# Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce

**18th November 2020, 16:00-17:30**

**Virtual meeting**

**Attendance:**

Alexander Taylor (GBSLEP)

Amit Bratch (BCC),

Bridget Newbery (CSE)

Chris Martin (Footsteps),

Cllr Julien Pritchard,

Cllr Lisa Trickett

Cllr Liz Clements

Cllr Olly Armstrong

Cllr Peter Fowler,

Cllr Roger Harmer

Cllr Sharon Thompson

Cllr Waseem Zaffar,

Dan Gamson (CWG

David Bownass (WSP),

David Horsfall (TEP),

Deborah Phelpstead (BCU),

Eleanor Crook (BCC),

Eleri Roberts (BCC),

Emily Prestwood (UoB, BEI)

Ian Macleod (BCC),

Jackie Homan (WMCA),

John Nightingale (CANWM guest)

Lee Barron (TUC)

Maria Dunn (BCC),

Martin Freer (BEI)

Martin Freer (UoB),

Richard Hatcher (CANWM)

Rose Horsfall (BCC),

Simon Addison (EcoBirmingham)

Sylvia Broadley (BCC),

Tim Miller (Aston Uni),

Toby Bridgeman (CSE)

**Apologies**

Ioanna Moscholidou (BCC),

Jonathan Tew (BCC)

Andrew Scattergood (TUC)

**Apologies and introductions - Cllr Waseem Zaffar**

* General housekeeping.

**Opening remarks - Cllr Waseem Zaffar**

* A cross party R20 working group committee has been set up, which will meet once per month.
* The group has been established to fulfil a cross party motion, which was agreed at City Council on 15th September 2020, for the creation of an Advisory Committee which will inform Cabinet on the Route to Zero (R20) Carbon agenda.
* The committee is comprised of 3 Cabinet Members, 3 Labour Councillors and 3 Opposition Members.

**Overview of Project 3D – CSE (Bridget Newbery/ Toby Bridgeman)**

* **Bridget Newbery** - Project 3D: data to help decarbonise in a decade. CSE is an independent national energy charity.
* 2 year project, ending in October 2022.
* Working with ICLEI governments for sustainability, funding comes from google.
* Due to tight timescales there was no opportunity to co-design the project. Various parties are interested in the data including the Council who can use the data to support R20 work and undertake consultation with the communities. WMCA is interested in the use of data and there are a number of stakeholders to work with and share data and information.
* We are currently in the initiation phase and are putting together detailed plans, we have a signed agreement with ICLEI. Hope to finish plans for the hub in Feb 2021 for launch in March 2021.
* Phase 2 will be in March/April next year and focuses on training and stakeholder engagement.
* Data could be used for: evidence for local plan development, local energy efficiency, retrofit schemes and to underpin modal shift.
* **Toby Bridgeman** - first 4 months will be used to collate data to be used by a range of stakeholders and it will be made publicly available. The data will be available in different formats including geographical data and the GIS data. The key element will be to bring in the relevant local stakeholders. Some of the elements will include energy, PV, housing energy efficiency, retrofit opportunities, and district heating networks data. The demographic, socio economic and health data will be overlaid on the energy data. It will be easy to search the data.
* Phase 4 will be evaluation period.
* Presentation to follow after the meeting.

Questions

* **Cllr Pritchard** – what happens to data after the project. What happens with grant funding, it often goes to areas that already have the resources to be ready to bid, rather than the areas that really need it.
* **Bridget (CSE)** – we are unsure what happens after the project, may be able to get continuation funding. Agree about the funding point, can we pick this discussion up offline to identify which areas are most in need?
* **Cllr Zaffar** – yes, we are willing to help, email us when help is required.

