**Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce**

**29 April 2020, 10:00-12:00**

**Virtual meeting**

**Key discussion points and actions:**

**Apologies**

Sam Hunter-Jones (Client Earth), Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP, Phillippa Hentsch (UHB), Raj Kandola (Chamber of Commerce), Tim Pile and Paul Edwards (LEP), Varun Sitaram (BCC), Rishi Shori (BCC)

**Review Minutes and Actions**

* Minutes and actions from January meeting agreed (Councillor Zaffar)

**Introduction**

* Report to full Council meeting scheduled for June now scheduled for September meeting (14 September).
* Reflections and thanks on Footsteps Earth Day conference; Bahu Trust for Green Ramadan.
* Feedback to 2 questions – feedback will be collated and discussed at Project Board with a view to drawing up an action plan - will be shared with TF
* Technical Advisory Group to be established to support the process – hope to finalise membership this week.

*Action : Cllr Zaffar to write to public sector orgs & their responses to be shared with TF members. Sustainability strategies to be brought to future TF mtgs*

*Feedback from two questions will be shared with TF*

Questions/Comments from TF Members

* Georgie Nott – Birmingham Europe youngest city, B’ham Youth Strike for Climate –- Letter sent to BCC re Renewal of the Tyseley Contract and Widening of Dudley Road – awaiting response. Also, wanted to put on record BYSFC will be campaigning against the Tyseley Incinerator plans.
* Cllr Julien Pritchard – Several TF members signed letter to Cllr Zaffar opposing Tyseley contract procurement – still awaiting response. Suggest that Cllr O’Shea attends future TF.
* Lisa Trickett – To be able to deliver on 2030 ambition, TF needs to be confident there is corporate certainty especially for all future policies and contracts.
* Cllr Peter Fowler – echoed Cllr Pritchard’s comment re Tyseley contract.

*Action : Response from Cllr O’Shea will be followed up and circulated to TF and Cllr O’Shea to be invited to future TF*

**Progress Update (Ian Macleod and Jonathan Tew)**

* Green and Blue Infrastructure – Cole Valley corridor feasibility study – improved pedestrian/cycle access to the city centre and through East Bham corridor. Cycle signage and solar way marking being considered.
* CRT identifying suitable interventions as part of wider Digbeth regeneration – accessibility to canal network via towpaths and biodiversity
* EV Charging points – looking rolling out 394 points across the city.
* BHMT Housing programme – Passivhaus zero carbon – 3 sites selected for further details. Reviewing best options.
* COVID-19 Update – tentatively moving to designing recovery structure – legacy for R20 – short term NO2 impact, improved partnership working, agile working. Impacted different communities more than others – those communities in cohort of concern same as just transition needs to be dovetailed with recovery.

Questions/Comments from TF Members

* Cllr Pritchard – what are the proposed sites for pilots for Passivhaus?

*Action : Ian McLeod to circulate when more details available.*

**Update on Sandpits (Naomi Todd and Lisa Trickett)**

* Transport sandpit confirmed for 13 May 2020. To discuss Draft Transport Plan and next steps in taking this forward including other partners not just BCC. Aims to align efforts to reduce emissions from transport.
* Comms and Engagement Sandpit – series of workshops being arranged to test real things in real places. Lisa Trickett to send out invite asap.
* East B’ham and North Solihull - Because of the challenge of replicating the East Birmingham session as a remote session, the proposal now is to produce a series of scoping papers for the area which the Taskforce can feed into

**Economic justice presentation – New Policy Institute (NPI) and Barrow Cadbury Trust**

New Policy Institute and Barrow Cadbury Trust – joint work on economic justice in Birmingham and the Black Country presented by Peter Kenway from NPI

Questions/Comments from TF Members

* Polly Billington – Useful context - looking at the climate challenge without thinking about economic realities. Worthwhile asking questions about what LAs can do with levers they have, eg, poor quality housing where LAs can take the lead. How do we solve the problem in ongoing COVID environment – Also aware of skills gap – making sure we are involving people who are going to be doing or will need to do the jobs involved in changing our economy. Important to involve students and their families – to try and understand things required to meet their own aspirations as individuals and as communities. When developing the policies ensure we are developing them with people.

Lisa Trickett – Important we need to devise plans that can be developed out at every spatial scale and sphere of governance so there is no displacement effect across the region.

