

SOUTHAMPTON CLIMATE COMMISSION

Position Statement – Renaissance Board Prospectus

Southampton Climate Commission

The [Southampton Climate Commission](#) is an **independent** voice in the city, providing information on steps towards a zero carbon, climate resilient future to inform policies and shape the actions of local stakeholders and decision makers.

The Renaissance Board and Prospectus

[The Renaissance Board](#) is a partnership between organisations in Southampton with the aim to drive the future growth and development of our city, with a focus on economic prosperity, strategic skill enhancement, sustainable development, and investment. They have recently published a [prospectus](#) for the city outlining their vision.

The Board's published key aims are:

- to ensure that the benefits of growth are equitably shared, benefiting particularly our disadvantaged communities,
- to enhance Southampton as a destination for tourism, events and leisure and
- to catalyse the growth of innovative industries and fostering a dynamic, inclusive environment.

Southampton Climate Commission Response

The Southampton Climate Commission acknowledges the need for investment in Southampton that works for everyone. We support the vision set out by the Renaissance Board, but it is critical to get the details right.

There are welcome references to improving green space and climate resilience in the city. However, this misses the wider connections between climate change mitigation and adaptation within a resilient, liveable city for the future prosperity of Southampton. We must emphasise the need to reduce the impact of climate change in the first place by reducing emissions. We want to see a prosperous Southampton, and this will not be achieved without addressing climate change.

The Plan mentions improving movement for people around the city but not supply chains or business travel. The consequences of population and new business growth must be factored into plans for Southampton to avoid any negative health or environmental effects. Growth and prosperity should make a positive contribution to the environment and the health and wellbeing of residents.

We welcome the reference in the map on p.27 of the prospectus to 'unlocking 2 km of waterfront promenade along the River Test, and 4.6 km waterfront unlocked

along the River Itchen'. We are in favour of the promenades shown but want to ensure the appropriate measures are put in place to translate this vision into reality, by making sure it is included in the Local Plan and considered when individual areas are developed.

There are opportunities in Southampton that are not mentioned, for example the district energy scheme and heat network, as well as renewable energy generation and nature-based solutions for reducing flood risk and urban heat impacts. Decarbonising energy using local resources and specialist skills is an opportunity that would allow benefits to remain local and within Southampton.

Investment should only come with the objective of improving health and wellbeing, reducing inequality and improving peoples' lives so that they can partake in the economy.

Recommendations

The Climate Commission recognises the need for investment in Southampton, and that progress towards decarbonisation cannot happen without private finance. However, the right choices must be made for a liveable city that works for everyone, therefore the Climate Commission recommends that:

- The Renaissance Board assesses the full range of investment opportunities available to the city, and ensures that health, wellbeing and the environment are factored into decision making at all stages.
- The Board should hear from a wide group of stakeholders from the start, including the climate commission and community groups, to assess investment options.
- The Board should embed a community wealth building approach and apply the principles of [doughnut economics](#) to keep investment in the city to benefit its people and the environment.
- The role of investment in securing the future of the city needs to be appropriate and not hamper other opportunities for reducing emissions and improving health and wellbeing.

The Climate Commission would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss the Renaissance Board's plans further.