

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Thursday, 8th February, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. Amazon Web Services - Climate Data Platform Challenge update (Report attached) [Claire Shortt, Monitoring Learning & Reporting Officer] (Pages 9 - 20)
3. Shared Island Community Climate Action Fund (Strand 1a) - update (Report) [John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy] (Pages 21 - 38)
4. Belfast Agenda refresh - update (Report attached) [John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy] (Pages 39 - 54)

Climate and City Resilience Committee

Thursday, 11th January, 2024

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE LAVERY ROOM AND
REMOТЕLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor R-M Donnelly (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland; and
Councillors Anglin, Bell, Bower, R. Brooks,
T. Brooks, Collins, Doherty, M. Donnelly,
D. Douglas, S. Douglas, Kelly, McAteer,
McCabe, McKeown, Smyth and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. D. Caldwell, Climate Commissioner;
Ms. B. Roddy, Project Support Officer – Climate; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th December, 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Retain: Sustain Programme and Short Film on Tracking Eco-Anxiety in the Wider Belfast Community

The Committee agreed that future presentations to the Committee should be scrutinised to ensure that they are accurate, in terms of both format and content, as listed on the Committee agenda. The Committee agreed also that where such presentations requested project funding, those projects should be costed and have been subjected to the completion of a comprehensive research and feasibility study, prior to consideration by the Committee.

Embodied Carbon – Reimagining Construction

The Committee agreed that the Director of Property and Projects be invited to a future meeting of the Committee in order to explore the possibility of the Council incorporating the calculation and publication of embedded carbon as part of its future infrastructure and capital programme projects.

**Climate and City Resilience Committee,
Thursday, 11th January, 2024**

Passive House Standards

The Committee agreed that Passive House Standards be considered as a measure for future Council construction projects.

Notices of Motion - Quarterly Update

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy provided a quarterly update on the Notices of Motions with particular reference to the Notice of Motion and Issue Raised in Advance which were the remit of the Climate and City Resilience Committee.

The Committee noted the updates and agreed to the closure of to the Notice of Motion (ref 296) that Belfast should join C40 and the Issue Raised in Advance ref 339 requesting that Northern Ireland landmarks be included in the design of the proposed new Irish Passport.

The Director reported that requests to join C40 was unable to be accommodated owing to the fact that capacity had been reached. He stated that enquiries could be made in the future to seek membership of C40 when nomination places became available.

The Director reported that following a request from the Committee that the Department of Foreign Affairs consider including landmarks of Northern Ireland in the design of its proposed new Irish Passport, a response had been circulated to Members which had been received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tánaiste.

The Committee agreed to the closure of both the Notice of Motion and Issue Raised in Advance.

Climate and Mitigation Dashboard

A Member requested an update on the progress made in regard to the implementation of a Climate and Mitigation Dashboard comprising a range of data pertaining to projects involving climate change and emission reduction measures.

In response, the Climate Commissioner reported that officers were engaged in the process of developing a dashboard for the Council, including a pilot project involving a range of wireless services as part of that process. She agreed to follow that up with an update to the Committee at a future meeting with the objective of extending the pilot to include a range of Council departments.

The Climate Commissioner confirmed that the Council would be undertaking a review of the Resilience and Sustainability Board and stated that there were thirty ambitions within the Resilience strategy. She reported that work going on across the city in terms of the Climate and Resilience Strategy had been amalgamated and that she would provide an update on the achievements during 2023, including the planned actions for 2024.

Noted.

Update on Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub

The Project Sponsor submitted the undernoted report on the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub.

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- i. the Retrofit Hub organised three roundtable events in November 2023 on retrofit of commercial and public buildings, creating customer demand, and potential funding approaches;**
- ii. the key takeaways included -**
 - a. the energy and carbon performance of commercial and public buildings is a key factor in protecting the value of the property and lease/rental incomes;**
 - b. demand for retrofit is driven largely by the availability of grants but is also affected by building regulations and the availability of trusted advice;**
- iii. that members highlighted the need for a strategic overview of Belfast’s built environment encompassing the market fundamentals as well as the need address retrofit / refurbishment, embodied carbon and the opportunity to develop a heat network in the city.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

At the Climate and City Resilience Committee meeting in November 2023 it was reported that the Retrofit Hub planned to run three roundtable events later that month to explore topics in greater depth. These included:

- 1. retrofit of commercial and public buildings,**
- 2. how to create customer demand for retrofit, and**
- 3. potential funding approaches.**

3.2 These were intended to inform three of the ten ‘work packages’ identified by members in earlier meetings:

1. Data and information
2. Co-ordination, learning and knowledge exchange.
3. Ensuring the just transition – checking for equality of opportunity
4. Pipeline development & funding options
5. Creating customer demand – Improving understanding, creating the market
6. Building energy performance assessment and monitoring
7. Supply chain development
8. Commercial sector
9. Local Area Energy Plan integration
10. Resilience assessment

