

CROSS RIVER PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABLE CITY CHARTER INNOVATION CHALLENGE

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP) is proud to partner with [Westminster City Council](#) (WCC) to support delivery of the Westminster Sustainable City Charter Innovation Challenge, the first initiative of its kind in Westminster. The programme is designed to support [Sustainable City Charter](#) signatories and local innovators, aiming to reduce carbon emissions and nurture a low carbon economy across Westminster. The project is being led by Westminster's Economic Growth and Green Economy teams and funded through WCC's [Westminster Climate Fund](#).

Launching in summer 2026, the Challenge will identify local SMEs with low carbon solutions and match them with Charter signatories to trial these in real-world commercial settings. Through these collaborative pilot projects, the Challenge will help reduce signatories' emissions, as well as drive the growth of the low carbon industry across the borough. For small and innovative organisations, the Challenge provides a platform to demonstrate impact, learn from ambitious pilots, and pitch their solution to wider audiences. For Charter signatories, it offers the chance to trial new solutions and gather valuable data to inform evidenced-based decisions on reducing carbon emissions.

CRP is proud to be supporting Stage 1 of the Challenge as a trusted delivery partner, leading engagement with Sustainable City Charter signatories and Westminster Business Improvement Districts to understand the barriers that slow the adoption or expansion of decarbonisation solutions in Westminster to inform the design of the Challenge. CRP is also leading on the procurement of an industry expert, who can provide consultancy services involving the design and delivery of the Challenge.

With its iconic landmarks and buildings, and being home to the largest economic hub and business base compared to anywhere else in the country, Westminster faces significant challenges to reduce emissions from non-domestic buildings while preserving the City and intense economic activity, and maintaining its status as a global destination. The Sustainable City Charter Innovation Challenge will unlock the potential to connect and strengthen networks, pilot new innovative solutions and collectively achieve its fairer and greener city ambitions.

The Challenge is being funded by the [Westminster Climate Fund](#), which supports projects designed to reduce carbon emissions across the City of Westminster. The fund is open to a wide range of applicants, including community groups, charities, public sector bodies, and businesses. Through this fund, WCC empowers communities and businesses to build a sustainable and resilient environment that fosters a healthier and greener way of life.

Westminster City Council Executive Director for Regeneration, Economy and Planning, Debbie Jackson, said: *“Westminster’s strength has always been its business community - from global institutions to ambitious local small businesses. The Sustainable City Charter Innovation Challenge brings that strength together to accelerate the transition to net zero. By matching Charter signatories with our local low-carbon innovators, we are creating real-world opportunities to test new technologies, cut emissions from commercial buildings and help scale the next generation of green businesses.”*

Katherine Fairfax, Project Manager, Cross River Partnership, said: *“CRP are delighted to work with Westminster City Council on the Westminster Sustainable City Charter Innovation Challenge, driving economic growth through innovative low-carbon technologies. At CRP, we combine business engagement expertise with strong collaboration to ensure initiatives like this not only accelerate climate action but also strengthen local economies and build resilient communities.”*

March 2026

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- [Record of Executive Decision](#) for the Westminster Climate Fund December 2025
- [Improving Air Quality](#) in Westminster
- WCC’s [Zero Carbon City 2040 Action Plan](#)
- WCC’s [Local Area Energy Plan for Westminster](#)
- WCC’s [Climate Emergency Action Plan 2025](#)
- WCC’s [Plan for a Fairer Economy](#)

Cross River Partnership

[Cross River Partnership](#) (CRP) is a partnership delivering impactful environmental, economic and community focused projects. CRP supports public, private and community organisations with expert guidance, collaboration and innovation. CRP believes in a fair and equitable transition towards good and green growth in London.

Westminster City Council

[Westminster City Council](#) (WCC) is the local authority for the City of Westminster in Greater London, England. The city is divided into 18 wards, each electing three councillors. WCC delivers a wide range of services to support its diverse communities and maintain the city's global reputation.

Westminster Climate Fund

The Westminster Climate Fund is a competitive grant funding programme, utilising the S106 carbon offset payments, to support the decarbonisation of Westminster, and to further WCC’s [Fairer Environment](#) priorities. The fund aims to empower communities and

businesses to build a sustainable and resilient environment that fosters a healthier and greener way of life.

Westminster Sustainable City Charter

The [Sustainable City Charter](#) is a free business-led sustainability pledge initiative supported by the Westminster Property Association and Westminster City Council. It contains eight commitments to reduce carbon emissions from non-domestic buildings, covering areas such as energy use, procurement, transport, waste, and deliveries. The Charter also commits to net zero buildings by 2040 or earlier. Launching in November 2022, the Charter now has 128 signatories.

For more information on the Westminster Innovation Challenge please contact:
CRP Project Manager Katherine Fairfax katherinefairfax@crossriverpartnership.org /
CRP Communications & Business Development Manager Katie Smith
katiesmith@crossriverpartnership.org

Image to accompany Press Release (if desired by publications)

