a new policy which seeks to ensure that development considers air quality and is accompanied by an appropriate scheme of mitigation where negative impacts are identified.
- Revision of the City's parking standards which will see significantly reduced parking standards for new development in the city centre and reduced standards in areas with good public transport connectivity.

Sustainable Transport

- Introducing the Clean Air Zone within the city centre that supports the transition from carbon intensive diesel and petrol vehicles to ultra-low and zero emission vehicles.
- Providing a 'roadmap' to deliver cleaner air across all communities in Birmingham's Clean Air Strategy.
- Supporting low carbon vehicle technologies and the use of renewable energy through the development and deployment of a comprehensive EV charge point network for taxis, public accessibility and for commercial vehicles from vans to heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).
- The Council procuring up to 22 hydrogen buses to be in operation by 2020 within the City, using renewable energy to produce the hydrogen fuel on site at the re-fuelling hub at Tyseley Energy Park.
- Reducing traffic (through parking controls and reallocation of road space)

Heating and Powering the City

- Developing an Energy Prospectus to launch the level of investment required to develop and deliver a Birmingham Energy Plan that addresses key priorities of decarbonisation, energy security and energy efficiency.

Green Infrastructure

- At the 5th March 2019 Cabinet approval was given for the City bid 'Naturally Birmingham' for up to £1 million pounds. This is for revenue funding over two years 2019-2021 from the Future Parks Accelerator Fund, to bring about a sustainable future for Birmingham's parks and green spaces. This will lead to

the development of a New Birmingham Parks Model that will put the city's natural environment at the centre of decision-making by adopting a natural capital approach. This will significantly raise the City's ability to adapt to climate change.

3.8 Further Commitments

In addition to the above, the City Council is committed to taking further steps to tackle climate change following its decision to pass the motion on Climate Emergency at a meeting of the full City Council on 11 June 2019. Reflecting the Motion, the further commitments the Council will take on climate change include:

- Aspiring for the city to be net zero carbon by 2030 or as soon after, making sure communities engaged in the process, protecting employment, ensuring a just transition and without impoverishing deprived communities.
- Working with the WMCA and seeking from the UK Government the powers and resources to help Birmingham deliver the 2030 net zero carbon ambition
- Constituting a Climate Emergency Task Force to support the Council move from declaration to delivery drawing in cross sector, expertise, capacity and capability to capture the investment and economic opportunity arising from a low carbon future.
- Rapidly set up a process of engagement and collaborative action that enables the Task Force to bring forward to Full Council in January 2020 a plan that sets out how the aspiration for the City and the ambition of the Council to be net zero carbon by 2030 can be best achieved.
- Reviewing planned Transport, Housing, Waste and Energy Investment plans and policies to ensure they are fit to support a transition to a zero-carbon future with Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny monitoring progress and to provide an update to Council in November 2019 and annually thereafter.
- Adding a sixth outcome to the Council Plan focussing on tackling climate change. (This was subsequently agreed at Cabinet meeting on 25 June 2019).

3.9 Once these further actions have been explored and determined, the delivery of further commitments will be subject to separate executive reports.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1 – Do nothing. This would not help to reinforce the Council's current climate change commitments.

Recommended Proposal – proceed with exploration of the further climate change commitments outlined in paragraph 3.8.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken on key policy documents such as the Birmingham Development Plan, the Development Management Development Plan Document, Birmingham Connected, Birmingham Clean Air Strategy and the Clean Air Zone. Forthcoming consultation will be undertaken on the emerging Energy Prospectus, Birmingham Transport Plan and the Parking Supplementary Planning Document. These will be the subject of separate Cabinet/ Joint Cabinet Member/Chief Officer Reports.
- 5.2 A separate programme of engagement and consultation is recommended, which will seek to ensure that any further climate change commitments comply fully with prevailing statutory acts, regulations, instruments and orders and capable of lawful implementation. This programme of engagement and consultation would also seek to build support for delivery of the ambitions from partners and other stakeholders from across the city. This would be determined as part of the exploratory process set out in paragraph 3.8.
- 5.3 Finance, Legal and Corporate Procurement have been involved in the preparation of this report.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1 The risks associated with the current and planned activities have been or will be covered in approved/forthcoming Cabinet/Joint Cabinet Member/Chief Officer Reports. The risks associated with the additional climate commitments will need to be fully assessed pursuant to 3.8 above.

7. Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

The recommended approach is consistent and aligned with the strategic outcomes in the Council Plan including “Birmingham is a great city to live in” and will ensure that the Council’s climate change commitments are reflected in the Council Plan as an additional key strategic outcome.

7.2 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications to the recommended next steps as set out in paragraph 3.8 in compliance with the Climate Change Act 2008.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 7.3.2 The City Council passed the motion on Climate Emergency at its meeting 11 June 2019 and subsequently agreed that 'Tackling Climate Change' will become a sixth outcome at its meeting on 25 June 2019. As a result, funding to support this agenda will need to be considered as part of the 2020/21+ Council budget process.
- 7.3.3 The next steps will be to constitute and run the Climate Task Force and progress work associated with the preparation of a carbon reduction plan which will require the appointment of an external consultant to prepare background/ baseline material; test and evaluate options; and prepare a carbon reduction plan amongst other tasks. This is estimated to cost in the region of £150,000-£180,000 based on previous experience of commissions of a similar nature. The precise cost will need to be determined as the scope of the work is finalised and a future decision report will be prepared to progress this work which will include the identification of funding.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report. However, consideration to climate change to be given in future procurement activity as well as the incorporation of the Green and Sustainable principle of the BBC4SR as an evaluation criteria, where relevant to the goods, services or works being procured.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

Additional resources will be required to deliver the recommended next steps.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality Analyses have been carried out on the current activities listed in paragraph 3.6 and for forthcoming and emerging strategies/ programmes described in this report, separate Equality Analyses will be undertaken.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 Risk Assessment

8. Background Documents

- Motions agreed at City Council 11 June 2019
- Birmingham Development Plan (2017)
- Birmingham Connected (2013)
- Tackling Air Quality, Cabinet Report, 26 June 2017
- Air Quality Action Plan
- Birmingham Air Quality Strategy (Draft) February 2019
- Birmingham Clean Air Zone Submission of Full Business Case, 11 December 2018
- Birmingham Carbon Road Map (2013)

- Development Management in Birmingham Preferred Options Consultation Document (March 2019)