

Attendees **Co-chairs:** Ann Cousins (Arup),
Members: Janine Michael, Sam Willitts, Lucy Edgar, Alex Minshull, Ian Barrett, Marley Bennett, Katherine Piper, Roger Hoare
Invitees: Francesca Barclay (City Office); Jo House (BACCC); Dan Green (Wessex Water), Iain McGuffog (Bristol Water), Lara Heledd Davies-Jones (BCC)
Public Observers: None in attendance

Apologies Emma Geen, Savita Willmott, David White, Cllr Kye Dudd (BCC), Roy Kareem (RC), Gwen Frost, Chris Preist, Vicki Woolley, Olivia Sweeney, Keiran Highman (WECA) 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. No public observers.	
Welcome to new members	
Welcome to Cllr Marley Bennett Cabinet Member for Climate and Waste and Just Transition Delivery. Marley will take over from Cllr Kye Dudd as Environment Board Co-Chair in future meetings. Kye will continue to attend as a member of the Board.	
Minutes of last meeting & action register	
Minutes of last meeting approved and signed off.	
<u>Outstanding Actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 125: Nina Skubala / City Office Team to discuss and define Pesticide ask with Savita for City Gathering: On hold - to be included in City Gathering late next year. 126: Jo and Ian to discuss options for preparatory groundwork for progress report of Ecological Emergency Strategy (UoB student opportunities to support) Not happened. 129: Jo to meet with Richard Ennion to discuss tree maintenance, holding developers to account, school engagement, capacity to advise private landowners. Not discussed. 130: Roy to share learnings from upcoming training event from Diversity Trust with board. Roy to report back at February 2024 meeting. 131: Nina to discuss formal mechanisms for organisations to sign JT declaration with One City Partners. Not discussed. 132: All Members send suggestions of contacts to lead on/facilitate JT conversations at City Gathering Discussed as agenda item. 133: EDI Group to create specific suggestions/recommendations for endorsing and embedding JT declaration in our organisations and Boards, and bring these back to Board. Ongoing. 134: EDI Group to think about diversification of Board and bring thoughts and suggestions to next meeting. Ongoing. 135: EDI Group, Nina & Vicki meet to discuss possibilities for coordinating EDI/JT best practice sharing before next Board meeting. Ongoing. 136: Ann, Alex to discuss partner engagement for Goal 1 with David White. Discussed as board in workshop, however David White not able to join this time. 140: Alex to discuss Goal 6 with Parks and Green Space Strategy Team: Parks & Green Space strategy due out imminently. 	<p>Action: Jo and Ian to discuss options for preparatory groundwork for progress report of Ecological Emergency Strategy (UoB student opportunities to support).</p> <p>Action: Jo to meet with Richard Ennion to discuss tree maintenance, holding developers to account, school engagement, capacity to advise private landowners.</p> <p>Action: Roy to share learnings from training event from Diversity Trust with board at February 2024 meeting.</p>

- **141: All Members to send suggestions for best ways to review goals and best ways to structure cross board collaboration to Hannah.** Complete.

Action: Nina to discuss formal mechanisms for organisations to sign JT declaration with One City Partners

Updates & Discussion

One City Climate Strategy - Update from Alex Minshall:

- **Staffing:** Lara Heledd Davies-Jones and Gnisha Bevan are now in place job-sharing as the new Climate Strategy Coordinators. Very pleased to have both on board, will bring complementary skill sets to the role.
- **Transition Team:** Bristol is one of 112 Smart Cities as part of the EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. Key aspect of theory of change is the formation of a cross-sectoral Transition Team that brings together key actors to help drive change towards net zero. The Transition Team will provide additional capacity and focus over the next 6 months to develop a net zero investment plan for Bristol and an associated action plan. This investment plan will help identify synergies between what is already being done and new opportunities. Can also be used externally to attract governmental and private sector investment into the city. The European Commission is developing European Net Zero Capital Hub. As part of this process the investment plan will be approved by the commission; aiming for this to take place in the Autumn next year. This timeframe allows the team to build the mandate effectively to commit to those actions, which takes time with multiple stakeholders. It will be for the next administration to sign up to this plan. As next steps, the team will meet next Thursday to share more detailed technical side of this work as well as advice and guidance from the commission and support programme. This session will be recorded so it can be shared. Later a series of deep dives into specific cross sectoral themes relevant to different stakeholders will be held.
- **Innovate Bid:** Results of bid due on 8 November are still pending. Timeline has been updated, now expecting results before 30 November. This is a very competitive bid with 20 or so places bidding, only five bids will be approved. This bid would act to address the demand, supply, and financial mechanisms to enable the delivery of net zero investment into the city strategically and into neighbourhoods. Working with three neighbourhoods it would lead to strong community-led investable propositions. There will be a city investment plan with the three neighbourhood investment plans underneath this. These will be developed between February and December 2024. Additionally, a regional plan will be built around this. Innovate funding would boost these plans but if we are not successful, the plans will still go ahead but perhaps using a less data-led system that funding would have allowed.

