

Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce

10th June 2020, 16:00-18:00

Virtual meeting

Key discussion points and actions:

Attendance:

Amit Bratch (BCC),	Ioanna Moscholidou (BCC),	Nasreen Choudry (GBSLEP),
Carol Herity (NHS),	Jonathan Tew (BCC),	Paul Edwards (GBSLEP),
Cllr John O'Shea,	Maria Dunn (BCC),	Phillippa Hentsch (NHS),
Cllr Julian Pritchard,	Michael Addison (EcoBirmingham),	Sara Telahoun (Anthesis),
Cllr Liz Clements,	Rose Horsfall (BCC),	Martin Freer (UoB),
Cllr Olly Armstrong,	Aaron Smith (YS4C),	Bob Whitehead (CANWM),
Cllr Peter Fowler,	Georgie Nott (YS4C),	Chris Martin (Footsteps),
Cllr Roger Harmer,	Andrew Scattergood (TUC),	Jackie Homan (WMCA),
Cllr Sharon Thompson,	Andrew Page (TFWM),	David Horsfall (TEP),
Cllr Waseem Zaffar,	Deborah Phelpstead (BCU),	David Bownass (WSP),
Cllr Lisa Trickett,	Joanna Birch (BCU),	Carol Herity (NHS),
Dan Gamson (CWG),	Matt Rooney (Anthesis),	Cheryl Hiles (Energy Capital)
Eleanor Crook (BCC),	Tim Miller (Aston Uni),	Jules Todd (CANWM)
Eleri Roberts (BCC),		
Emily Prestwood (BEI),		
Ian Macleod (BCC),		

Apologies

Polly Billington (UK100),	Paul Faulkner (Bham Chamber of Commerce),	Kate Warnaby (Bham Chamber of Commerce)
Tim Pile (GBSLEP),	Rishi Shori (BCC),	
Varun Sitaram (BCC),		

1. Introduction (Cllr Zaffar)

- Thanks to Naomi Todd for her commitment on the R20 work, it has been invaluable
- Ellie Crook, Amit Bratch and Maria Dunn introduced themselves, who have taken over Naomi's work.
- The July meeting will be a workshop to discuss the Anthesis report and other relevant papers and make recommendations to be taken forward with a possible further workshop later in July to refine the recommendations. .
- There will be a formal taskforce meeting to agree the report before September full Council.
- The terms of reference for the Technical Advisory Board will be circulated ASAP after the meeting.

2. Progress Update (Ian Macleod and Jonathan Tew)

Update from Ian:

- EV charging points 197 and 294 respectively to be rolled in the next two years. The first phase contract is near completion.
- 20 hydrogen buses to be signed off by September- delay due to Covid
- Refuelling hub at Tyseley has been completed
- BEIS decarbonisation is progressing - phase 1 analysis heat modelling and options due in July, will lead to report to BEIS. Phase 2 will be September onwards financial funding sources investment models
- £58000 have been secured for 20 cargo bikes that will be used by different types of organisations (universities, The Active Wellbeing Society) and business (WEGO couriers, BIDs) across the city and by the council itself as part of a pilot project to demonstrate the different uses and benefits of ecargo bikes. All organisations that will receive a bike will be supported with training, safety equipment and appropriate maintenance of the ecargo bikes that will be covered by BCC for three years.
- Emergency Transport Plan was published on the 14th May, low carbon clean air recovery in response to covid focussed around the 4 big moves: reallocating road space, transforming the city centre, prioritising active travel in local neighbourhoods and managing demand through parking measures.
- Work has commenced on temporarily widening of roads in Erdington High Street and Kings Heath High Street by removing parking. Temporary road widening will also be introduced at Ladypool Road in Sparkbrook.
- £2 billion for active travel, we have £1 mil with matched £1.6 mil total to be used for park & pedal, cycle lanes, low traffic neighbourhoods, reallocation of road space – majority of schemes to be implemented over the next 2 months, also working to identify more schemes
- Passivhaus pilot going ahead through BMHT, identified first site which will be Dawberry Fields, Brandwood, 40 houses will be going ahead. The site will be used as a best practice example. Looking into the viability of other areas such as Druids Heath.
- Retrofit agenda around existing houses continues, planning a conference for 3 days 21-23 July. The retrofit agenda is a key part of recover strategy.