3.3 Key findings of the events are summarised below:

Retrofitting of commercial and public buildings

Commercial and public buildings comprise a significant proportion of city centre property. Commercial tenants (especially for offices) are increasingly seeking to occupy buildings that are energy efficient with low operational emissions – hence the energy and carbon performance is a key factor in protecting the value of the property and in ensuring the marketability (and therefore income) of the property. This is driving down demand for older stock. The public sector is also a significant player accounting for an estimated 40% of occupied office space, with interests in letting and selling surplus stock.

3.4 With increasing legislation and customer expectations around energy efficiency standards, the commercial viability of both private and public office stock will increasingly be linked to the energy performance of the buildings. There is a significant lack of data on these buildings but categories of commercial/public property might include buildings:

- certified to environmental standards which are already optimising rental income
- currently at risk of not meeting market demands for energy performance, but for which a business case for improvement can be made; and
- which have no business case for improvement and are therefore at risk of becoming “stranded assets”.

3.5 It is likely there is a sizeable amount of stock particularly in the public sector that would be difficult to retrofit due to the location and the type of asset although this has not been assessed. Members highlighted the need for a strategic overview of Belfast’s built environment that encompasses the market fundamentals as

well as the need address retrofit / refurbishment, embodied carbon and the opportunity to develop a heat network in the city.

- 3.6 Research reflects a trend from commercial and public sector office use towards leisure and residential, with low carbon emissions as a critical factor. More work is required to assess the energy efficiency of commercial and public buildings, whether or not they can be retrofitted and how this might be funded. Financial models include spend to save investment, with suggestions of a city-wide model providing the scale of finance (likely to be in excess of £100M) that investors require.

Creating customer demand for low carbon retrofit

- 3.7 The most significant factor limiting investments in retrofit is the low availability of grants in Northern Ireland (compared to Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland) to support retrofit. This impacts not only the willingness of homeowners to invest but also deters suppliers from investing in developing the retrofit supply chain in Northern Ireland. While building regulations can also drive demand to a certain extent, these are minimum requirements and can only play a role when new building works are taking place. The mortgage will also increasingly drive the uptake of retrofit measures as banks will become increasingly reluctant to lend to F rated properties.
- 3.8 For households, as well as the upfront cost, the associated disruption and the level of bureaucracy are also key factors affecting willingness to retrofit. Most homeowners don't know where to start and which installers to use.
- 3.9 Provision of a trusted source of independent advice and support was identified as a key opportunity to unlock demand for retrofit. An impartial expert service is seen as important in terms of helping homeowners to decide what retrofit actions might be required, with guidance on potential impact, cost, funding options and priority. This would also support to households through the process of identifying contractors, managing works, post completion quality checks and optimising the benefits of works carried out. This in turn could benefit contractors by providing a type of 'trusted trader' assurance recognising those working to a high standard and ultimately generating additional business. Examples include a One-Stop Energy Store which was recently installed in the centre of Cork to provide advice and help support the development of energy communities as well as an end-to-end retrofit service being delivered by SSE.
- 3.10 There is a potential role for the voluntary sector in partnering with public and private sectors to support homeowners and tenants.

Fears of disruption and risk could be reduced by taking an area-based approach where households can see neighbours participating and benefitting, with practical support needed to minimise disruption to householders during any works.

**Pipeline development, funding options
and supply chain development**

- 3.11 Some public sector bodies (eg Queens University) have created invest to save schemes which have been successful in creating a revolving fund to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. Queens University have also invested in reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions from their suppliers in order to bring down their Scope 3 emissions.
- 3.12 The lack of data on the city's housing stock (eg housing type, whether houses have a cavity wall, tenure etc) is also a constraint. A survey could help to map the housing stock and identify the quick wins (eg cavity wall insulation) and potential area based projects. An area-based approach was agreed to be the most likely to succeed however it needs to reflect the priorities of residents which tend to centre around energy costs, comfort and lack of disruption. This would therefore require advance community development and engagement work as well as a commitment from NIHE, Housing Associations and private landlords (private landlords have indicated that they would be willing to invest up to two years rent in retrofit works). There also needs to be clear independent advice available to residents throughout the process.
- 3.13 Creative funding approaches were also explored for an area-based approach, including one from Living Places that combines some public funding, with long-term institutional investment and "outcome buying" finance. In future the EPC rating is likely to be a key factor in the availability of mortgages as lenders move towards carbon disclosure of their mortgage books.

