

# Birmingham's Climate Emergency

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020



# Overview

- Declaring a Climate Emergency
- The Task Force
- Progress to Date
- Next Steps
- Key Challenges
- Conclusion

# Declaring a Climate Emergency

- Birmingham declared a climate emergency on 11 June 2019 and set the ambition for the city to be carbon neutral by 2030, or as soon as possible thereafter as a just transition permits
- Declaration included a commitment to set up a Climate Emergency Task Force
- 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Cabinet agreed ‘route to zero’ (R20). On 25 June 2019, the Council’s Cabinet agreed to add a new priority to the Council Plan which states that Birmingham will be a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change.



# The Task Force

- The R20 Taskforce was set up in autumn 2019 to support the net zero ambition, bringing together key partners and stakeholders to provide a voice for the city
- Cross-party and multi agency
- Chaired by Cllr Zaffar – Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
- The Taskforce is informing the development of a shared action plan for how Birmingham can respond to the climate emergency

# Progress to Date – Engagement (1)

- A number of engagement workshops have been held to focus on specific topics and help us understand what we need is needed to achieve net zero and what the barriers and challenges are.
- The workshops have included specialists in the topic areas from within and outside of the city.
- Workshop themes:
  - Housing
  - Transport
  - Planning
  - Engagement – due to happen
  - East Birmingham and North Solihull - due to happen
- These workshops will help to inform the action planning process.

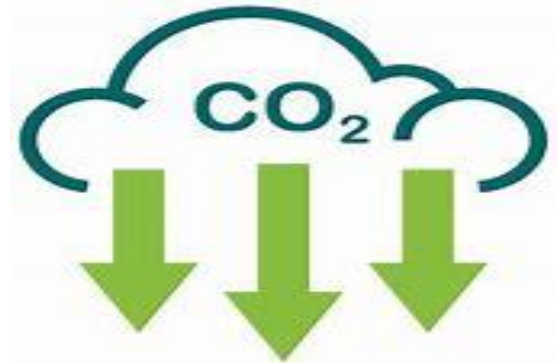


# Progress to Date – Engagement 2

- A programme of workshops and an online survey have been carried out to:
  - To explore people’s thoughts on climate change and their role within it.
  - To ascertain messages that are likely to resonate and how they should be delivered for best success
  - To understand how best to engage audiences further.
- **Key findings:**
  - Awareness is high
  - Residents generally don’t view climate change as something that directly impacts on them.
  - Many residents already make good choices but they are financially, rather than environmentally, driven.
  - The problem feels too big for individuals to make a difference although there is some recognition that everyone needs to do something.

# Progress to Date - Carbon Reduction Study

- The study achieves the following:
  - To establish the baseline carbon emissions for the city – including the Council’s own emissions and scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions for the City as a whole.
  - Setting out carbon budgets and emissions pathways for the City.
  - Providing sectoral analysis with carbon reduction recommendations for each of the following sectors:
    - Council behaviour Change
    - Council Strategy and Engagement
    - Transport
    - Buildings
    - Energy Supply
    - Natural Capital
    - Waste
    - Industry



# What we are Already Doing (1)

- 2013 – target to reduce emissions by 60% by 2027, most recent update shows by 2017 there was a 38.6% reduction against 1990 levels.
- Birmingham Transport Plan – due to be adopted in 2020 this will set out a series of pledges as to how the council and others in the city can support the journey towards cleaner air.
- Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan – this is in response to Covid19 and supports walking, cycling and public transport provision.





## Wat we are Already Doing (2)

- The **Naturally Birmingham Project** is seeking to enhance the city's parks and green spaces while also focussing on children, housing, health and wellbeing, and jobs and skills
- The Birmingham District Energy Scheme - the largest low carbon heating network in Birmingham
- Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust – develops affordable housing, current specification includes energy and water saving measures, exploring options for using more sustainable construction methods.

# Impact of Covid 19

- Covid 19 and has changed the way cities operate. Key impacts:
  - Transport
  - Energy demand
  - Waste
  - Natural capital
  
- Increased emphasis on equality, inclusivity and rebuilding a greener economy.

# Next Steps

- The Anthesis report, feedback from engagement, workshops and input from the working groups and Task Force will inform the preparation of the September Council report which will set out recommendations for achieving net zero carbon across the City.
- The recommendations are likely to be a mix of changes that can be made now within the resources available and longer term changes that require external funding sources and policy changes.
- Following September Council we will move to action planning and implementation.

# Questions and Discussion



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