



One City Environment Board
DRAFT Notes and Actions 27 September 2023
meeting
 John Wesley New Rooms, meeting in public session

- Attendees** **Co-chairs:** Ann Cousins (Arup), Cllr Kye Dudd (BCC)
Members: Roy Kareem (RC), Janine Michael, Sam Willitts, Lucy Edgar, Gwen Frost, Alex Minshull, Ian Barrett, Chris Preist, Vicki Woolley
Invitees: Nina Skubala and Francesca Barclay (City Office); Jo House (BACCC); Keiran Highman (WECA), Richard Ennion (BCC)
Public Observers: Two in attendance
- Apologies** Ben Shayler, Phil Taylor, Katherine Piper, Emma Geen, Savita Willmott, David White, Jim Longhurst, Andrew Linfoot
- Secretariat** Hannah Roddis (BGCP), Reem Khreisheh (BGCP) – minutes

ITEMS	ACTIONS
Welcome, quorum & declaration of interests	
No new declaration of interest. Meeting is declared quorate.	
Welcome to new members	
No new members in attendance.	
Minutes of last meeting & action register	
<p>Minutes of last meeting approved and signed off.</p> <p>Outstanding Actions: Red:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Meeting with Housing Board on retrofit: New One City Team is in post, Francesca will take this action forward. • Innovation Goal, Goal 45: Agreement that this can be wrapped into overall review of goals and can be removed as an outstanding item. <p>Amber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological Emergency: Members to let Savita/Ian know if you'd like to join the working group looking at business engagement on nature. Jo noted interest from BACCC in joining group. Noted that offer does not have to be from board members and offers from other organisation representatives are welcome and accepted in line with one city approach. • Innovation goal: Iain, Ian, Dan, Tricia to consider metrics for the third goal and present these at next meeting. Agreement that this can be wrapped into overall review of goals and can be removed as an outstanding item. • Inclusivity: Discussed as agenda item below. 	<p>Action: Francesca to take on organising meeting with Housing Board before end of year.</p> <p>Action: ALL Members contact Savita/Ian if you would like to join Ecological Emergency Working Group on Business engagement on nature and suggest any other interested organisations.</p>
Updates & Discussion	
<p>One City Climate Strategy</p> <p>Update from Alex Minshull:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing: New Coordinators have been recruited as job share, waiting for final confirmation before sharing details. Will bring fresh perspective and complementary expertise to help develop strategy further. 	

- **Net Zero Co-Innovation Lab:** Finance Lab has launched funded by Horizon Europe and EU's Innovation Programme. Will develop range of financial instruments with partners to invest in net zero projects. Including creation of Climate Bond, Venture Fund with Bristol & Bath Regional Capital and potential Carbon Offset Fund.

Discussion:

- Are Universities involved in Horizon projects? No. Primary partners in Finance Lab are Bristol City Council, Bristol & Bath Regional Capital, Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Abundance (Principal Bond Issuer who are working with City Leap on their bond).
- Advisory groups sitting alongside Net Zero Co-Innovation Lab will include a finance advisory board (to be created), BACCC technical advisory group and Community Leadership Panel. These will influence and ensure investing in right technical solutions in a just way with financial sense behind it.
- What type of net zero projects will investment apply to? Bristol & Bath Regional Capital are embarking on conversations with would-be project developers and supply chain businesses.

Offers:

- Jo House: Standing offer from BACCC to help with this.
- **Innovate UK Bid:** <£5 million proposal to develop climate investment plans at two levels; at city regional level working with Combined Authority, surrounding Unitary Authorities, National Grid and energy companies and at neighbourhood level working with communities building on BGCP's CCA plans, reflecting Just Transition principles.

Finance Lab will be a financial mechanism to make change and this proposed project submitted to Innovate UK will add supply and demand component. This is a very competitive bid and will hear more about this in November, and if successful will kick off in February 2024.

- **Transition Team Updates:** First meeting is in October, aim to build coalition of key actors. If Innovate UK bid is successful, this would significantly progress work, but will carry on with this without funding if unsuccessful.

- **BACCC Update**

Update from Kye Dudd:

- Pleased with City Leap progress. Number of people working on city decarbonisation projects risen from 27 when Joint Venture Company was set up in January to 80 people.
- Signed off cabinet report two weeks ago for £19 million for projects to retrofit and reduce carbon for the top 30 buildings in council's estate for carbon footprint.
- Social Housing decarbonisation paper coming in March.
- Launch of Community Energy Fund on evening of 27/09.
- Public affairs work to encourage other locations to adopt Bristol model progressing well.
- **BACCC Update**
- City Leap planning meeting to discuss business plan.