Update from Jonathan Tew:

- We have 3,200 cases of covid in Birmingham; this is second highest in West Midlands. This makes us 5th highest core city. Measures such as social distancing have helped. There are still issues with PPE. Test and trace is being bumped up and work is ongoing to put in place measures for easing the lockdown. Response phase to be set out for the next few months.
- The City Board chaired by Jacqui Smith has regional emphasis. There are lots of opportunities for future strategies and comparing notes.
- There is a need for the TF to work with other organisations to reduce inequalities and promote health and wellbeing.
- Room for TF to influence recovery, aware that those affected by covid are also those affected by climate change transition.
- We need to remain flexible for future covid spikes and need to keep this in mind with delivery

Questions/Comments from TF Members

- **Cllr Harmer** – who is running the retrofit programme? We need to move on from individual projects to how we plan to transform over next 10 years. What is the plan with hydrogen and electricity to change our buses and how are we going to develop the infrastructure such as Tyseley to serve the volume of use, what scale of infrastructure do we need and will we get there by 2030? Other point is pilots to scale idea, we should be pushing car clubs more as an intermediate technology; only have 25 cars with cowheels this is not enough so how do we scale this?
- **Cllr Pritchard** – agree with the point about scale, good initiatives in travel and passivhaus are coming out but how do we scale this into something bigger. How will we make all local centres suitable for social distancing not only for covid but also to make walking and cycling easier? When will the Dawberry Fields passivhaus finish? It will be important to evaluate it for other developments coming forward in the city.
- **Andrew Scattergood** – does each department in council have a climate justice checklist to check decisions against? Who is advising the taskforce and the council on post covid economic recovery and are they considering the climate? Do we have a plan on how to include unions in developing properly paid green jobs?
- **Lisa Trickett** – whilst what the council is doing is good, a big concern is that we are a year on from declaration and we haven't seen understanding across the corporate council for wholesale system change. Until lens of climate and inequality is on the lens of every decision the system change will not come. At start were clear that business as usual could not carry on, but it still feels like council is pursuing projects and not considering the system change that is required.

Responses

Ian

- Jane Trethewey runs the retrofit programme
- Agree with Cllr Harmer about transport comments and moving retrofit forwards.
- Short term measures in the Birmingham Emergency Transport Plan relate to road widening and ensuring measures for adequate social distancing and long term plan is to encourage walking and cycling and reduce car use. Happy to support car clubs as part of Birmingham Transport Plan consultation.
- Scale is a challenge but need to learn lessons from pilot projects and need to demonstrate what is deliverable. There is more emphasis from the Government on green recovery.

Jonathan

- As a council we need to think about taskforce work in the context of the delivery plan. Covid has pushed it back by 6 months. 2 year delivery window to 2022. Need to formally reflect and use it to refresh council strategies.

Cllr Zaffar

- Mentioned that there is a Council Management Day and the theme will be how the council responds to climate change will be a big issue which will need to be addressed.

3. Birmingham Carbon Emission Reduction Study

- Cllr Zaffar stated that Anthesis report has been circulated and comments are needed to be supplied to Maria Dunn by 17th June. Final report will be circulated post 17th June and will inform the work on Full Council.

Sara Telahoun (Anthesis)

- The purpose of report is to provide the evidence base and set out the framework for addressing issues such as 'what will it take to get to net zero' and 'how do we scale up'. Report provides everyone with same understanding of scale and speed of change in relation to the council. The report identifies key measures that should take place, and actions that should take place in the short term to support the net zero trajectory.
- Envisage the report to be used within individual sectors suggesting method how to drill down in each sector to see main barriers and allocate necessary resources to take the measures forward.

