# Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce

**26th January 2021, 16:00-17:30**

**Virtual meeting**

**Attendance:**

Alex Taylor (GBSLEP)

Amit Bratch (BCC),

Andrew Page (TFWM)

Chris Martin (Footsteps),

Cllr Roger Harmer

Cllr Julien Pritchard,

Cllr Liz Clements,

Cllr Peter Fowler,

Cllr Waseem Zaffar,

David Horsfall (TEP),

Deborah Phelpstead (BCU),

Eleanor Crook (BCC),

Emily Prestwood (UoB, BEI)

Jacqueline Homan (WMCA)

Joanna Birch (BCU)

Maria Dunn (BCC),

Martin Freer (BEI)

Richard Hatcher (CANWM guest)

Rose Horsfall (BCC),

Simon Slater (EcoBirmingham)

Tim Miller (Aston Uni)

William Hargreaves (CoC)

John Nightingale (CANWM guest)

Lisa Trickett (PIC)

**Apologies**

Phillipa Hentsch (UHB), Cllr Sharon Thompson

1. **Introduction (Cllr Zaffar)**

* Cabinet have discussed the addition of a carbon emissions analysis on every report. It will also apply to CLT reports. Movement has been agreed, updates to come.

1. **Update on full council**

* Maria Dunn - Approved at full council on 12th January, we are now moving into delivery. Starting to look at project plans for projects that are in the action plan. Starting to work with individual officers on this and put together a monitoring framework, to ensure we have comprehensive data ahead of our update in January 2022.
* Cllr Pritchard – needs more clarity on the resources allocated to R20 work. What finances will be allocated and what would the team look like?
* Cllr Zaffar – R20 work needs senior Officer at AD level with a dedicated team to support this. More information will be provided in the next TF meeting.
* Chris Martin – has the action plan got full cross party support?
* Cllr Zaffar - there were 3 amendments put forward by Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservatives. The Labour party amendment was accepted. The one by LD was broadly supported and the one by Conservatives was rejected as it focused on Clean Air Zone. Do the conservatives endorse the report with amendment?
* Cllr Peter Fowler – Will have to check and confirm.
* Cllr Liz Clements – TF has fostered a good level of collaboration; we need to continue this.

1. **Governance**

* Cllr Zaffar – TF was set up to develop an action plan, this has now gone to full council. Now need a group in the city that can deliver action plan, work with the community and engage stakeholders.
* There is a proposed infographic structure – MD shared onscreen. This is not a finished proposal, it will need further changes.
* Lisa Trickett – feedback is that we need to build on what is already there and ensure that we turn the current power structure on its head. We need to involve communities. A key driver is government policies. TASG – we need to draw on knowledge we have. By involving the WMCA we hope to draw learning from the green commission. We need task and finish groups that will produce outputs: for energy, green space, transport, circular economy and housing, each area will have lead officers, cabinet member, University/Academia rep. Someone needs to take responsibility for the delivery of the action that will be undertaken by the group. Acknowledge that we need to emphasise the importance of business. Annotations on diagram are meant to highlight that we need to recognise what already exists. The use of ward forums has been brought up many times and is included on this structure. The accountability will lie within the climate assembly – this will be where anyone can attend, and motions will be discussed and individuals will be held to account for delivery. This will be supplemented by citizens assemblies. Happy to put bullet points together to explain it further.
* Cllr Clements - want to know where the accountability for delivery lies. Who intervenes when progress is off target?
* Simon Slater -Thanks - description makes more sense than diagram initially - Similar issues of over complexity for climate partnership which I chaired prior to Green Commission - see governance review options for birmingham climate partnership 2011 <https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/review-of-operating-options-for-the-birmingham-environment-partnership-lessons-for-the-green-commission/>
* Richard Hatcher – Welcome inclusion of ward forums. Current ward forum format isn’t working, meant to meet 6 times per year and occur in all wards, but this doesn’t happen consistently, 21 ward forums have never had a meeting, even online. 10 have not met since February. There is no mechanisms for citizens to get the council to set up ward forums in their area. System needs to be fixed. Expressed concerns about no mention of trade unions and workers in the workplace.in R20 Plan or in the Governance diagram. Need to get trade unions involved.
* Cllr Zaffar – agree about ward forums point, agree they need to be regular. Agree on trade unions point.
* Martin Freer – feels more like a mind map rather than a governance structure, but hard to explain. Needs to more like a traditional governance structure.
* Simon Slater – Like the idea of starting small and growing roots to community level. What will the criteria be for testing the success? Need to think what good would look like in terms of accountability. Examples:

