# Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce

**9th December 2020, 16:00-17:30**

**Virtual meeting**

**Attendance:**

Alex Taylor (GBSLEP)

Amit Bratch (BCC),

Andrew Page (TFWM)

Bob Whitehead (CANWM guest)

Brian Sheridan (CANWM)

Cheryl Hiles (NHS)

Chris Martin (Footsteps),

Cllr Julien Pritchard,

Cllr Liz Clements,

Cllr Peter Fowler,

Cllr Waseem Zaffar,

David Bownass (WSP),

David Horsfall (TEP),

Deborah Phelpstead (BCU),

Eleanor Crook (BCC),

Eleri Roberts (BCC)

Emily Prestwood (UoB, BEI)

Ian Macleod (BCC),

Jacqueline Homan (WMCA)

Joanna Birch (BCU)

Jonathan Tew (BCC)

Maria Dunn (BCC),

Martin Freer (BEI)

Richard Hatcher (CANWM guest)

Richard Rees (WMCA)

Rose Horsfall (BCC),

Sabbir Sidat (WSP)

Simon Slater (EcoBirmingham)

Tim Miller (Aston Uni)

William Hargreaves (CoC)

**Apologies**

Polly Billington (UK100), Tim Pile (LEP), Paul Faulkner (Black Country Chamber of Commerce)

1. **Introduction (Cllr Zaffar)**

* General housekeeping
* The next step is to take the Call to Action report to Full Council on 12th January 2021.

1. **WMCA Presentation (WSP)**

* Richard Rees - stated that CA has produced a five year plan and suggested that regional collaboration will be needed to deliver it. He then introduced Sabbir from WSP to present the WM2041 five year plan.
* WSP delivered a presentation – they are working on behalf of the WMCA and will be assisting with the delivery of the first 5 year plan.
* The presentation gave an overview of the evidence base and the common vision. It identified which actions need to happen in the next five years to be in line with the carbon budgets.
* The presentation highlighted the current state of the region in terms of climate change. The key issues revolve around fossil fuel usage, how we heat our homes and water and that the percentage of electric vehicles is quite low.
* The key priority areas for change were jobs and skills, delivery and funding. The 6 elements that are included in the report include Domestic, Commercial and Industrial, Industries, Transport, Land use-both natural capital and utilities.
* Some work is already happening in the region in terms of decarbonisation of electricity, electrification of the railways, individual organisations working towards carbon neutral agenda including JLR/ Airport.
* There recommendations in the report are based on 3 pillars for which are: Deliver- what can CA lead on, Deal- what can CA support, Devolve- additional powers to meet the gap.

**Action: Presentation will be circulated after the meeting.**

*Questions*

* Martin Freer – how does link to the work of the taskforce?
* Richard Rees – we need to make sure we don’t duplicate, WMCA have been working with the other local authorities during this project, the next step is to ensure that the plan has alignment with other LAs. It will be approved in the first quarter of the new year. Have also had conversations with anthesis.
* Cllr Peter Fowler – we need a programme on communication. Is it right that WMCA meets with other LAs every 6 weeks? We need to ensure that if we want people to buy EV cars that there is enough charging? Can we ensure that new housing has solar PV?
* Brian Sheridan - suggested some easy wins such as EV’s, solar tiles on new homes.
* Richard Rees – yes, we meet every 6 weeks.
* Cllr Zaffar – met with portfolio holders of climate change at WMCA to talk about how we can support each other to prevent duplication. This group Cllr Courts and Jacqueline Homan from WMCA.
* David Bownass – does the WMCA have a view on how this will be paid for?
* Sabbir – some projects are fundable and there are still gaps in some as to who pays and who benefits. Research into funding mechanisms is about to begin, WSP are working with lots of other stakeholders including energy capital.