Questions/Comments from TF Members

- **Cllr Pritchard** – noticed that the top level pathway in report was still short on zero carbon by 2030, at end of report it says that to bridge the gap is to offset – is that the only way and if not what else could we do to meet the target, and what would that look like? Would it be possible to have a higher level pathway in the report to show how we can meet the goal. Otherwise the report doesn't mention that we can possibly meet the target.
- **Cllr Clements** – report is very good, interested in pages 97-98 in particular around energy supply, there is the potential to decarbonise domestic heating through district heating, do we think our plans are ambitious enough, do we have enough ambition there to scale up to examples in the report such as Copenhagen?
- **Lisa Trickett** – query process from here on, what we don't want is to by default accept a policy scenario that goes against 2030 target, we need to go through process of what needs to change, if we can't meet it how can we bring it forward ASAP. If 2030 target cannot be achieved what is realistically achievable. How do we make this into a proactive policy statement?

Responses

Sara Telahoun

- Other councils have asked similar questions. The way it is framed is that they developed scatter through engagement and leading cities and the green line is the maximum for feasible actions for a council (which doesn't even get us there by 2030), even this level is extremely hard.
- It could be pushed further but was they left the gap as they always include offsetting and carbon sequestration, as this is always expected when targeting net zero emissions.
- Covid has only led to around 7-10% reduction, even though we are living in totally unprecedented times – highlights how hard it will be.
- Are we being ambitious enough – yes for now but more needs to be done to scale up, which is what they are trying to explore in the interventions within the high level option in the energy supply options. More needs to be done to meet the net zero ambition.

Maria Dunn

- The Anthesis report will inform action plan and council recommendations; this is where we will pick up these issues.

**ACTION: COMMENTS TO BE SENT TO MARIA DUNN
(maria.dunn@birmingham.gov.uk) BY THE 17TH JUNE**

4. Governance Review (Maria Dunn/Jonathan Tew)

- Maria Dunn and Jonathan Tew put paper together on future governance of the taskforce after September Council.

Jonathan Tew

- The paper is intended to present the high level options to seek views in the first instance in this meeting but also following this meeting.
- The taskforce was designed as a short term group, however it is apparent that the group has gained momentum and made lots of progress and would be perverse to stop the momentum. Need to capitalise on cross sector work which goes beyond the group. It is apparent that there is a gap in sustainability/green agenda.
- We are aware about the active community that already exists in the city.
- Conversation with CANWM how we take it forward, these options are not mutually exclusive, we are open to suggestions.
- The future governance does not have to be one of these fixed options.
- We will review comments and come back with a formal report in July.

**ACTION: COMMENTS TO BE SENT TO ELLIE CROOK
(Eleanor.crook@birmingham.gov.uk) BY 19TH JUNE**

Questions/Comments from TF Members

- **Michael Addison** – no further action after the single plastics report, , going round in circles with governance. 22% of the participants are Councillors (excluding officers) and I would like to know what % of airtime they are getting. It's of deep concern to me if this taskforce is going to embrace the wider community and expertise.
- **Lisa Trickett** – Wants to discuss separately with JT/MD/EC about the lessons to be learnt from elsewhere regarding governance. There is an opportunity for the council to learn and reflect on what has/has not gone well to date. Have we fallen back into a comfort zone where others are invited to comment rather than equal partners who all work together? Council needs to engage the expertise and different partners as Council takes forward policies without engaging and listening to them. The expertise to drive this is not within the council, got expertise on taskforce but council goes forward with projects that does not utilise this knowledge.
- **Cllr Pritchard** – There is a risk in taking Governance of TF from the Council as the support and influence will be lost. Going back to the climate justice checklist question, how do we bring that kind of decision making in both for the council and wider members.

- **Cllr Fowler** – agrees with Cllr Pritchard, has discussed with Jonathan outside this meeting and feels that TF should be governed by the Council. Agree with the point that need to consider what has gone well and what has not. The role of various groups or partners is to provide expert guidance and knowledge to ensure reasonable actions are taken forward.