Action: ALL Members if anyone wishes to speak directly with Chris Stark from National CCC let Jo House or Cabot Institute know.

- Chris Stark from National Committee on Climate Change is speaking at UoB on 11 October and has agreed to speak with BACCC to discuss the way BACCC works regionally and with the National CCC. Sign up for talk through Cabot Institute.

One City Ecological Emergency Strategy

- Pesticides**

Update from Nina Skubala: Request from Savita to raise profile of need for organisations across city to reduce their use of pesticides in the next City Gathering on 24th November. City Office will explore what this could look like with Savita.

- Appointment of Ecological Emergency Coordinator**

Update from Alex Minshull: Kit Beaumont has been appointed the new EE Coordinator. Kit has most recently worked on the Parks and Green Space Strategy. In recognition of workload for this, another half-time EE Officer has been recruited to increase capacity.

- Waterways Goal**

Update from Ann Cousins on behalf of Dan Green Wessex Water: Wessex Water, currently preparing next business plan for next price review period 2025-2030. Will be approved by Wessex Water Board over next couple of days. Dan Green invited to give update at next meeting.

Update from Ian Barret

- Public Engagement Programme is continuing with Team Wilder, projects in Easton, Redcliffe and a number in the city working with communities.
- Savita is working on setting up a group around how we work with businesses to reduce ecological footprint.
- Concern on water quality that progress is short of what's needed.
- Planning to undertake a progress report of Ecological Emergency Strategy after next election.
- New state of nature report comes out 28/09 showing global national picture is declining. We know what the issues are and need action from government and local government.

Offers:

- Jo House: UoB students able to tackle some work through dissertation projects or engaging more formally with Biology Teaching Programme.
- Jo House: Will discuss with Ian Barrett possibility of putting in some groundwork for progress report ahead of election time.

Update from Kye Dudd:

- Progress made on a number of goals: significant pesticide reduction with pesticide policy. Space for Nature policy progressing.

Action: Nina/City Office Team to discuss and define Pesticide ask with Savita for City Gathering.

Action: Jo and Ian to discuss options for preparatory groundwork for progress report ahead of election.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterways Goal is an area of concern. May need to reassess tactics on how we reach our goals if we don't see any progress in the coming years. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to look at big picture for waterways Goal including flooding risk and how to manage natural risk. Challenge in that this is no one person's responsibility - requires all around table and more to come together and look at this. 	<p>Action: Hannah to include update on Waterways Goal in November meeting agenda.</p>
<p>Bristol Tree Strategy</p> <p>Richard Ennion gave an update on the Bristol Tree Strategy draft:</p> <p>Engagements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out citizen facing questionnaire and stakeholder workshops. Outcomes will be published. The priorities reflected from these workshops have been considered and fitted into the tree strategy. <p>Mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Bristol Tree cover is 16.9% (data provided by Blue Sky). Tree cover variation across city is high: 9-26% variation. Introduced Impact Criteria: Deprivation, Tree Deficit, Heat risk stress and Nature Recovery. Acknowledgement that other elements have impact e.g. carbon, flood risk, air quality, however, the selected criteria ensures clear major benefits. <p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted flagship projects making significant difference across the city. More mapping work required to look at areas beyond BCC's footprint: looking at private gardens and top 10 landowners. Offer from Forest of Avon to create a Data Hub. Reporting in progress: Blue Sky remeasuring tree canopy in line with 3 yearly cycle. <p>Question Posed to board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is current target of doubling 2018 tree cover baseline by 2046 realistic? <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does current Bristol tree cover (16.9%) compare to other cities? Immense variability between cities as some include surrounding hinterland in their mapping. Bristol cover is higher than we believed it to be. How do we protect existing habitats while reaching target? Built-in principles allow us to understand value of existing habitats when thinking about whether tree planting is appropriate for a particular area. The strategy will always consider whether planting in a particular area will add value or take it away ensuring high value habitats such as species rich grassland will be protected. Does current mapping work give confidence that we can plant target amount of trees? For Parks and Green spaces reasonably confident. Have not mapped private land. Why is this a One city strategy rather than a Bristol City Council strategy? Target is about the city as a whole so important that this is at city scale. BCC is significant but isn't the only player. The strategy takes on a scaffold and invitation approach meaning 	<p>Action: Richard and team to share final strategy with EB.</p>

