

Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce

14th October 2020, 16:00-17:30
Virtual meeting

Attendance:

Amit Bratch (BCC),	Michael Addison	Richard Hatcher
Cllr Julien Pritchard,	(EcoBirmingham),	(CANWM)
Cllr Peter Fowler,	Deborah Phelpstead	Andrew Page (TFWM)
Cllr Lisa Trickett	(BCU),	Martin Freer (BEI)
Cllr Liz Clements	Rose Horsfall (BCC),	Mike Folkard (GBSLEP)
Cllr Waseem Zaffar,	Tim Miller (Aston Uni),	Arranjit Rangi (Aston Uni)
Andrew Scattergood	Martin Freer (UoB),	Bob Whitehead (CANWM
(TUC),	Chris Martin (Footsteps),	guest)
Eleanor Crook (BCC),	David Bownass (WSP),	Emily Prestwood (UoB,
Ian Macleod (BCC),	Jackie Homan (WMCA),	BEI)
Maria Dunn (BCC),	Carol Herity (NHS),	Melanie Biddle (Engie)

Apologies

Phillipa Hentsch (NHS),	Paul Faulkner (BCOC),
David Horsfall (TEP),	Ioanna Moscholidou (BCC),
Varun Sitaram (BCC),	Eleri Roberts (BCC),
Rishi Shori (BCC),	Jonathan Tew (BCC),

1. Introduction (Cllr Zaffar)

- Cllr Zaffar - the motion agreed at September council was as follows:
 - *Council welcomes the Executive's commitment for achieving carbon neutral for the Council's operations by 2030 whilst carrying out further work in the coming weeks to determine the contribution the housing and procured goods and services can and must make.*
- *The Council therefore commits to:*
 - Draw upon the recommendations set out within the Anthesis Report and work through the implications for all our key areas of operation, building upon the recommendations for reducing the City Council's own emissions;*
 - ii. Facilitate the production of a fully costed action plan to be considered by Council in December 2020 which includes a comprehensive list of resources required from regional and national government to deliver the actions;*
 - iii. Bring forward a plan and process for facilitating community and business participation in the determining of policy and priority for work in this area;*
 - iv. Join with communities across the city in calling upon the Government to act now and provide the upfront investment and resources required to drive a just transition.*
 - v. Require the Executive to introduce as soon as is practically possible a binding policy that all future decision reports shall incorporate a consideration of the impact of that decision on the Council's carbon reduction goals.*
- We bid with CSE for project 3D for funding – this was successful and they will be speaking at the next taskforce.
- Lisa Trickett – there was also a community call to action alongside the motions, which called for coherent and comprehensive action to be taken across the climate

piece. We need to recognise there have been major challenges in last year. However, covid has kick started system change and a green recovery. Looking at city wide interventions/recommendations, some of the challenges are due to lack of capacity and capability in the LA. UK Building Green Council is doing a lot of work around retrofit and we need to tap into the expertise. We need to look at where there is expertise within the TF.

- Cllr Zaffar – thanks the call for action. Thanks TF for their ongoing support.
- Cllr Fowler – actions put forward should be pushed forward by Portfolio holders as they have political and community responsibility.
- Cllr Zaffar – agreed and suggested that portfolio holders work with TF members to take the actions forward. There is a need to utilise the skills and expertise around the city and everyone is willing to work together to deliver these actions. We also have to hold central government to account for the green recovery.
- Bob Whitehead – schools are very briefly mentioned in 24 (d) and 44 (d). There is no overall section on schools or educational institutions. Queried if it is possible to include a general section on schools and education. YS4C have asked for week on climate education at every school across the city, which isn't on the sheet. Can we include a school and education section?
- Cllr Zaffar – agrees that we should consider this.

2. Workshop to take forward actions (Maria Dunn)

- Maria Dunn – objective is to look at actions on spreadsheet and see if TF can assist with any of these actions.
- Maria Dunn – if people feel some that are council could take help from the TF, please let us know, the coding is flexible. We would appreciate help on any actions.

ACTION: Deadline is COP of Friday 16th to volunteer for actions.

