



Tackling Climate Change in Coventry

Cllr Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration & Climate Change & Vice Chair of Coventry's Independent Climate Change Board

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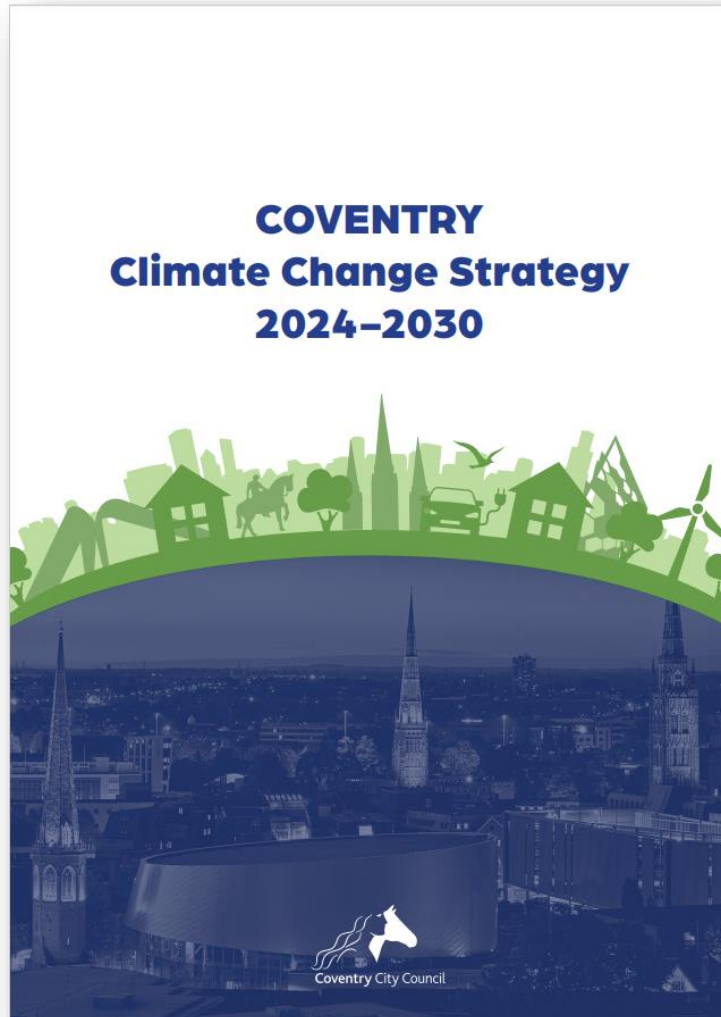
Margot James, Chair of Coventry's Independent Climate Change Board

Decarbonising the Council's estate

- **Whilst the Council's carbon footprint is less than 1% of the city as a whole**, we need to be seen as a leader and encourage others follow suit.
- **Over the last 15 years we have retrofitted over 40 of our buildings** to make them more energy efficient, alongside connecting our main buildings to a **new district heating line**.
- St Marys Guildhall is part of Coventry's Council House cluster in terms of energy infrastructure that now has zero direct emissions. Achieved in 3 main phases:
 - Gas Heating replaced with District Heating
 - New all electric state of the art kitchen installed as part of Guildhall Renovation Works
 - Solar Panels and Battery Storage amongst other measures added
- **Now using 37% less energy, costing 45% less and the carbon footprint is 74% lower (and falling as grid improves and heat network improves in efficiency).**
- Not bad for a listed heritage building!



How are we tackling climate change in Coventry?



Citywide Strategy for all



Council as a leader and enabler for change



Focus on taking action and being innovative



Marmot city → addressing inequities



Message of hope – taking action will help create a better future for everyone



Coventry as a centre for the Green Industrial Revolution



Working in partnership to address climate and nature emergencies

Coventry's Independent Climate Change Board

- **November 2021:** the Council led the development of a new advisory Independent Climate Change Board
- Includes senior representatives from over 25 organisations – major businesses, public agencies, charities and voluntary organisations based in Coventry
- Supported the development of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, and will support the Council to oversee implementation
- Generate new ideas and opportunities
- Establish effective ways to engage and involve residents and organisations
- Commitment to ensure a **just transition**



Our Climate Change Strategy pathways



Adaptation and Resilience Pathway:

Reduce the impacts of extreme weather and climate change and enable quicker recovery through creating a more resilient city



Route to Net Zero Pathway:

Reduce carbon emissions across the city to support our transition to net zero, whilst benefiting local people and businesses through creating warmer homes, cheaper bills, cleaner air, new jobs and skills



Circular Economy Pathway:

Develop new models of production and consumption to reduce our reliance on natural resources



Nature Pathway:

Support nature recovery and create better access to green and blue space for wildlife to thrive and communities to enjoy



Fairer Green Future Pathway:

Ensuring a just transition for all



Decarbonising our city's buildings

Emissions from buildings account for over 45% of carbon produced by the city, here is how we are taking action in Coventry...

