

Dear Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Councillor Waseem Zaffar and Chris Naylor,

We are writing as representatives of members of the Route to Zero Taskforce and wider climate movement in Birmingham.

We were pleased to see Birmingham City Council declare a climate emergency in June 2019, and show leadership by aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

While we have been frustrated by the slow pace of progress in developing action plans for the city and for the City Council to get to net zero, we are relieved there are now some plans in place that have been approved by the Council. These may not on their own be sufficient in tackling the climate emergency and achieving net zero by 2030, but they are at least a move in the right direction.

However, for even these plans to succeed, and in particular for the council to succeed in meeting its commitments, there needs to be immediate resource allocated to meet them.

The covering report to the Action Plan passed at the meeting of the City Council on 12<sup>th</sup> January, stated that Birmingham City Council would put in place a sustainability team under an Assistant Director of Climate Change, in order to meet the actions in its climate action plan.

Yet the report did not give any specific commitments on the resource to be allocated to this team. It is vital that sufficient resource is allocated, and kept in place for the long term to have a real impact.

We are therefore disappointed that no additional resource for a climate and sustainability team appears to have been allocated in the Council's draft Budget & Financial Plan for the coming year.

We know that Birmingham City Council will be deciding this 2021-2022 budget at the meeting of the City Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

We know the City Council, like all local authorities, is under financial pressure, particularly with Covid. However, for the Council to succeed in its climate commitments, this work needs to be resourced.

We therefore ask that:

- The budget that is adopted has a significant amount of resource allocated for the new sustainability team to support to the new Assistant Director responsible.
- The council commits to funding this sustainability team until at least 2030.
- The sustainability team should also be able to bid for additional external funding to deliver the Council's climate commitments. Such additional resource should not mean the original core funding is removed.

This level of resource allocation should match best practice elsewhere such as Bristol, and show that Birmingham City Council is willing to resource its climate commitments.

We hope that Birmingham City Council can match the level of its ambition with the appropriate resource.

Yours,

Simon Slater – Greener Birmingham Coalition and R20 Taskforce member

Chris Martin – Footsteps - Faith Community representative R20 Taskforce

Julian Todd – Climate Action West Midlands and R20 Taskforce member

Shaz Rahman – Birmingham Friends of the Earth

Councillor Julien Pritchard – Green Party

Councillor Roger Harmer – Liberal Democrats

Councillor Olly Armstrong – Labour Party