*Action : copy of forthcoming NPI/APSE report to be shared with TF when published and further discussion at future meeting about economic impact/state of the economy – Peter Kenway, NPI to be invited.*

**Birmingham Carbon Emission Reduction Study presentation – Anthesis**

Matt Rooney/Sara Telahoun from Anthesis presented summary on Birmingham Carbon Reduction Emissions Study

Recommendations include:

* The Council has wider influencing and convening powers to drive actions across the city.
* The Council can take a leadership position to catalyse action
* Significant action in the next 10 years is essential to meet the net zero ambition and keep within the city’s carbon budget
* There is huge potential for reductions in the buildings sector as the largest source of emissions for the city
* Achieving net zero will require commitment and action from all stakeholders in the city - collaboration is key
* There are great examples of action locally but more must be done

Important to note the study was completed pre-COVID.

Questions/Comments from TF Members

Chris Martin – to what extent are citizens buying things and their consumption emissions included in city/region emission figures – Sarah T responded that they weren’t included as part of the study

Michael Addison – how does the Anthesis report relate to the one done for the CWG?

Jonathan T – Making links to the CWG OC legacy and benefits programme – sustainability Lead on OC will be invited to future meetings.

*Action : CWG Organising Cttee sustainability lead to be invited to future meeting*

Michael Addison - Single Use Plastics Report with 8 recommendations

Cllr Clements responded that scrutiny tracking recommendations but raised concerns eg, Birmingham has some of the lowest recycling rates amongst the Core Cities.

Polly Billington – Grandfathering allocated to particular parts of the country which ends up with deprived communities bearing brunt of emissions. LAs like Birmingham have powers eg procuring clean energy. Changing staff behaviour on travel should be sought when don’t have levers on transport. Given size of BCC and links with WMCA, BCC needs to use all the powers it has otherwise won’t be able to achieve change.

Tim Miller – Aston Uni completed piece of work on clusters of buildings and how energy is managed from different production/use vectors integrating electric vehicle to grid.

*Action : Report to be shared with TF*

Jules Todd – why is there so little coverage of the net carbon emissions of city food supply?

Matt R confirmed – not included as part the study.

Katie Riley - regarding natural environment - protect and manage existing trees/woodland – directly contradicts plans for HS2.

Cllr Clements – procurement activities – have Anthesis spoken to waste disposal colleagues directly about the re-procurement of the Tyseley Incinerator?

**Housing and Planning sandpits (Emily Prestwood)**

Emily P updated on the Housing and Planning sandpits held in March prior to lockdown:

Led by Maria Dunn and Jane Tretheway. Outputs based on the CIA framework.

Questions/Comments from TF Members

Chris M – work done by individuals in communities over the last 10 years on retrofit – needs to be recognised and connected with.

**Communications and Engagement**

Eleri R – Part of phased comms approach – broken down into two pieces of work:

* Broader questionnaire responses – conducted pre-COVID.
* More in depth piece of work around focus groups –deeper analysis and harder to reach groups –One Black Bear presentation.

Comments/Questions from TF Members

How were individuals chosen for the focus groups and how reflective of demography of Birmingham?

Jules T – Seems to be an assumption that behavioural change is the most significant in reducing carbon emissions as opposed to eg infrastructure, buildings etc.

Emily P – Reported on Comms and Engagement Sub-group

* Governance structure set up
* developing list of key messages for the group and definition of ‘just transition’ – Chris Martin Footsteps report. Summarising to a briefing that can be shared to wider networks
* Stakeholder mapping –groups to engage with
* Further Sandpits
* Highlighted BCU Sustainability Strategy as good example of action

**Agreeing Next Steps**

Cllr Zaffar – Need to engage and encourage institutions in the city to start sharing their sustainability strategies.

*Action : Cllr Zaffar to write to institutions in the city and share responses with TF*

Climate Emergency Week – encourage youth strikers to lead – suggest first Climate Emergency Week in September – should start preparing now even if has to be done virtually.

*Action : Cllr Zaffar to engage with Youth Strikers re Climate Emergency week.*

TF members to consider their positions as influencers and identify potential activities they can lead on. In particular, suggestions/ideas for the action plan.

*Action : TF members to share ideas with Maria Dunn (maria.dunn@birmingham.gov.uk)*

**Any Other Business**

Jonathan T – discussions with some TF members about longevity and future model for retaining multi-agency approach. Bring clarity to Council’s agenda around R20 and support networks in the city who are already bringing momentum to this agenda.

*Action : Bring back future governance and resourcing to next TF meeting*

Cllr Zaffar – noted comments around late send out of papers.

Sandpits being reconvened. Timescales have changed due to COVID but will be shared as soon as possible.

Chat box will be reviewed and shared with TF members

Next meeting scheduled for 10 June (replaced 13 May meeting). A date for July will be circulated as soon as possible.

*Action : Rose H to circulate dates*