<p>any organisation can layer in their actions against it as they see fit and have their own organisational strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does public land include? Council is 40% of city’s footprint, including 2000 hectares parks and green spaces and adopted highway network. Remaining 60% are private gardens, organisations, UoB, NHS etc. • Discussion around how firm links between health and wellbeing outcomes from tree planting actions can be measured and metrics built-in to programmes moving forward. This could fit into proposed data hub. • Establishing an interim hectare goal or stepping stone goals would be helpful- recommendations for these goals? Flagship projects are starting to do this with more manageable interim goals. More mapping work required before suggesting new goals. • Is canopy cover measured as a tree count or an area? It is under-leaf. Bird’s eye view analysis: a small tree will be picked up when it gets to 3 meters. Projection figure takes into account potential tree growth. • Interest in top 10 private landowners and how One City structure will be able to support this mapping. • Concern around having a separate tree strategy to the biodiversity strategy particularly for householder reference. With two different organisations potentially advising householders in different ways. • Jo House will set time with Richard to further discuss tree maintenance, holding developers to account, school engagement, capacity to advise private landowners. 	<p>Action: Jo to meet with Richard to discuss tree maintenance, holding developers to account, school engagement, capacity to advise private landowners.</p>
<p>Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Recommendations & Just Transition Declaration</p> <p>Update from Roy Kareem on behalf of EDI group:</p> <p>Just transition declaration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Transition Declaration approved by cabinet in September 2023 and gone public this month. Now in beginning of a conversation and implementation phase. • Questions to board around continuing JT momentum, commitment to endorsement and sharing declaration, embedding principles into our ways of working at board and organisational level, opportunities to take this to other thematic boards, stress testing principles against climate strategy and ecological emergency strategy work. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UoB potential to support this group with funding; as group are all volunteers, perhaps this could be a mechanism to professionalise this, build capacity and further develop. • Alex Dietzel and Alice Venn heading up series of Workshops on Inclusion, delivered by the Diversity Tust. Invite has been circulated to the Board, Roy offered to attend and share learning. • Internal discussions happening currently at UoB around signing JT Declaration and how to meaningfully put into practice the JT principles. • Formal mechanism for organisations to go through to sign declaration? Nina has meeting booked to look into this and will take this ask to One City Partners. UoB could share learnings from their process. • Next City Gathering focuses on just transition, looking at how to facilitate these conversations and bringing in what does JT mean to other thematic groups. Request for ideas on who could lead these conversations. • Declaration is a living document, need clarity on who owns and administers it. Potential UoB funding could support development of structure for this. 	<p>Action: Roy to share learnings from upcoming training event from Diversity Trust with board.</p> <p>Action: Nina to discuss formal mechanisms for organisations to sign JT declaration with One City Partners.</p> <p>Action: All Members send suggestions of contacts to lead on/facilitate JT conversations at City Gathering.</p>

- Acknowledgement of cultural moment in which the JT Declaration has gone live in Bristol with the rolling back on climate goals.
- Endorsement Suggestions:
 - Showcasing leadership and sharing learnings
 - Commitment from individual members to sharing their journeys through City Gathering
 - Communications, publication or blog announcement from city board to make statement of endorsement.
 - Publicly sharing endorsement with commitment to connecting with community leadership JT panel in future years around commitment to future reviews of either of strategies
 - Commitment to members looking at opportunities for training and ways to bring in more equity and inclusion to our ways of working
 - EDI group to come back with specific suggestions of how to do this

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Recommendations

Request for feedback and discussion on recent ED&I workshop from board members:

Discussion:

- Facilitated session were very productive: enabled us to tap into board members expertise.
- Neutral third-party facilitators useful for bringing in more voices.
- Suggestion for future sessions to deep dive into upcoming agenda themes and items.
- Should these facilitated sessions happen every 6 months? Annually?
- Discussion around diversification of board. EDI group will discuss and come back to board with thoughts.
- Suggestion around bringing a colleague to board to diversify thought and perspectives.
- Suggestion for more facilitation while in groups, during workshop, to focus conversations.
- More manageable for organisations to share best practice for delivering specific elements of declaration. Can One City coordinate sharing specific examples of best practice linked to specific elements of 10 aspects of declaration? EDI Group, One city and BGCP will meet to discuss before next meeting
- BGCP coming to end of 3-year funded project working with Black & Green ambassador programme with Ujima radio, about leadership, diversity and inclusion within the environmental sector. Will be sharing learnings from this in a report next week.