Responses

Cllr Liz Clements

- The governance needs to be politically led and the issue of resources needs to be addressed.
- In response to the plastics enquiry we had the refill programme, rewrite of business charter and looked into procurement but delays come back to the fundamental issue of resources. We will track recommendations through scrutiny; have met formally at end of May online. Committee is active but is focussing on covid responses.
- We are concerned that we haven't been given enough support with covid and worried about another round of austerity.

Cllr Zaffar

- We should liaise with Lisa Trickett and Polly Billington to looking at lessons learnt to inform our decision. Lots of learning has taken place and need to consider how we can improve TF. We must make sure that there is a good level of accountability.

ACTION: MEETING TO BE SET UP BETWEEN LISA/POLLY/JONATHAN/ELLIE/MARIA - ACTIONED

Jonathan Tew

Thank you for the comments. Non-council members, please do bring comments back. We will bring another version to the next meeting,

5. The Commonwealth Games (Dan Gamson)

Dan Gamson, Sustainability and legacy manager at Commonwealth Games

- Joined in Sep 2019, role is to ensure sustainability is embedded in all 64 functional areas of the games.
- Looking to put on a truly sustainable sporting event that will match up with Birmingham and the CA's 2041 target.

Questions/Comments from TF Members

- **Michael Addison** – asked anthesis about the work connection between our work and CWG organising committee. The sustainability strategy for the games is not known -there needs to be more transparency.
- **Sara Telahoun** – may need a separate call to talk through the alignment between the point that Michael Addison has raised.
- **Tim Miller (Aston Uni)** – The universities are working with local companies on low carbon innovations which can be fed into the games via the TF. Considering at technology/management and how can we connect to the city. What are the opportunities for partners and how can we look at various technologies prior to tender.

Responses

Dan Gamson

- Anthesis carried out a piece of work to create a strategy for the games, this will be publicised in the coming weeks, within this carbon is one of the pillars. The proposal by anthesis was that a deep dive was needed into carbon (this work is being undertaken but not by anthesis, due in September), once this is complete it will be aligned with wider targets in the area.

Cllr Zaffar

- We need to ensure synergy between the CWG report and ours; we will need a progress report before we go to full council in September to align the reports.

ACTION: BIRMINGHAM NEEDS TO HAVE A CONVERSATION OFFLINE WITH DAN TO ALIGN THE 2 REPORTS BEFORE SEPTEMBER

Dan Gamson

- To Tim Miller, CWG do want to utilise local talent. Advise you to look at website. We have internal team who specialise in partnerships – will set up a connection.

ACTION: DAN TO TAKE TIM'S DETAILS AND PASS ON TO PARTNERSHIP TEAM – ELLIE HAS MADE INTRODUCTORY EMAIL

6. Tyseley Incinerator Update (Cllr O'Shea)

Cllr O'Shea

- We have an Energy from Waste at Tyseley which processes 350,000 tonnes of the cities waste per year and produces 25MW of electricity for which we receive payment.
- Three phases for the future of the plant:
 - Ph1 we are in which is extension of Veolia contract to January 2024 and cannot be extended.
 - 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 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.
 - 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+.
- Seeking funding from government to support transition.
- The target is zero waste to landfill over transitional contract.

Questions/Comments from TF Members

- **Georgie Nott (youth strike for climate)** – why are the council choosing to go ahead with this procurement process as it lets down youth climate strikers.; we need to act now as actions will influence the future. The incinerator choice puts a greater burden on the poor in Birmingham. What is the best case scenario for reduction at Tyseley vs the carbon reduction if a different route was chosen?
- **Cllr Clements** – is journey we on compatible with our declaration, declaring an emergency suggests we will take on a whole system approach change. Good to reduce amount getting burnt. Do think there is a role for EFW going forward.? We

need to think if what we are doing at Tyseley is compatible with the declaration. We have an opportunity to decarbonise domestic heating through a municipal energy waste plant similar to the one in Copenhagen referenced in the Anthesis Report. This example has also been put forward by partners in the city. We need ambition and the capacity to offer our residents real alternatives to gas boilers.

