

Appendix 6: Progress Against the City Council's Early Commitments

No.	Commitment	Timescale	Progress
Transport			
1	Undertake awareness campaigns targeting the highest polluting trips and users to encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint from transport (for example, increasing awareness of people's travel choices and promoting behavioural change)	2020-21	Communicating the scale of change that is required through the Birmingham Transport Plan consultation.
2	Explore additional policy measures, such as the evaluation of transport interventions and the creation of a carbon fund	2020-21	In progress. One example is the Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan which was published to deliver a low carbon recovery from Covid -19, fast tracking some changes in mode share by locking in the increase in active modes during lock down. This includes a review of all current schemes to identify changes which may be required to meet the objectives of a low carbon recovery.
3	The City Council to lead by example in adopting and supporting low-carbon transport practices (for example, awareness raising campaigns with staff and reducing business mileage)	2020 onwards	In progress. An example is the forced adoption of extensive working from home practices during lock down has allowed the City Council (and other organisations) to test out how flexible working can provide the opportunity to reduce the impact of commuting on lowering our carbon impact.
Green and Blue Infrastructure			
4	Undertake a feasibility study looking at early interventions to enhance the Cole Valley Corridor, including Glebe Farm Recreation Ground	2020	The city's Landscape Practice Group (LPG) have been commissioned to undertake a study on the feasibility of delivering some of the interventions identified in the Cole Valley Vision Plan, particularly those capital works around Glebe Farm Recreation Ground. Investigations into improving path networks and links will be explored along with features to encourage the local community to engage with the

			local resource. Improved cycleway signage is due to be delivered this year as part of LPG's commissioned works and potential for solar way marking of the cycle route will be investigated.
5	Improve information and data on webpages	2020	Discussions on what information needs to be presented are underway. Some information has been collated as part of the production of the draft design guide; however, with the exit from the EU and the Environment Bill still progressing through Government, there is a need to consider what legislative changes are due to come into force, such as the mandating of Biodiversity Net Gain, which would need to be reflected in any published documentation.
6	Nature Recovery Network/Natural Capital Mapping to support effective mitigation and enhancement measures	2020	Exploratory work is being undertaken in conjunction with EcoRecord (the biological records service for B&BC) as part of the Future Parks Accelerator project on pilot sites. Some learning has been obtained from the Natural England GI pilot as part of the Black Country Review and work undertaken on the B&BC Nature Improvement Area.
7	Urban Forest Management Policy – update technical note	2020	Much of the groundwork has been undertaken for this update of the existing management policy starting with the Tree Policy review in early 2018.
8	Biochar investigation to consider the capture of carbon through the pyrolytic conversion of timber	2020	<p>Meeting held to discuss the emerging tree policies and desire for increase of tree Canopy Cover and how this links to the potential production of Biochar from wood waste for use as a soil ameliorant and a way of locking carbon into the ground.</p> <p>Further conversation has been had with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Ecotopic (Stockholm based operators and demonstrator) to progress the potential for a Birmingham based trial as well as</p>

			discussions with representatives from the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) based at Aston University Campus.
9	Support other service areas in their delivery of R20 – particularly around transport and housing	2020	Support is being given to other service areas around their commitments to R20, the Biochar investigation feeds directly into the Energy strands plus could tie in with housing as part of a district heat network. Ongoing as part of day to day works although as other projects develop officer time may come under pressure.
10	Deliver training/awareness sessions to other service areas on broad green and blue infrastructure, biodiversity, and sustainability topics	2020	Yet to commence as a key topic will be the Government's requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).
11	Collaborate with partners to secure funding and deliver projects that contribute to overall R20 aims (for example, a Sky Park (a green walking route on the elevated, disused section of the viaduct running through Digbeth) and improvements to the River Rea to enhance the green corridor in the city centre)	2020 onwards	Initial work with Canals and Rivers Trust has commenced to identify suitable interventions that can be put forward for implementation as part of the wider Digbeth regeneration. Proposals include improvements to the accessibility of the canal network towpaths (infrastructure and signage) and biodiversity enhancements.
Energy			
12	Commence the Heat Decarbonisation Delivery Plan (developed with BEIS)	2020	Work commenced January 2020. The initial stage (January to August 2020) of data collation, stakeholder engagement and initial modelling. This first phase will identify opportunities for heat decarbonisation with specific interventions defined by BEIS for Phase 2 further development, potentially including the low/zero carbon interventions for the City Council's new housing development, retrofit of existing stock, and feasibility of use of ground, air and water source heat pump deployment; city-wide energy from waste opportunities for deploying future district heating; the role of Hydrogen

			<p>as a source of heating; and planning policy interventions.</p> <p>Phase 2 will follow from September 2020 and will assess the financial implications, funding routes and investment models required to support the interventions approved by BEIS as a feasible delivery plan.</p>
13	The City Council's Energy Strategy	2020 onwards	The City Council's Energy Strategy is currently being developed - focussing on key actions that the Council has within its authority, scope of role and service delivery responsibilities.
14	Undertake a procurement review of energy supply to City Council buildings	2020-23	The City Council's energy supply contracts allow for the purchase of green energy. The move to green energy would present a net budget pressure of circa £80k . However a decision on this was required prior to 1 st April for the 2020/21 supply year. This option will be available for the 2021/22 supply year and a decision will be required in Q4 2020 and a quotation can be provided during this period.
15	Develop a renewable energy electric charge point network	2020-22 (initial phase)	Procurement of EV Development Partner has been completed. the contract is now finalised; leading a concentrated two-year EV charge point deployment of 197 OLEV funded chargers (up to 394 charge points) across the city. The OLEV funding prioritises taxi vehicles, but the charge points will be publicly accessible, giving time to further develop the network for a wider publicly accessible charge point network from the end of year 2 to year 12, as part of an emerging charge point strategy.
Housing			
16	Initiate a Passivhaus (zero carbon house) pilot	2020-21	A review of the current BMHT build programme has seen a site at Dawberry Fields selected to pilot Passivhaus development. A review of Passivhaus delivery in other