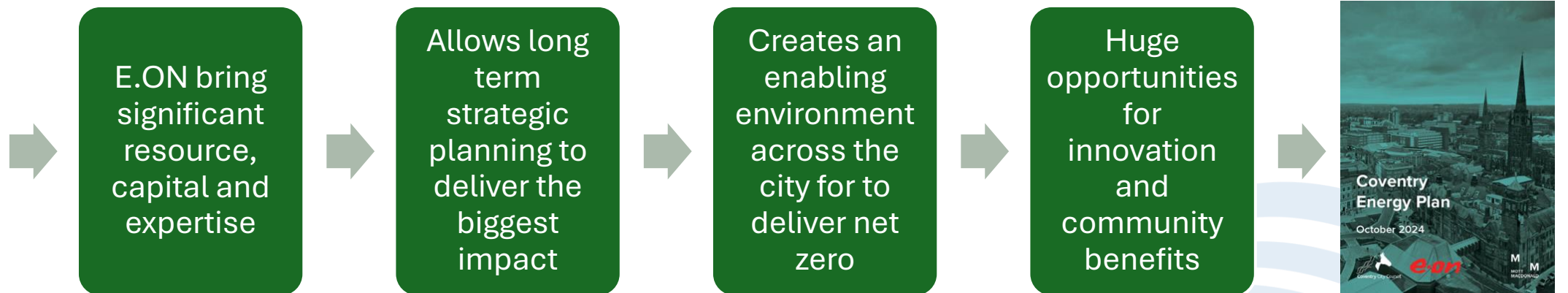
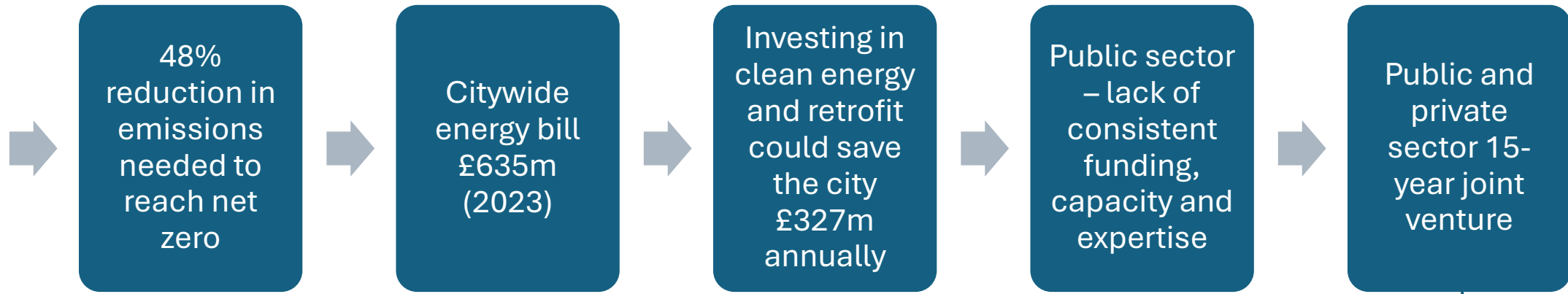
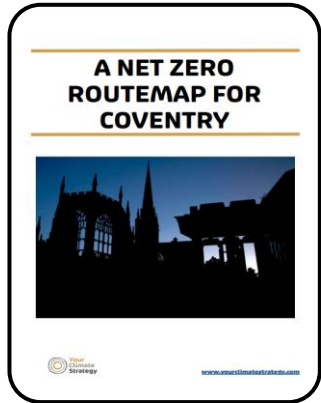


Domestic Retrofit

- Over 100,000 homes in Coventry are EPC D or below
- Over 22% of our city is in fuel poverty (national average is 13%)
- We are working with partners such as E.ON and Citizen to retrofit homes across Coventry, attracting over £70m investment in the last 3 years to support this
- Supported creation of retrofit training hub and bootcamps to boost skills and job creation
- Now developing city's first net zero neighbourhood in Hillfields to help find new ways of delivering retrofit efficiently, alongside greener streets and improving lives of our residents



Strategic Energy Partnership



Decarbonising our transport system

Transport account for 29% of emissions in the city.

73% of those accessing the city do so by car – substantial mode shift / behaviour change required to achieve net zero & improve air quality.

Here is what we are doing to address this...



Creating attractive alternatives to the car

- First all-electric bus city by end of 2025
- Developing a network of high-quality segregated cycle routes
- More than 2,000 public electric vehicle charging points across the city – more than anywhere outside of London



Case Study: Coventry Very Light Rail

- We have led the development of groundbreaking Coventry Very Light Rail, working with partners to create an innovative affordable net zero light rail solution which will slash costs from £100m+ per 1km to £15m
- Battery-powered vehicle, no overhead lines needed
- Unique slab-track system – 30mm depth avoids utilities
- Currently testing on-road, took less than 6 weeks to lay 220m of track and rides now open for public demonstration
- Next steps will be to build the first full route and hopefully see the technology rolled out in other cities across the UK and globally



Other key areas of action

- Greenpower Park – UK Centre for Electrification & Clean Energy
- Coventry Connects digital recycling project – creating a circular economy and supporting digitally excluded residents
- Citywide Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan – ensuring we are prepared to deal with climate impacts
- Rewilding 64ha golf course to support nature
- Community growing projects
- And lots more!



Thank you

Any questions?

