

# Birmingham's Climate Emergency

The National Climate Change Conference  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2021



# Overview

- Declaring a Climate Emergency
- Progress to Date
- The Action Plan
- Key Challenges
- Next Steps

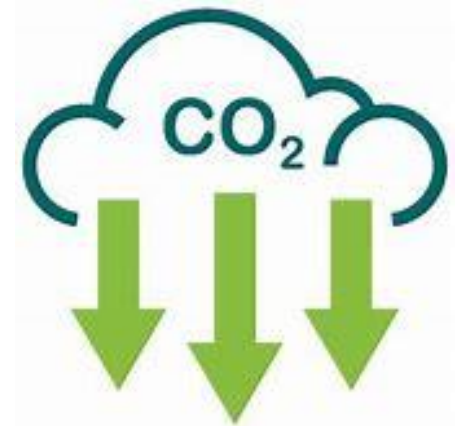
# Declaring a Climate Emergency

- Birmingham declared a climate emergency on 11 June 2019.
- New Council priority: *'Birmingham will be a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change.'*
- Declaration included a commitment to set up a Climate Emergency Task Force



# Progress to Date

- Council's Early Actions
- Engagement
  - Policy workshops
  - Online survey and focus groups
- Carbon Reduction Study
  - Baseline emissions
  - Actions to reduce carbon emissions
- Report to September Council
- Call to Action - Action Plan - January 2021



# Action Plan - Background and Purpose

- Focus on priority actions which will move us forward over the next couple of years.
- Set out actions that will have the largest impact in reducing emissions.
- Outline policy and legislation, examine the need for systems change and climate justice, identify what we can control and influence and will set out how we are working with partners.
- Themed around 7 topic areas

# Priority Action - New Build Housing

- BMHT Passive Haus trial
  - Review of BMHT specification
  - Around 7,000 new homes will be built by BMHT by 2031
- Review of Birmingham Development Plan policies
- Need to lobby Government for more ambitious building targets



# Priority Action – Retrofit of Existing Housing Stock

- BCC capital investment
- Retrofit Conference July 2020
- East Birmingham Community Heat Task Force - October 2020
- Bids for retrofit funding – aim to undertake pilot projects and scale up
- Need to lobby Government for funding and wider support for retrofit agenda



# Priority Action - Transport

- Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP) – on hold due to COVID
- Birmingham Emergency Transport Plan (BETP)
- E-cargo Bike pilot – 20 units won via bid
- Hydrogen Buses – 20 double deckers to kick start the market
- Electric buses on the 6 route Birmingham to Solihull – 19 fully electric buses.
- Clean Air Zone – June 2021 – includes investment in electric taxis.
  
- Next we need to:
  - Adopt and implement BTP – city centre segments and increased pedestrianisation and provision of segregated cycle lanes.
  - Work with industry and TfWM to develop zero carbon public transport network by 2025.
  - Lobby for bus service franchise





# Priority Action – EV Charging Points

- Funding secured for 197 fast and rapid chargers, provides 394 charge points, to be rolled out by 2022.
- Scale up to 9,000 chargers by 2030, of which 600 will be rapid.
- Promoting a switch to electric
- Create an efficient regulation framework to enable the scale of change for the installation of public charge points.
- Produce a wider EV charge strategy by March 2021
- Addressing the challenge of EV home charging at terraced properties
- We need to:
  - Simplify the framework for the network (apps etc.)
  - Lobby developers on EV inclusion and lobby government for more support on EV.



# Priority Action - Waste

- Waste Strategy 2016
- Waste Capacity Study 2014
- We need to look at total waste arisings rather than focusing on household.
- We need to work with the Combined Authority to look at waste movements across the conurbation.
- Two new waste HUBS to have EV charging capability designed in.
- New waste strategy in progress
- Working with WMCA on the Circular Economy and the associated waste reduction
- We need to work with the Chamber of Commerce to lobby central government to encourage large commercial operations to reduce the amount of waste they produce.
- Continued partnership working with the Combined Authority, local authorities, waste management and disposal companies, and other relevant organisations.

# Priority Action – Energy

- BEIS Decarbonisation of Heat Programme – Outputs shows that 16 scalable and ‘fit for purpose’ heat decarbonisation interventions shortlisted. If implemented from 2020-2050 they could potentially achieve around 80% reduction in carbon.
- Birmingham District Energy Company (BDEC) – work to decarbonize the network
- Tyseley Energy Park
  
- **We need to:**
  - Create a blueprint for systems thinking that is capable of being applied at a city scale.
  - Work with regulators to overcome barriers to investment
  - Develop skills and training in a commercial environment.
  - Maximise the development of Tyseley Energy Park
  
- **Lobbying**
  - Lobby for Tyseley to become the National Centre for Decarbonisation of Heat
  - Submit proposal for ERDF and other funding to acquire additional space for business incubation.
  - Maximise opportunities for partner working, such as with UoB

# Priority Action - The Natural Environment

- Future Parks Accelerator – ‘Naturally Birmingham’
- Cole Valley Route – ERDF bid and GBSLEP Expression of Interest
- Rehabilitation of green space, including increasing canopy cover – increasing cover to a minimum of 25% in all wards citywide.
- WM National Park Concept



# Key Challenges

- We can't do it alone!
- Need to engage everyone within the City
- Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are unknown but there is a real opportunity for a green economic recovery.
- Funding
- National and regional legislation and policy

# Next Steps

- **Implementation of the Action Plan**

- Many of the projects are already underway but work needs to be done to scale-up delivery.
- Transitioning the Task Force into a Climate Assembly to support the delivery of the Action Plan.

- **Monitoring:**

- Establishing a monitoring framework for the Action Plan
- Reporting through the Governance structures – annual monitoring report to Full Council and regular updates to Scrutiny Committee.

# Questions and Discussion



[birmingham.gov.uk/futurecouncil](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/futurecouncil)



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