			Local Authorities is underway, and identification of appropriate consultancy expertise to guide the development is in hand.
17	Deliver a zero carbon retrofit conference exploring best practice and funding models	2020	The conference took place online from 21 st to 23 rd July 2020.
18	Develop a database of advice and a Communications Plan for providing zero carbon retrofit information to home owners, landlords and residents	2020-21	Ongoing – Draft documents under review to include actions and direction arising from the R20 / Climate Change Taskforce and legislative changes.
Developing the Green Economy			
19	Commence a governance review with stakeholders to maximise the value of and investment in the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District and the wider area	2020	<p>Chaired thematic workshop involving Members and various R20 Taskforce members related to the development of the Green Economy.</p> <p>As thematic lead met with consultants from Anthesis setting out our current and future carbon reduction initiatives, key barriers and the need for radical steps to achieve zero carbon.</p>
20	Develop a clear business offer related to Tyseley Energy Park to attract SME's and capital investment into the area	2020	Discussions to develop a clear business offer related to Tyseley Energy Park are planned to take place in March 2020. The offer will be designed to attract SMEs and capital investment into the area.
21	Deliver the CAZ Heavy Duty Vehicle Fund to support SME's to purchase and/or lease new compliant vehicles or retrofit non-compliant vehicles to achieve Euro 6 compliance and improve air quality	2020-23	<p>Clean Air Zone - implementation of £10m Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) Fund was approved by Cabinet on 11 February 2020. Fund designed to support SMEs to purchase and/or lease new compliant vehicles/retrofit non-compliant vehicles to achieve compliance and improve air quality due to be launched during 2020.</p> <p>The scheme for Birmingham-licensed hackney carriage and private vehicles which aims to encourage an upgrade to this fleet through retrofits, purchase of hybrids or EVs (total value c. £15m) is also due to open for applications at the same time as the HDV scheme.</p> <p>A scheme to develop rental of EV taxis is being developed.</p>

			A scrappage and/or mobility credit scheme for workers in the CAZ earning less than £30k p.a. will be launched in late 2020 and will encourage people to scrap a 'non compliant' vehicle for one that is compliant or use the money for 'mobility' credits.
22	Undertake a detailed baseline study – including a market overview and identifying challenges, gaps in provision, and opportunities	2020	Initial baseline of the green economy has been undertaken.
Planning			
23	Review and strengthen planning policies relating to green and blue infrastructure	2020	Yet to commence but will form part of the wider review of the Birmingham Development Plan and associated policies plus implementation of any new legislation arising from the Environment Bill.
24	Review, strengthen and expand design guide information relating to green and blue infrastructure, and links to low carbon, sustainability and biodiversity, low and zero carbon energy and sustainable construction	2020	The Planning Sandpit event considered what is needed in this area. The outcomes of the Sandpit has informed the recommendations in this Council Report and will inform the subsequent work on R20.
25	Commence a review of the Big City Plan	2020	Work commenced in Spring 2020.
Procurement and Contract Management			
26	Commence a City Council-wide Procurement and Contract Management strategy review (for new and existing contracts) to explore alignment with R20 principles	2020-21	<p>The commencement of the City Council wide Procurement and Contract Management Strategy review is subject to the publishing of the PWC review of Procurement across the Authority that is expected in Quarter 3 2020. The implementation of the PWC review and the drafting of a Procurement and Contract Management Strategy have been delayed due to the urgent procurement response to COVID-19.</p> <p>Some measures to aid the R20 carbon reduction agenda are already built into the City Council's Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility and</p>

			<p>these are also due to be reviewed in 20/21 Q1.</p> <p>Other measures (e.g. engaging suppliers to determine/cost out CO2 reduction interventions) can be developed subject to the Council's baseline position being established and shared to determine specific priority areas and any related budget provision. To this end, Anthesis have been provided links to published procurement spend data which they have asked for in order to calculate the City Council's carbon footprint.</p>
	To review the Energy from Waste facility at Tyseley	On-going	<p>We have an Energy from Waste at Tyseley which processes 350,000 tonnes of the city's waste per year and produces 25MW of electricity for which we receive payment.</p> <p>Three phases for the future of the plant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ph1 we are in which is extension of Veolia contract to January 2024 and cannot be extended. o Ph2 is for next 10 years, this exercise is in its Procurement Phase. Due to its commercial sensitivity we not able to share details. As part of this we are looking to reduce the amount of waste we are committed from 300,000 tonnes a year to 100,000 tonnes a year, currently Veolia get all waste bar paper. o Ph3 is post Tyseley, what we do next beyond that, this is what we need to think about now, what we will do with our waste 2030+. <p>Seeking funding from government to support transition.</p> <p>The target is zero waste to landfill over transitional contract.</p>
Governance			
27	Undertake a governance review to explore embedding environmental and sustainability principles in the City Council's decision-making process (for example, through	2020	In progress

	environmental/climate impact assessments and appraisals)		
HR			
28	Exploring opportunities to reduce workforce carbon emissions through changes in working practices (for example, through agile working and the use of technology to reduce the need to travel)	2020-21	Covid19 has changed working practices considerably with a significant number of people working from home full time. As we establish post Covid19 working practice we will need to explore opportunities to reduce workforce carbon emissions.