

## **ANNEX 2: Square Mile 2040 Partnership**

### **Introduction**

1. The Climate Action Strategy's Square Mile Project Plan for 2023-24 includes an action to '*explore the possibility of establishing a Square Mile 2040 partnership to formalise stakeholder engagement*' in the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy.
2. The City of London Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) also includes a recommendation to establish a new governance structure, comprised of key delivery stakeholders, to oversee the implementation of the LAEP actions.
3. This paper sets out the key components of a Square Mile Net-Zero 2040 Partnership as a mechanism for supporting the delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan and the City's Climate Action Strategy.

### **Context and Rationale**

4. The Climate Action Strategy has set four overarching goals:
  - Net zero by 2027 in the City Corporation's operations
  - Net zero by 2040 across the City Corporation's full value chain
  - Supporting Net zero by 2040 in the Square Mile
  - Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

The first and second goals relate to the City Corporation's own operations and value chain. Achieving the third and fourth goals will depend on broader collaboration, commitments and action by a range of organisations in the Square Mile.

4. The goal of a net-zero and climate resilient Square Mile requires the engagement and collective action of a broad range of stakeholders
5. Several CAS actions are already fostering a more collaborative approach to addressing climate challenges – e.g. the Square Mile Local Area Energy Plan; the retrofit of historic buildings; and the Multi-Offtake Power Purchase Agreement. The Square Mile Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) recommends the establishment of a LAEP steering group to oversee the management and delivery of the plan.
6. This presents an opportunity to consider the most appropriate partnership and delivery structures, not only for the LAEP but more broadly for the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy in the Square Mile.
7. Several other Local Authorities and London Boroughs have established new forms of partnership to foster collaborative working. For example, the Camden Climate Alliance, Zero Carbon Westminster 2040, Haringey Climate Forum, Leeds Climate Commission, Zero Carbon Manchester, Local Energy Oxfordshire, Bristol Green Capital Partnership.

### **Building on Climate Action Strategy structures**

8. A new partnership structure would build on strong foundations established by the Climate Action Strategy and its processes:
  - The Climate Action Strategy provides a clear evidence-base from which the partnership can develop its activities.
  - It has established a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the Square Mile, covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (from a 2018-19 baseline) with annual reporting against this baseline.
  - Progress against the emission reduction targets of the CAS are tracked and shared publicly through a climate dashboard and annual progress reports.
  - CAS has established a series of workstreams, project plans and actions which respond to the main emission-reduction and resilience challenges in the Square Mile. Several of these workstreams would provide the core action programme for any partnership.
  - The City Corporation's own actions provide a comprehensive approach to emission reduction with the potential to share learning and insights with others.
  - The City Corporation has developed significant delivery capacity through a central Climate Action Programme Management team and distributed workstream leads and teams across Departments.

### **Partnership - Scope**

9. The partnership would support the broader scope the Climate Action Strategy, covering both net-zero carbon and resilience. It would support the delivery of the 4 overarching goals of the Climate Action Strategy, while recognising some actions will be more City Corporation-focused.
10. Several of the actions currently being developed also encourage a more integrated approach to planning and actions e.g. the Local Area Energy Plan develops a whole-energy system perspective which integrates buildings, energy and mobility.
11. The partnership would only cover those aspects of green finance which relate to investment in the Square Mile. Wider aspects of international green finance would not be covered by the partnership.

### **Partnership - Aims and Objectives**

12. The partnership would have the following aims and objectives:
  - **Leadership and ambition:** champion and support the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy by raising awareness and promoting urgent and sustained action across the Square Mile. It would aspire to establish the Square Mile as a world class city for action on climate change.
  - **Strategy and Action:** building on the Climate Action strategy and its workstreams, the partnership would develop and agree a partnership-based action and implementation plan with clear roles and responsibilities.

- **Collaboration:** work collaboratively through the partnership and related structures to incentivise and assist others in the Square Mile to act.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL):** develop and deliver a monitoring and evaluation framework, aligned with the Climate Action Strategy's performance and reporting framework. Develop a framework for continuous learning.
- **Thought leadership:** develop a programme of research, information-sharing and policy insights which draw on learning from policy and practice. This would engage a range of leading practitioners in the Square Mile and beyond on various climate topics.

### **Partnership - Membership & Governing Board**

13. Partnership board members would be expected to:

- Be committed to supporting the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy objectives.
- Have their own science-based climate / net-zero strategy, or are working towards such ambition.
- Have a clear role (interest and influence) to play in supporting the delivery of the Climate Action Strategy in the Square Mile and able to influence others.

14. The following provides an indicative list of partnership members based on those already involved in CAS actions and with a clear role in supporting delivery. These organisations would form the basis of a Governing Board.

- City of London Corporation
- Greater London Authority
- London Councils
- Business Improvement Districts
- City Property Association
- Livery companies (Liveries Climate Action Group)
- Heart of the City
- Better Buildings Partnership
- Barbican Residents Association & Golden Lane Estate
- Repowering London
- UKPN
- Cadent
- Citigen/E.on
- Transport for London
- Thames Water
- Port of London Authority
- Environment Agency
- Higher Education representative

- Green Finance Institute
- NHS St Bart's
- Places of Worship

### **Partnership - Operation**

15. The Governing Board would meet quarterly or bi-annually. The meetings would align with the City Corporation's internal Project Board timetable to reduce the need to produce additional reports and updates.
16. The Governing Board would establish sub-groups in order to progress particular areas of work. These could mirror the existing workstreams established by the City Corporation or focus on specific issues.
17. These sub-groups could also engage a wider range of organisations, particularly those which offer a particular skill, experience, knowledge or position that would enable the sub-group to successfully complete its tasks.
18. The City of London Corporation would provide the secretariat for the Partnership. This would consist of the central Climate Action Team and workstream leads. The workstream leads would be expected to lead and present on the topics relevant to their area of work.
19. A Net Zero Delivery Unit (NZDU) will be established to develop the capacity and capability to support the delivery of the partnership's action plan. The Unit will consist of City Corporation and partnership staff. The City Corporation has already started to allocate resources to support the delivery of its Square Mile project plan and specific priorities set out in the Local Area Energy Plan.
20. Partners are also dedicating resources. For example, the Business Improvement Districts have recently appointed a Sustainability Director to support its work on net-zero. UKPN are also building a team to support the development and delivery of Local Area Energy Plans across their region.

### **Partnership – identity, branding and communication**

21. The partnership would develop its own identity, including a dedicated brand and website, which could be used and promoted by the partnership.
22. The partnership would develop its own series of publications – reports, guidance, policy insights covering a range of issues relevant to the Square Mile
23. The partnership would develop a programme of events to promote the partnership and its work as well as engage a broad range of stakeholders.