**Presentation outlining R20 Strategy - Ian MacLeod/Maria Dunn**

* **Ian MacLeod** - introduced the call for Action Plan and Maria delivered a presentation setting out the key actions and what next steps need to be taken to take the plan forward.
* **Cllr Zaffar** - Key question is do the TF agree with the priority actions? – no one objected to priority areas.
* **Lisa Trickett** – to move forward there needs to be strong strategic support behind the project and for honest discussions to take place. This plan is the starting point and there is need to build an absolute change for systems change, do activity with purpose, break silos and cross party work.
* **Cllr Liz Clements** – this still seems a hybrid document, half strategy and action plan. We needed named people, timescales and allocated budget or ask for the budget. How will this plan link to the Council’s own performance framework? Need to work on corporate Key Performance Indicators (KIPS). Especially on waste reference to the future need for Tyseley should be a highest priority with ambitious targets for decarbonisation.
* **Chris Martin** – more included on process that will be used to engage with partners and seek collaboration. Comms group isn’t functioning and is separate. Two areas where footsteps are able to support is communication/engagement and just finance which is an item on the agenda. How will the plan draw a commitment from non-council officers?
* **Cllr Pritchard** – agrees with comments made by Cllr Clements and questioned if the actions were concrete enough. Not clear what is in this that wasn’t already happening and what is new. What has changed and what is different that wouldn’t have happened anyway? In terms of Passivhaus we cannot wait for few years for the development to be complete and learn from the process. There is a need for urgency.
* **Maria** – finance roundtable to be picked up in AoB.
* **Ian MacLeod**– agree, we won’t wait to the end of the passivhaus project, we will incorporate learning as soon as possible. Agreed that need to be clear on the name for each action and costs. However, it is difficult to quantify the costs but the team will try to add as much detail as possible. Also mentioned that had a good meeting with David Horsfall and Martin Freer regarding the future of Tyseley and waste.
* **Tim Miller** – Has the concept of a city wide energy innovation zone been dropped? This would seem to be an inclusive way to engage the expertise from the city universities?
* **Cllr Armstrong** – how are we looking at data in other cities, we don’t need to pilot everything from new. "live and work like its 2030 now" should be our mantra. If we know change is needed in a decade, make the changes now.
* **Lisa Trickett** – important that we consider scalability and replicability before we do pilots.
* **Ian MacLeod** – corporate framework – council needs to resource this area, discussions with chief exec around resourcing climate change. We are learning from other cities, such as Bristol’s social housing passivhaus equivalent standards.
* **Simon Addison** - How will action plan objectives be linked to individual council directors - in terms of accountability & integration of delivery? If community groups cannot see the council is resourcing this agenda in terms of a team or senior director level to drive this agenda - and support other directors in the integration and change required over time - they will wonder how serious the council is taking the challenge.
* **Cllr Pritchard** – Exeter has a good housing standard – good example to look at. What happened to idea of a new Climate Sustainability team and an Assistant Director of Climate Change? Is this being factored into council budget process?
* **Ian MacLeod** – we have previously tried to add portfolio leads. We will identify lead directors for all actions in January’s report. Chief exec is aware there is not enough resource for climate change at present. Will look into Exeter.
* **Cllr Zaffar** – what are the next steps for January?
* **Ian MacLeod** – we need to break down the actions to Portfolio Holder Leads and get the Director Level buy in. Agreed that more resource is needed to deliver this agenda and hold more people accountable. The team will prepare the draft action plan and circulate it to the TF members. The gaps will be filled by any feedback received.
* **Maria Dunn** – January council is just one point within the steps of implementing this action plan.
* **Cllr Zaffar**- we will table it at the 9th December Taskforce, it needs to complete at this point as it needs to be submitted on the 18th.
* **Presentation to follow after the meeting.**

**Update on EV charging - Sylvia Broadley**

* Partner is ESB, Initial work takes us to 2022. 100 chargers are ‘rapid’ meaning there are 200 in total, 97 are fast. Rapid is 50kw of power, fast is 22kw of power. Standard are only 3-7kw of power.
* There will be a city wide strategy which will cover strategic locations and off street charging and how we will address this.
* Birmingham will be focusing on en route and destination charging. We still need to focus on residential charging.
* A high level assessment of Birmingham’s charging needs has been carried out.
* Total need is somewhat uncertain depending on the market and EV takeup.
* By 2030 we expect to have 616 rapid chargers as well as 9000 slow/fast chargers – this represents a baseline case, could be more or less.
* Presentation to follow after the meeting.

Questions

* **Cllr Fowler** - Are there many EV points city wide for taxis now. A number of drivers have invested in EV Taxis? Also how many EV charging points are in the city?-
* **Cllr Clements** - has there been any dialogue with Kier about positioning of new LED street lights - seems very short-sighted for streets where lighting is upgraded to be excluded from possibility of on street charging, many streets of Victorian/Edwardian terraced housing in my ward have already got new LED columns set back on the pavement. These are exactly the streets generating lots of enquiries about on street charging.
* **Cllr Harmer** - Need for flexibility over the programme as (for example) developments in battery tech may lead to ultra fast charging that makes a 5min garage charge realistic.
* **Sylvia Broadley** – responded by saying that taxis are given priority for the EV charging points. She is working closely with James in Transport and Highways team to look at the contractual arrangements in terms of street lights, issue is LED lights have different needs to chargers and is on a separate contract.

**Any other business – All**

* **Finance roundtable** – BCC will lead it and ask Lisa Trickett has agreed to facilitate it alongside Liam Byrne. Council will organise. Lisa will work with Chris. This will be held in the new year.
* The call to action will be circulated to the members next week for comments. Once the comments have been received it will be refined and discussed again at the December Task Force meeting before taking it to January cabinet. Please can TF members provide their comments as a matter of urgency as timescales are quite tight.
* Next meeting **9 December.**