Next steps

- 3.14 These findings will be incorporated into the Draft Retrofit Programme of work which is still under development with key actions agreed at the next hub meeting scheduled for 30th January.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

- 4.1 None.

**5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

5.1 Corporate policies will be followed, and appropriate screening and mitigating actions for individual work packages delivered where necessary.”

A Member referred to the success of the Ballymurphy cladding scheme, highlighting the benefits in terms of health outcomes, including providing families with more disposable income as a result of energy savings. He requested if there might be a role for the voluntary and community sector in the round table discussions.

A further Member referred to the potential employment opportunities in terms of retrofit and the need to develop the necessary skills to meet the retrofit programme

In response, the Climate Commissioner highlighted recruitment difficulties associated with the construction industry and the escalation in material costs as a disincentive in the retrofit of buildings. She referred specifically to the cost of retrofit and lack of government subsidies and grants as a disincentive for future investment.

A Member stated that she was aware of the problems associated with the current housing stock, both public and private, including the cost of retrofit. She stated her desire to see an expanded apprenticeship scheme and landlords encouraged to consider energy conservation a priority issue. The Member raised concerns that the increasing cost associated with retrofit might increase the level of dereliction across the city.

The Project Support Officer reported that there was a requirement to undertake a survey of the Council's building stock in terms of an assessment of the cost effectiveness of undertaking a comprehensive retrofit programme. She stated that in consultation with the construction industry they had stated that the demand needed to be evident before they would be prepared to invest in retrofit retraining and apprenticeship programmes.

Noted.

**Social Farms and Gardens - Request to
Present to Future Committee Meeting**

The Committee agreed to the request by Social Farms and Gardens to undertake a presentation to a future meeting of the Committee on the findings of their research.

**Response from The Minister of Foreign Affairs
re: New Irish Passport Design - for notation**

The Committee noted the response from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tánaiste following the request by the Committee to include Northern Ireland landmarks in the design of the proposed new Irish Passport.

**Climate and City Resilience Committee,
Thursday, 11th January, 2024**

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that its next meeting be held on Thursday, 8th February, 2024 at 5.15 p.m.

Chairperson

1.1	To provide members with an update on the work with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to develop a data platform to house climate data.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note this update and provide any feedback 2. Agree to further updates at future committee
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background The Climate Change Act 2022 sets out Northern Ireland’s framework for tackling climate change and reducing emissions, by setting challenging targets to deliver net zero emissions in Northern Ireland by the year 2050. The Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is leading on the development of Northern Ireland’s first 5-year climate action plan (CAP) as required under the Act.
3.2	The important role of public bodies in tackling climate change is recognised by the Act, by requiring new law to be made, which will set a requirement for specified public bodies to report on climate change.
3.3	With the new reporting regulations expected from DAERA in the coming months, council need to have an accessible platform for climate related data to feed into its response. A data platform will help us to outline what exactly will be needed to house this (and other) data. It is hoped that a platform will help to automate the process to alleviate extra pressure on staff to collect and report on additional data.
3.4	AWS Challenge The climate team were given an opportunity to work with AWS as part of their Smart Challenges programmes (approved at the October Climate and City Resilience Committee). The process began with the climate team and other members of staff across departments engaging in two workshops, designed to establish the data needs across council in relation to climate and other work areas.
3.5	These workshops resulted in a dummy press release which helped us to focus our needs in relation to data, and guided the team in AWS and Arizona University to a possible solution. The solution is a wireframe – an outline of what a web-based platform could look like.
3.6	Outputs The council group met with AWS and Arizona University for a number of short updates in November and December 2023 and the final solution was presented to the group on the 9 th January 2024. The solution was in the form of an interactive PDF that outlines what the final product could look like. It outlines the ability to display tables, charts and maps over time and track our progress to net-zero. It also shows the potential to group data into different categories and themes and compare against other council areas.
3.7	The process was extremely effective and helped data users in the council explore methods that would help them to access data both internally and externally. Cross council engagement also helped highlight shared needs around data and enabled multiple problems to be addressed collectively.
3.8	Digital services were also engaged with this process. The climate team are currently outlining a business case to digital services to explore the potential of the solution being built in house, using existing software. It is hoped that work will begin in April 2024.
3.9	Committee will be kept up to date with the product development.
3.10	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>

3.11	<p>There are no financial implications.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None known.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://smartchallenges.asu.edu/challenges/zipprocure - https://smartchallenges.asu.edu/challenges/age-friendly-arizona-human-services-transportation-reporting

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Belfast City Council

Climate Data Platform Prototype Engagement

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Adrian Hanley

Local Government, Account Manager

Agenda

- Introduction
- Engagement Overview
- Solution Overview
- Engagement Outcomes
- Q&A

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Introduction to AWS

Investing in NI

- Since 2010 Amazon has invested over £95 million in Northern Ireland
- This investment led to the production of goods and services that contributed over an estimated £95 million to the region's GDP since 2010

Employment and skills support

- Created more than 100 full and part-time jobs

Supporting small businesses to grow and export

- Northern Ireland has over 1,000 SME selling partners
- Small business from NI selling on Amazon recorded over £40 million of export sales in 2022

In 2023, our teams in Northern Ireland have supported a wide range of organisations including Cancer Fund for Children and Foodstock Charity through donations and volunteering.