City wide energy

- Lisa Trickett – this spreadsheet shows the importance of council staff knowing about wider work, we have the energy research accelerator, Innovate UK projects, EBRI, Birmingham energy institute, all these could help.
- Martin Freer- has already sent letter to Cllr Zaffar of current work. Happy to help – but not sure how to answer in detail against actions on spreadsheet but happy to pick up offline.
- Cllr Zaffar – thank you for the letter, we will be in touch.

City wide industry

- Martin Freer – university is happy to provide help and support, already have projects helping industry decarbonise.
- Ian MacLeod – may need to work with combined authority on this area, to prevent duplication. This should also be picked up with the chamber of commerce – Ian will do this.
- Chris Martin – footsteps has offered to facilitate a finance meeting, this would help with the funding column.
- Maria Dunn – regarding the offer of finance meeting, we welcome the offer and happy to engage in roundtable discussion, happy to discuss offline.
- Mike Folkard – business growth hub work can support this – will write to Maria.

- Jacqueline Homan – combined authority working on 1st of 4, 5 year plans, talking to all LA's to understand plans in place to help on cohesion.
- Deborah Phelpstead – with regards to skills, have relevant schools within Uni, BCU can support from this aspect, STEAMhouse for industry engagement.

Citywide Transport

- Bob Whitehead – fare free city transport needs a feasibility study. Willing to approach unis to investigate it and will send follow up email.
- Deborah Phelpstead – comment on this section, add action about flexible transport passes. Andrew Page share info answering this.
- Cllr Pritchard – no mention of low traffic neighbourhoods
- Cllr Zaffar – the draft emergency transport plan that will become the main transport plan will encompass this.
- Cllr Fowler – EV charging points – wonder what areas will these be in, why so few 394, other smaller cities have more. Can we have more info please?
- Cllr Zaffar – ours are targeting taxi sector initially, we can provide some more details and maps to the taskforce. We are looking to create an EV strategy.

ACTION: Request EV info from Sylvia Broadley and invite to next Taskforce

- Andrew Page – TFWM, pointed out that funding will be needed for EV
- Lisa Trickett –if Birmingham will deal with EV, what does that mean for number of chargers.
- Cllr Clements - suggested that London model of £1.50 will be a good idea.
- Mike Folkard - GBLEP will support this and will follow up with a note to clarify

Citywide waste

- Cllr Clements – there is a role here for city council to engage with technical advisory group.
- Jacqueline Homan – environment team at CA will be doing a piece of work on circular economy, due early next year.
- Deborah Phelpstead – STEAMhouse is picked up on single use packaging, reiterate support here.

Commercial and industrial waste

- David Bownass – happy to help, will pick up offline.

Domestic properties non-council

- Bob Whitehead - The Council doesn't have the capacity to undertake retrofit in-house, it is dependent on contractors, but it could at least make a small beginning with a scheme for recruiting, employing and training an initial team, working in partnership with SMEs, with the aim of growing it in coming years.
- Richard Hatcher - Bob Whitehead's suggestion on a small in-house retrofit team is in line with Council's 2018-22 manifesto policy on bringing contracted work in-house where feasible.
- Ian MacLeod – retrofit is a key component of our economic recovery strategy
- David Bownass – example in carbon coop in Manchester, this kind of model in Birmingham would be valuable.
- Cllr Zaffar - we definitely need further representation from housing colleagues - possibly seeking representation from the HLB.

Natural environment – private land

- Lisa Trickett - on environment EA/Canals and Rivers Trust bid to ERDF for East Birmingham corridor, being led by UoB. This is required for a modal shift and community agricultural spaces. Tactical urbanism concept needs to be explored.

Natural environment – beyond Birmingham

- Jacqui Homan – got a large item in natural capital at board meeting. Have a number of initiatives working as a CA on tree planting and natural capital.
- David Bownass – a better offsetting scheme for buildings could create a funding mechanism to support tree planting.

3. Agreeing next steps

- Richard Hatcher – CANWM – public participation isn't included. Can we use councils ward forums for engagement – hold specific sessions on climate emergency.
- Cllr Zaffar- Community engagement is part of the Comms and Engagement sub-group that needs to be re-activated and supported. Eleri (rep) was unable to attend.

4. Any other Business

- Send Amit emails to express areas that you can assist on by **COP Friday 16 October**.
- Next TF meeting on **18th November**.