

Birmingham City Council

City Council

7th February 2023



Subject: Route to Net Zero Annual Report 2022

Report of: Councillor Majid Mahmood

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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report to full Council follows on from the report in January 2022 which sought endorsement of the Action Plan setting out the priority actions that will move us forward over the next couple of years. Actions were selected that will enable us to scale up existing successful projects and to deliver the largest impact in reducing carbon emissions. This year, additional actions have been added that have been developed over the last year following the recruitment of a route to net zero team.
- 1.2 This report presents an update on the work undertaken since January 2021 on the identified Wave 1 projects and the Action Plan Progress Report. The Action Plan Progress Report provides progress that has been made since February 2022 on the 41 wave projects that were identified as priority projects following the January 2021 report. Detailed information on project status can be found in appendix 1 – this is the Route to Net Zero Annual Report 2022.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the Action Plan Progress Report and the progress on wave 1 projects and new projects identified within it.
- 2.2 To note the proposed next steps within the report around national policies, route to net zero governance arrangements and the review of the local plan.

3 Background

- 3.1 Since the last report to full council, there has been the creation of a dedicated team to embed positive action on emissions reduction across Council services. This team has also grown Birmingham City Council's presence across a range of forums in the

city and beyond and enabled the development and delivery of projects from which pace and scale can be increased. This team includes a dedicated finance and bids lead and behaviour change and engagement lead.

- 3.2 Please note the old theme categories were: New Build, Retrofit, Transport, Waste, Energy, City of Nature and Council. The theme names have been refreshed and are now: Buildings, Transport, Energy, Waste & Circular Economy, Nature & Environment, Procurement, Behaviour change & Engagement, Communications and Digital & Data.
- 3.3 The Route to Net Zero Annual Report 2022 provides an update on all wave 1 projects since 2021 within appendix 1.
- 3.4 Areas with good progress: Buildings, Transport, Nature & Environment, Energy, Behaviour change & Engagement.
- 3.5 Areas where route to zero programmes of activity are emerging: Waste & circular economy and Communications. Digital & Data and Procurement are new themes.
- 3.6 Key achievements include: recruitment of Route to Net Zero team, commencement of Birmingham Development Plan review, adoption of the City of Nature Framework and the development of a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Our Future City Plan progress, the East Birmingham programme, commissioning of a decarbonisation plan for Birmingham District Energy Scheme, completion of first tranche of carbon literacy training and the 3 cities retrofit collaboration.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal Next Steps

- 4.1 A new Programme Board made up of senior representatives from across the Council has been established that will report directly into Council Leadership Team on a quarterly basis. The group will oversee strategic and delivery progress in each theme area. The sessions will include deep dive presentations on specific topics. The first Board has met in January 2023 and will ensure there is appropriate pace and scale of action across net zero and climate resilience and adaptation activities.
- 4.2 Through the review of the Birmingham Development Plan, we need to produce new policies that require all new development, including change of use and retrofit, to be as close to net zero as possible to ensure they do not add to the carbon emissions of the city and are not adding to the future retrofit burden. Policies will need to deal with all of the carbon associated with new buildings including the energy needed to power them (operational energy) and that needed to construct them and decommission them (embodied energy). This is known as whole life carbon and is an area of growing focus as building regulations only address operational energy – despite the fact that in new low carbon developments, embodied energy may constitute a larger share of carbon emissions than operational energy.

- 4.3 Moving forward, we need to build upon the momentum of the past year. The current position and new strategic board provides an ideal platform on which to build a significant scale of action. There are a vast number of opportunities we are waiting to hear the outcomes of – should these be successful, a huge volume of activity and large-scale opportunities for emissions reduction will ensue. The relationships we have forged with public sector, private sectors and community networks across Birmingham will provide invaluable support in ensuring the Route to Net Zero activities have people and place at their heart, help build continuity in areas such as housing retrofit and bring large scale funding into the city.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no new direct financial implications as a result of this report.

7 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

8 Other Implications

- 8.1 The 2019 Council Plan update includes a 6th key priority which states that Birmingham will be a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change. This commitment aims to embed climate action in the council's decision-making process to make sure that all service areas contribute to the route to zero journey. The production of this monitoring report holds the Council to account against this key priority.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Report to City Council 12 January 2021 - Route to Zero Report
9.2 Report to City Council 11 January 2022 Route to Zero – Annual Progress Report

10 Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix 1 - Route to Net Zero Annual Report 2022