- **Cllr Pritchard** – Disappointed in the way this is being taken forward. We should do things differently. There is nothing in the procurement that relate to tonnage of waste. reservations about the declaration, when it goes through will we end up not reducing our waste. Council needs to introduce food waste collection; 70-75% residual waste comes out of the stream, if that happens we don't need the capacity we have at Tyseley, so renewing this for 10-15 years that will not be needed, which may lead to waste being shipped in which is also not acceptable.
- **Aaron Smith (youth strike for climate)** – concerned about lack of transparency, shouldn't have taken article and YS4C, recognise the constraints of commercial confidentiality, they deserve to know what is happening when the young will be affected by the burning of the waste. Comments by Georgie are representative of 465 people who have signed up to our campaign to end Tyseley within 1 week. Can we also recognise that by "pollution cost" we sadly reference the early deaths of 900 people in Birmingham due to air pollution which Tyseley will actively contribute to for the next 14 years if this goes ahead? As part of a "just transition" it is important that the council recognise the human and environmental impact.

Responses

Cllr O'Shea

- Working with the legal advice provided to the Council regarding the procurement, there is added pressure from austerity and covid.
- The current contract that runs till 2024 cannot be extended in its current format. The contract allows a reduction of 70% waste. If we do not follow procurement process adequately there are financial risks and we end with no waste contract for the city.
- The contract also allows for other streams such as glass/plastic to be returned to retailers. If that was to happen then kerbside recycling will reduce massively. We need to invest in systems that are fit for purpose especially in relation to food waste which is a major issue.
- Agree with the points about implementing food waste collections. If we did this we could expect 30-35% reduction in waste, however if we were to cut more that is fine. Many authorities find food collections works too well – they receive high volumes of food waste initially which then reduces as people realise how much they are wasting, so we would need a system down the line that copes with the reduction.
- We are thinking about the future, contract is only until 2024.
- Cross party meeting to discuss the procurement
- Have completed initial stage and not in dialogue stage up to 2022, when we disclose requirements to bidders who get to this stage then chance for dialogue on how they can match our requirements. .
- The Government is signalling phasing out gas boilers with more emphasis on electric ones. It should be noted that it takes 7-8 years for any technology to be developed.

ACTION: CLLR PETER FOWLER TO DISCUSS WITH CLLR O'SHEA ON TYSELEY ISSUE

Further Discussion

- **Michael Addison** - In representing the Greener Birmingham Coalition, we are equally concerned that this procurement process isn't in line with the aims of this taskforce and the city's declaration. We are also a taskforce that deserves a bit more transparency if we can fulfil our role properly.
- **Cllr Harmer** – food waste, we need to start food waste collections ASAP due to what Cllr O'Shea has said as it changes behaviour. It can be done in a phased way as Severn Trent have got capacity in their anaerobic plant to prevent a sudden reduction in waste. Taking food waste out makes remaining waste easier to recycle.
- **Martin Freer** – This is a big decision and BCC needs to get this one right, is a ten year period for the next cycle too long? Opportunity to call on expertise of TF to think about developing strategy for the future, but for this to happen processes need to be more open and engaged.
- **Cllr Fowler** – Agree that food waste collection should be considered as it will help to reduce food waste and encourage recycling. Coventry have done food waste collections for years and not sure why it cannot be replicated in the city.
- **Cllr Clements** – The seriousness of the concerns should not be overlooked as the alternatives put forward are expensive and have not been adequately tested, many Cllrs have written to Cllr O'Shea to voice concerns. Alternatives have been judged to be expensive and unproven technologies, however we need to benefit from the expertise to see what would be fitting for the level of ambition that we have to decarbonise, we shouldn't waste this opportunity to advance our net zero route.
- **Cllr Pritchard** – The concern is that once the procurement process is underway only a few Cllrs can have a sight of it. Is there a possibility of looking at a transitional arrangement covering 6-7 years not 10/15, this would give people more confidence that we will move away from this by 2030. Is it right once it is submitted only scrutiny can view it?
- **Lisa Trickett** - Has there been an appropriate options appraisal that has understood the difference between BAU with Tyseley and looking at alternatives, if so this should be shared with the TF. Procurement suggests 2034, which is not in line with 2030. We need to look at how we can use Tyseley now to address the climate emergency now, and we are not missing this opportunity. Why can't we do something similar to that of Copenhagen?