Offers:

- Nina: Will be offering best practice sessions sharing techniques around bringing in diverse thought.
- Ann: Keen to work with others on how we attract more diverse people into this sector e.g. on training routes.

Action: EDI Group to create specific suggestions/recommendations for endorsing and embedding JT declaration in our organisations and Boards, and bring these back to Board.

Action: EDI Group to think about diversification of Board and bring thoughts and suggestions to next meeting.

Action: EDI Group, Nina & Vicki meet to discuss possibilities for coordinating EDI/JT best practice sharing before next Board meeting

One City Plan Goals

Handouts given. Board reviewed each goal to highlight any risks, opportunities or thoughts on each item, as well as any easily identifiable leads.

2023

1: Innovation in renewable energy, infrastructure and ecological services is maximised through a strategic partnership to deliver the transition to a sustainable city - Delivered.

2: Bristol holds annual awards to recognise individuals, communities and organisations for their leadership and contribution to an environmentally sustainable and socially just future -Will take place in November organised by Future Leap.

3: 35% of domestic homes in Bristol are insulated to a high standard (C+) – On target.

Discussion:

- Number 3 is a follow on target? Yes.
- Goal 1: time to engage with other partners or is this a job for Ameresco? Will discuss this with David White Bristol City Leap representative at the board.
- Any risks /opportunities around goals to be fed into governance board either for a steer or for information can be sent to One City Team.

2024 – 25

4: The new planning policy (Local Plan) is adopted with strong policies on carbon neutrality, climate resilience and standards of design for wildlife, water, waste and resources and wellbeing - On schedule. Going to full Council in October, becomes policy in 2025 if passes the planning inspectors test.

Discussion:

- Local plan now in hands of Inspector. This is the final version from BCC's side.
- Is Inspectorate national or local? National.
- Important to monitor the plan's progress as developers with fully funded lobbies will make submissions to weaken stances and remove policies they do not support. Genuine risk that aspects of plan will be removed or watered down.
- Individual organisations from the board can also make submissions. This would be helpful to stress which areas of the plan you are particularly supportive of and areas that need to be strengthened.

5: With support, 50% of citizens and businesses have actively made and are working towards a carbon neutral and nature rich city by 2023.

Discussion:

- How do we measure this? Craft question with Matt Griffith to be included in Business West quarterly economic surveys. Nina can facilitate introductions to Matt.
- Working group with Lizzi, Richard, Allan and Olivia captured suggestions for measuring this in a paper – Vicki has shared this with One City.
- Perhaps Economy and Skills Board should lead on business side of this target and our contribution is more around citizen aspect? Francesca will raise this at Multi board on 4th October.
- Businesses over a certain size required to submit emissions reports and plans – perhaps ONS has this?
- Recognition that it will be difficult to gather information on small businesses in Bristol.

Action: Ann, Alex to discuss partner engagement for Goal 1 with David White.

Action: All Members to submit any risk or opportunities around goals that need to be fed into governance board for steer or information through One City online survey.

Action: All Members to consider making submissions from their individual organisations on Local Plan to demonstrate which areas of the plan you support and areas that need to be strengthened.

Action: Francesca will raise question on role of Economy and Skills Board in capturing Goal 5 Business target, at Multi Board.

6: Wildlife friendly food growing areas have been established in every ward in the city, using regenerative approaches to replenish the soil and manage water.

Discussion:

- Never been part of Ecological Emergency Strategy. AWT previously worked on this but are not anymore. Alex will pick this up with Parks and Green Space Strategy.
- Opportunity for cross board working with Health and Wellbeing Board.

Noted discomfort that Target 7 does not meet statutory requirements – to be picked up in next meeting.

2025-2030 Goals to be reviewed at next board. Suggestions for best ways to review these welcomed. Suggestions for how best to structure cross board collaboration welcome.

Action: Alex to discuss Goal 6 with Parks and Green Space Strategy Team.

Action: BGCP add review 2025-30 Goals to next Board Meeting agenda.

Action: All Members to send suggestions for best ways to review goals and best ways to structure cross board collaboration to Hannah.

City Office & Future Goals

Welcome and congratulations to Nina, Francesca and rest of team on their new roles.

