

## **BIRMINGHAM DECLARATION**

### **Notice of motion City Council 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

To be moved by Cllr Paul Tilsley  
Seconded by Cllr Ayoub Khan

This Council reaffirms its commitment to tackling climate change and resolves to use its purchasing power & influence as a vehicle to stimulate green initiatives which will provide significant employment opportunities for Birmingham people and reduce the energy bill of all citizens and businesses in the city. With an annual turnover of over £3bn this council has the capacity to lead change and influence markets across the city and the UK

In comparison to many of our European neighbours Britain is using far less renewable energy as proportion of our total use. The city council has a duty to one million people to influence and encourage change of behaviour.

Birmingham's efforts are already having a bigger impact than those of many other cities. The reasons for this include a number of significant housing initiatives:-

- The multiple award winning Summerfield Eco Village in partnership with Family Housing Association, which has also provided training and employment opportunities for local residents.
- An investment of £2.3million attracted into the city under the Local Carbon Infrastructure fund to develop combined heat and power systems which will benefit residents through cheaper energy bills and reduce the carbon footprint of existing buildings.

Therefore this Council believes that by 2015:

- **all vehicles procured by the Council should be electrically powered or run on liquefied petroleum gas.**
- **there will be at least 500 electric cars running on the streets of the city as we will develop the electric charging infrastructure.**
- **50% of electricity used by the Council should be generated from renewable sources.**
- **the City Council's energy consumption will be reduced by 25%.**
- **10% of Birmingham homes will be linked to district heating systems.** The Progressive Partnership is already making progress for its own housing stock, with a scheme of 1,000 homes. Meeting this ambitious citywide target of c40,000 homes will require major additional resources and the willingness of home owners to link to district schemes.

- **10% of Birmingham homes will have retrofit insulation.** This target has already been exceeded. In 2006 88% of properties had a reasonable level of insulation and 40% had a good level of insulation. The decent homes work completed by the council and housing association partners, plus energy efficiency work for over 3,000 vulnerable households in the private sector will have significantly improved this figure since 2006. However, this positive work is currently threatened by the reduction in government funding from April 2010 to support improvement work for vulnerable households in the private sector.
- **There will be at least 10 "low carbon communities" similar to the successful example of Summerfield Eco-neighbourhood.** The Summerfield scheme received funding support from the urban Living Pathfinder, and work is already planned to develop a similar scheme in Lozells. However, this and other future schemes are threatened by uncertainties around future government funding arrangements post 2011.

This list of seven objectives will become known as the "Birmingham Declaration"

These objectives are a statement of intent which we will encourage other Council's to sign up to. The combined purchasing power of local government signed up to this "Birmingham Declaration" will provide manufacturers with the confidence to invest in green technology, to develop new products and employment opportunities.

Council therefore calls on the Executive to declare its commitment to the Birmingham Declaration. By achieving the above objectives we will significantly reduce carbon emissions & make Birmingham a cleaner and greener city.

Also, as a consequence to the adoption of this policy:

- All Council departments should be allocated an energy usage and carbon reduction target for each financial year and be required to report on performance at the year end, so placing climate change at the top of the agenda – with a contribution that can be made to a reduction in Council costs; and
- The Deputy Leader be required to report as part of his annual report to the Council, on the total energy usage by the City Council and its contractor partners, to advise Council of the steps taken over the previous year to reduce energy use and of the steps planned for the next year, with the level of impact of these measures."