1. **R20 Call to Action Discussion**

* Maria gave an overview of the track changes, key changes include:
  + A section on education has been added,
  + The position on energy companies has been clarified, additional projects in relation to transport have been added
  + Reference to fare free transport with a caveat that Council cannot lead it but is happy to support
  + Procurement is added as an update
  + Reference to WMCA Jobs task force and Green growth agenda and retrofit training program and Exemplar low/zero carbon housing project: are mentioned
  + Collaborative working with universities is added.
  + There is also a reference to Brexit policy and the work of task force is included.
  + Some factual errors have been corrected and wherever possible costs are added.
* Cllr Julien Pritchard – the housing target has been changed to 2022 – thank you. Procurement – would like some more detail on why there isn’t more on that at this stage? Also some actions have clear dates whereas others have not got immediate dates and have 2031?
* Maria Dunn – we will be looking at procurement, but we are not focussing on that at present – it will come in more detail as we move forward. The document is focusing on kick-starting the projects that will happen in nest few years and looking more broadly at Anthesis actions to be taken forward.
* Brian Sheridan – very pleased with additional sections. Want ward forums as a way to engage with the public. What happened to the comms and engagement subgroup? Natural environment should collaborate with the Greener Birmingham Coalition.
* Simon Slater - Greener Birmingham Coalition will be working on a 3 year programme to help support local community organisations support local activity for environmental and health outcomes. This will work with local councillors as well.
* Ian MacLeod – agree that engagement at ward level is important but will come as we implement actions.
* Cllr Zaffar – after full council we need a conversation on how we move forward with the TF and how we pull in new partners to deliver. Greener Birmingham Coalition’s involvement, and to other organisations such as EcoBirmingham, will be vital at the next stages.
* Cllr Harmer – extra canopy cover being prioritised towards areas with surface area flooding has not been included.
* Ian – we will add this in.
* Chris Martin – communication will be the key to deliver actions.– 6th carbon budget launch placed influence on communications.
* Cllr Zaffar – this will feed into the future of the TF.
* Martin Freer – is it possible to measure carbon savings of the actions that have been progressed and what impact this will have?
* Ian – we can quantify this in more detail in the covering report. There is a commitment to report annually via the Annual Report taken to the Council and assess what is working well and where improvements are needed.
* Cllr Pritchard – want carbon savings and monetary cost of all the actions.
* Cllr Clements - I strongly support the points made by Martin and Julien regarding targets for carbon reduction.
* Chris Martin – how will this plan achieve the reductions we need? Progress of 8-10% reductions are needed
* Richard Hatcher - The Council will support and promote a cross-city Climate Week each term in which all schools will be invited to participate.” Add the following at end: “The Cabinet member for Education will therefore convene a working group including teachers, headteachers and teaching union representatives to plan how to take this forward, including how to share ideas and initiatives among schools.” What has been discussed with trade unions/council
* Cllr Zaffar – this will come in the next step. TUC is on the committee – we need to pick up a conversation after Andrew Scatergood comes off of paternity leave.
* Ian – action on jobs taskforce is included in the action plan.
* Brian Sheridan – scrutiny should discuss their input – this should be included in the report. There needs to be a regular discussions and dialogue between TF and Scrutiny Committees.
* Cllr Clements – all Scrutiny Committees need to consider implications of climate change. As an organisation we need to respond to climate emergency just like we did for Covid. Invites participants to look through papers of the transport and sustainability committee, as this has been a major feature of our agenda, it will be discussed on the 16th December. Also been engaging with CWG organising committee to get an update on their sustainability strategy, likely March or April. Climate change is a priority in the corporate plan. We need a key thread through all our performance measures of climate change. How are we going to address the need for council resource?
* Cllr Zaffar – once action plan is approved, we will include targets into the performance measures, we will be making the amendments. There will be a covering report to full council that will elaborate on the council resource need.
* Richard Hatcher (in chat) – add: “In line with the Labour Council’s manifesto 2018-2022 the Council will, in addition to working with partner contractors, set up an initial directly employed workforce team to undertake retrofitting, with a view to later expansion, thus saving money and creating good jobs.”

*Sign off*

* Cllr Zaffar – are all in agreement to sign off the report?
* Cllr Fowler – agrees in principle but needs to discuss with members of the conservative group.
* David Bownass – where is retrofit of commercial and industrial buildings?
* Maria – it is not included in the remit of this plan, we have prioritised other things, we are aware this is an area that work is needed, but we have chosen to focus on the retrofit of housing.
* Bob Whitehead – will this plan achieve carbon neutrality by 2030?
* Ian – the intention is to set out the actions that deliver the biggest wins to try and meet the target. It is clear in the report that legislative changes are needed at a government level, our actions alone will not meet zero carbon. We can deliver what we have here in their report – however wider change is needed.
* Richard hatcher – after this is approved to council, how will this be taken to the citizens to Birmingham, who have had no involvement to date. What is the next step to involve communities?
* Cllr Zaffar – elected members represent residents, we have community organisations on the TF and Eleri carried out a citizen’s survey. Maybe the TF should become a citizen’s assembly to involve the public more, to do this we need to evolve the role of the TF. We need to discuss this in January. After approval we need to think how we engage with the public and stakeholders.
* Deborah Phelpstead – noticed that the update mentioned content added on BCU, is there time to review what has been put in relating to what is in for the university.
* Ian – that is fine, we need comments in the next few days.
* Bob Whitehead – as this won’t deliver the changes to get to net zero, cannot fully endorse.

1. **Agreeing next steps**

* Cllr Zaffar - We have large agreement to progress the report to full council. Timetables – report in public domain on the 24th December, published on the 28th.
* Cllr Clements – should Cllr Zaffar write to the TF to government to create the enabling environment and supply the funding that we need to deliver our plans?
* Cllr Zaffar – covering note will also identify asks. Happy to write on behalf of the TF to government.
* Brian Sheridan – when the paper goes public, would be helpful if the document could go on to a specific website.
* Ian – we will investigate the possibility of a separate website.
* Richard Hatcher – can the website be split into sections? E.g. transport etc.

**Action: link for climate change BCC page to be sent after meeting.**

1. **Any other Business**

* Date of the next meeting: 26th January 2021.