Update from Nina Skubala:

- **New Team Introductions:** Nina introduced herself and new team to board.
 - Nina Skubala: Head of City Office
 - Francesca Barclay: Operations and Stakeholder Engagement Manager
 - Karen Blong: Operations and Stakeholder Engagement Manager
 - Beth Williams: Operations and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor
 - Recruiting for Partnerships and Events Assistant.
- **One City Approach:** Long term vision to promote city wide collaboration, embed EDI work, transcend political timescales and promote system change. The approach is enabled by City Office. The team acts as an enabler and hub to support and bring resources and assets to all One City work.
- **Approach to City Office Work:**
 - Bring in Change Management Lens and ADKAR model.
 - Create desire among organisations to be part of One City and act on this.
 - Raise awareness of issues we want to address and ways we are doing this.
 - Increase knowledge about what’s happening across whole of One City approach.
 - Introduce best practice and knowledge sharing across Boards.
 - Adopt agile working practices: mini sprints.
- **Meeting Pulse:** Nina shared meeting pulse demonstrating that every board is now meeting or will be meeting in next four weeks. Shared key dates:
 - 02/10 Governance Board first meeting.
 - 04/10 Multi-board session: will pick up on EDI work.
 - 24/11 City Gathering: members to hold morning in calendars – invitations coming soon.

Action: All Members to hold morning of 24th November in their calendars for City Gathering.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ W/c 5th November SDG Alliance with eye to COP28: Marvin Rees attending focusing on financing net zero and climate displacement. Members active in these areas can feed into this by contacting Nina. ● Proposed Board Reporting: Nina shared how they will be capturing information to share with other boards. Interest in when board meetings are taking place. Important to have clear asks/offers that Nina can pass between boards, partners or governance. ● City Gathering: Focus on Just Transition and Youth Violence. Savita’s ask/offer around pesticide use is on agenda. Prioritization exercise will take place to select top three priorities for whole city. Surveys sent out to board members to understand priorities, map goals and identify leads. Youth Mayor will select one goal. City gathering will vote to select 2 out of 5 priority goals. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board thoughts on which, if any, environment 2024-2025 goal should be advocated for as a priority? Suggestion for Goal 5. ● Completing City Office survey will give board members an overview of all goals and demonstrate alignment between goals. 	<p>Action: All Members to send any suggestions or thoughts on financing net zero and climate displacement to Nina, to be fed into SDG Alliance (COP28) agenda.</p> <p>Action: Francesca to re-circulate City Office online survey to all Board Members.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ann shared update on COP28: BCC’s international office is currently planning their Cop28 activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marvin will be going to COP as Chair of UK Core Cities representing Bristol as part of UK Core Cities and the Cities Commission for Climate Investment (Core Cities and London Councils are founding members) - He is also going representing the international networks he is on the Board of including Mayors Migration Council, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, and Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance - Bristol has been in regular dialogue with FCDO and DESNZ since the last COP advocating for stronger alignment across the UK ahead of and COP28. There have been a few meetings bringing together UK partners. I will send information on this for those from Bristol planning to attend including Cabot Institute. - Bristol as part of the Cities Commission for Climate Investment is also hoping to do a joint event with UK gov on cities and investment in the UK pavilion. - Marvin will also receive an invite to attend the first ever Local leaders Summit being held alongside the World Leaders Summit and chaired by John Kerry and Chinese leader Xie Zhen Hua. - Marvin is keen to understand messages and expectations of local partners ahead of him going to COP28 and we are looking at best way to do this (We would like to speak to SDG Alliance Chair about the November meeting for this which is focused on COP). ● Francesca update on SDG Alliance meeting w/c 5th November. Meeting date tbc. There is a request for speakers from Environment Board, BGCP and B&G ambassadors mentioned for this. Welcome others from organisations carrying out grassroots level work or those with plan in mind for roadmap to COP28. Please contact Francesca if interested in speaking at or attending meeting. 	<p>Action: All Members to contact Francesca if interested in speaking or attending SDG Alliance Meeting w/c 5th November.</p>

- Gwen: One city groups meeting again. Will there be an impact from cabinet committee change on this?
Nina: Committee working group looking at all processes for how the Council will be governed after May. There will be no changes until after May, at which time we will be in dialogue with new Councillors. However, in principle One City has had endorsement.
- Janine: Launched vouchers: Any homeowner can receive £250 off any type of retrofit survey for their household. Please spread word and link [Retrofit West Advice | Energy Saving Home Improvements](#). If you are linked to any organisation that have capacity to carry out retrofit assessments please get in contact with Janine.

Action: All Members to contact Janine if linked to any organisation that have capacity to carry out retrofit assessments.