Further Response

Cllr O'Shea

- There is a cross party meeting on Friday and will discuss this issue further there.
- Scrutiny of procurement has to be in a confidential manner.
- We could consider a shorter bid – but would rather have ten year gap if it will take 7-8 years to come up with an alternative for Tyseley. The question is where we go past 2024.

- We do recycle our milk bottle plastic into food grade quality product and can make new bottles.
- EfW has been serving the city for decades and there is still place for it. In 50's Tyseley use to charge the waste fleet and there are talks if this can be done now. There are big opportunities for the city. We want to bring back lots of things including free garden waste collections but these options are not financially viable. There is no certainty that the Government will provide funding for such projects.
- Copenhagen is not doable in 42 months and without extension of the contract there will be huge risks. We cannot build a CHP EFW within 42 months. To start with, there would be an issue with planning permission lengths.

ACTION: CLLR JOHN O'SHEA TO LOOK AT WHETHER HERE HAS BEEN AN OPTIONS APPRAISAL

7. Transport Sandpit Update (Emily Prestwood/Ioanna Moscholidou)

Ioanna Moscholidou

- Provided an update on the Transport sandpit which took place on 13th May 2020.
- The purpose of the sandpit was to bring local stakeholders together, understand how the stakeholders and their organisations can help Birmingham City Council (BCC) and the Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce reduce the city's emissions from transport and achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, and develop a network of stakeholders to maximise and champion the city's transport decarbonisation efforts through collaboration.
- Used zoom to try and make it as much like a workshop as possible.
- About 30 people attended the sandpit representing various varied organisations.
- First stage was to ask how people could contribute. Asked about opportunities for collaboration and how this could evolve into a network and how we could formalise the network.
- There are multiple networks in the city that we should use, make sure new network compliments not duplicates. Were happy to make collective pledge that they will support council as long as taskforce completes what it pledges to do.
- Transport is linked to many sectors so it needs to be a coordinated effort
- Next steps: collected proposed contributions and will map different expertise as suggestions were diverse, need to understand level of commitment of participants and how to formalise these commitments.

Questions/Comments from TF Members

- We do not have time for comments

**ACTION: ALL COMMENTS TO BE EMAILED TO Ioanna
(ioanna.moscholidou@birmingham.gov.uk)**

8. Communications and Engagement Update

Just transition paper (DRAFT) Chris Martin

- The faith communities recognise the issue of climate change and have written to Cllr Zaffar thanking him for his presentation on Earth Day.
- Faith communities are committed to a just transition.
- The Just Transition paper is still work in progress and is being reviewed by the Comms and Engagement Sub-Group.

- The paper recognises the level of threat climate change poses, builds on the idea of a just transition and what this means for communities.
- The conclusion is that a just transition is a process that improves wellbeing and protects the most vulnerable. It is a balancing act between stakeholders and there are winners and losers along the way, we must ensure that the poor are not always the losers.
- Running 4 workshops to see what those in communities think.

ACTION: COMMENTS TO CHRIS MARTIN (chrismartin2@btinternet.com) BY 22ND JUNE AT THE LATEST

9. Agreeing Next Steps

- Governance comments to Ellie Crook by 19th June.
- Transition paper comments to Chris Martin by 22nd June.
- Anthesis comments to Maria Dunn by 17th June.
- Transport comments to Ioanna Moscholidou.
- Ellie will send a note with dates and asks in email with addresses - DONE

10. Any Other Business

- Next TF on 15th July (which will be a workshop)
- Further workshop first week of August
- Further TF in August