*5 criteria for developing climate action governance for Birmingham?*

1. *Clearly linked and monitored by core council corporate plan and scrutiny and chaired by council - therefore directly accountable*
2. *Clear distinction between roles on partnership - council delivery/integration and influence (15% of emissions?), and role of other local organisations (35% emissions) offering to update, share good practice, and align activity. Remaining 50% of emissions is a WMCA role to influence / lobby Government and national legislation*
3. *Some form of independent body - running the partnership to an agreed plan with the council and partners that sign up - this provides certainty / clarity to partners and also a resource for scrutiny to draw on to inform views on progress. This independence can take many forms, such as Sustainability West Midlands being asked in the past to run a previous climate partnership for the council, or the development of independent arms length bodies such as Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Manchester Climate Agency etc.*
4. *Some form of certainty of resources for 5 years to help support council function and partnership function - as promise of resources and small amounts of joint funding helps drive long-term collaboration*
5. *Activity underneath the partnership needs to be driven by collaboration and networking which the council is supportive of, but not necessarily leading, and also linked to wider engagement programme with citizens and areas across Birmingham which is a unique opportunity and challenge to address - given unusual size of city. Will have to work harder to do smaller/ward level engagement than other cities.*

* Simon Slater - Climate Change Committee <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

(see p57 on delivery and monitoring checklist). Review of other cities governance

https://pcancities.org.uk/climate-commissions-stimulus-place-based-action

* Deborah Phelpstead – BCU, will this governance structure come back to TF as it is developed further, will it go into detail on who is responsible for each area.
* Cllr Zaffar – we want buy in from TF that we are heading in right direction, then we will assign people to areas. This will include a review of the membership, to ensure we have the correct people involved.
* William Hargreaves – where is the role for businesses?
* Cllr Zaffar – agree it should be added
* Jacqui Homan – diagram provides the overall context but need clarity on the inter relationships between different elements. Task and finish groups is a good idea. Need to know relationships between elements. What will the climate change team do within this structure. Also need some name assigned and stakeholders included.
* Cllr Pritchard – need clarity on ownership and decision making. Ward forums – don’t have enough clout and resource, need more budgets.
* Cllr Fowler – need more people from business sector and unions. Ownership will lie with the Council and we need to work closely with CA. He mentioned that his ward forum has been meeting regularly. Strongly feels that those who shout the loudest seem to get their voices heard in ward forums.
* Chris Martin - How will proposed governance contribute to reduction of the 'greater birmingham' emissions? how will collaboration across the wider city stakeholder groups?
* Lisa Trickett – the citizens of birmingham do not have the resilience to weather another transition. Keen on addition accountability Need to talk with WMCA and LEP to decide accountability. Also need to consider the role of Chamber of Commerce and LEP who are the voice of SME’s. Issue of business and trade unions – agree they need to be included. We can develop principles and criteria into the model. The idea of the climate assembly is to bring the community of all agents and actors three times a year to sign off some form of action plan, which will produce cross accountability. Need to make sure we are not a gatekeeper and that we welcome in the full expertise we require.
* Maria Dunn – on where the team fits, the team will be focussing on councils own actions and working with officers and external officers to support a just transition.
* Richard Hatcher – need to consider role of council scrutiny committee
* Cllr Clements – BCC has 8 scrutiny committees, our challenge is to ensure climate is discussed at all committees. We do need the team to support this.
* Cllr Zaffar – will work with R20 advisory committee and bring diagram with commentary to February meeting, we can also discuss resources then. Hopefully we will adopt it in February.

1. **Any other Business**

* Project 3D – project is progressing well and team are looking at datasets available, there is a survey to complete if you may know of useful datasets.

**Action: Ellie Crook to circulate link to survey (done)**

* Cllr Fowler – welcome inclusion of TU and businesses. Future city plan – more information please?
* Cllr Zaffar – we can look into having a presentation in the coming TFs.

**Action: Ellie to ask about presentation for next TF**

* Cllr Pritchard – would like more info on funding and teams.
* Cllr Zaffar – will make sure that this is investigated as soon as possible.
* Date of the next meeting: TBC