BACCC Update

Update from Jo House:

- **Chris Stark (National CCC) Visit:** Chris was very positive about work being done in Bristol and hopes to visit again. Jo enquired into possibility of national analysts potentially gathering some of the evidence base we need locally but looks like this is not possible. But BACCC will keep pushing on localised data and localised modelling. Hopeful that this will be an ongoing relationship. our work and that it is important to just keep going.

One City Ecological Emergency Strategy - Update from Ian Barrett

Ecological Emergency strategy has four main targets and three immediate actions.

Four main targets:

Space for nature: at least 30% of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife by 2030.

- Focus on everyone across the city working together, getting everyone involved through positive actions.
- Main piece of work is the Team Wilder Approach which Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) started. Keen to talk to everyone about how to promote and participate in Team Wilder as this is very much a partnership project not an AWT brand. Looking for everyone to promote this.
- Network of wildlife champions, currently 19 champions throughout West of England in 12 postcode areas. Aim to get one champion in every postcode area across West of England. Information online about actions that can be taken and training for champions.
- Funding for two Ecologists to support communities; addressing what communities can do around their green space.
- Funding for work in Redcliffe and Easton, working with communities to identify concerns and priorities for their area and find overlap between what the community wants and what we can help them do from ecological perspective. This will build community vision, leadership and roots with the aim of community engagement and empowerment.

Pesticides (reduce use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50% by 2030.)

- Savita to update further.

Pollution (100% of Bristol's waterways to have excellent water quality that supports healthy wildlife by 2030.)

- Kye Dudd and Dan Green (Wessex Water) have been in contact regarding water quality. See Dan's update below.

Our wider footprint (address ecological footprint of businesses in the city (people and business to reduce consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems around the world.)

- Conversations happening around how to engage businesses in ecology and climate, at West of England level with Business West and others. Savita is leading on this. There are a couple of bids in for this.

Three Immediate Actions:

1. Mapping Bristol's ecological networks and identifying gaps: links in with West of England's Nature Partnership work across whole of West of England to have big impactful projects which help ecological network connectivity in places where it is needed the most. In Bristol have fairly rudimentary ecological network maps but want to take these to the next level.

2. Wildlife Index work: looking at how we measure whether we are meeting the One City objective of doubling the amount of wildlife by 2044. Now happening at the West of England level and being taken forward there.

3. Council's own work on pesticides and verge mowing: Very pleased Kit Beaumont has started in his role as Ecological Emergency Coordinator on Alex's team and will be working on this once he has settled in.

Action: Savita to update Board on pesticides target.

Discussion:

- How is mapping of ecological networks carried out? Sarah Jackson from BCC commissioned Ecosulis consultancy to look at this. They have shared their report on cutting edge mapping methods e.g. satellite technology, including proposals around setting up an interactive platform. The initial maps are available, and the next stage is analyzing these, identifying where the gaps are. When Kit has settled in, hope to have conversations about how to progress this.

Offers:

- Jo House: Keen to discuss with Ian how to work with UoB students on collecting and analysing data. Jo and Ian to meet to discuss.

Action: Jo and Ian to meet to discuss working with UoB students around collecting and analysing data.

Water Company Updates

Bristol Water Business Plan - Update from Iain McGuffog

- Bristol has a relatively modest ecological impact particularly regarding wastewater as a water only supplier, and the water sources used are outside of the city. Impact on waterways within the city is low.
- Service level impact is important but overall impact is much less compared to other areas.
- This plan is more difficult and water sector is more in political focus than previous years due to changes in the public perception of the water sector and the impact of this.
- Challenges increase as we understand more about climate change impact, and huge level of investment required to both understand and address it.
- Level of investment required for next five years is roughly about 3.5x higher than previous five years, at about £2.8 billion compared to £800 million previously.
- In the Bristol area, the water service is a lot more stable because there are sufficient water resources meaning no plans to build more reservoirs in Bristol. Focus is instead around consumer usage and how to get consumers to use less water, protecting the environment and how to improve biodiversity.

Key actions:

- Reservoir build near Cheddar
- Drinking water quality
- Waste water
- Net Zero

Wessex Water Business Plan - Update from Dan Green. Slides shared.

Wessex Water region maps shared, showing separation between water supply and waste water service and map of natural geographical differences in various catchments.

The 5-year business plan for 2025-30 has been submitted to Ofwat and is subject to their approval. It includes proposals for £3.5 billion investment, including reducing nutrients going into rivers and estuaries (£900million programme) and dealing with storm overflows (£400million programme).

Main areas include:

Storm Overflows

Expansion of sewage treatment works

Reducing nutrients Bathing water quality Stream Cleans Impact on ecology of Bristol water courses	
Closed workshop session	
AOB	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francesca update on City Gathering: Agreement to go with Economies and Skills 50% goal as goal choice. Ann will pitch this goal at city gathering utilising contributions from EB members for why we have selected this goal. Roger can contribute in terms of link to combined authorities. Katherine update on Awards Ceremony: The Future Leap awards ceremony was delivered last week – 180+ people in the room celebrating sustainable business, very positive and exciting in terms of collaboration efforts. Will be holding these annually and planning for 2024 is already underway. 	Action: Ann to pitch Environment Board selected goal at City Gathering.