Working Backwards with BCC

- Supported the BCC team using the Amazon working backwards methodology
- Starting with the customer challenge and work backwards to understand how to solve the challenges
- Followed up with an engagement between BCC, AWS and the Arizona State University (CIC – Cloud Centre of Excellence)

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BELFAST USING DATA TO MAKE EVERYONE A CLIMATE HERO

New climate data platform enables City to reach sustainability development goals.

(Belfast, UK - October 15, 2023) Today, Belfast City Council launched BCD, the new Belfast Climate Data platform to monitor and drive progress towards the city's climate goals. BCD serves as the one source of truth for climate data, analytics and climate simulations. BCD supports community adoption through decision making and collaboration to catalyse climate efforts in the city. Belfast citizens are, for the first time, removing more carbon than they are emitting according to city metrics. BCD provides the insights needed to continue progress and reach zero emissions by 2030.]

Belfast has a range of climate goals including being committed to reaching net zero emissions. Measuring and understanding progress towards these goals has challenges around accuracy, completeness and timeliness of the data and analytics. The lack of one trusted source of data makes it hard for leaders and the public to make informed choices about their impacts on the climate. All of this leads to confusion and a lack of action.

BCD solves this challenge by combining a data hub with a suite of customised designed data analytics and visualisations that align to city climate priority initiatives. BCD makes it possible for users in and out of the city to share data through a collection tool. All climate data is included in a logged to a single source and includes additional metadata such as location and date-time. BCD also provides a simulation engine to allow users to model scenarios and see the impacts of changes over time. BCD is supported by auto-update functionality for data sets.

"I am delighted that Belfast is leading the way on the world stage by developing an innovative platform like BCD to measure the city's efforts to achieve net-zero," said Councillor Teresa Green, Chair of the Climate and City Resilience Committee at Belfast City Council. "With climate data at its heart, our residents and communities can get involved in delivering a sustainable and resilient Belfast."

BCD is an open-source, cloud based, software application users can access from any connected computer or smart device. The application is accessible without a login and includes a dashboard showing current progress towards city objectives and tabs to maps, data, research papers and training. Users can access raw data and build their own simulations or use a suite of stock reports and visualisations. Users can also register and get access to upload and share data and content. BCD has a facility to allow data producers to share data, but keep control.

"I never understood what climate change was or what it had to do with me. When the Council talked about the climate change action plan I thought it was another report that would just sit on a shelf and waste ratepayers money. When I saw the platform I was really surprised. I was able to see what the Council was doing in my postcode area." Joe Soap (50) a resident from East Belfast. "I knew solar panels and heat pumps were put in the leisure centre and this has reduced the energy costs which means I can get in cheaper. It's made me think about how I heat my own home and helped me understand climate change."

For more information, please visit Belfast Climate Data at bcd.gov.uk.

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

Internal - Platform Operator/Manager

1. What is BCD and why is Belfast launching a climate data platform?

Belfast has set a goal to reach net zero by 2050. This is also the target for NI as set by the Climate Act 2022. Currently, there is no way to measure or monitor performance against this target. The platform enables this.

2. Who has overarching responsibility for the data platform?
 - a. Belfast City Council and partners through a MOU
3. How is data captured?
4. Is there a metric/standard/framework for data capture?

There are various reliable/adopted metrics for measuring carbon emissions depending on the sector/area that you are working in. For more guidance please contact X.

5. How do I integrate my system/data into the platform?
 - a. Is the data platform API driven?
6. What if my data is/has duplicates of other data products?

Does this mean how do I make sure I am not double counting my data? If so then answer would be - we will provide a section in the platform to tell us if your data has been reported elsewhere, and we will check this within the verification process.

7. How do I cleanse my data?
 - a. Could this be something like process of PowerBI?
8. How do I secure access to the data?
9. Will my data be protected from inappropriate access / eg. system access controls / IAM / permissions (least privilege)?
 - a. Do we need to pay for security
10. What format does my data need to be in to be able to work with the system?
 - a. CSV is common but I'm not techy so have no idea.
11. Can you process my data real time or batch? Both
12. Can we open source our data? (and make it publicly accessible)

Council already does this

13. How is the data anonymised?

Data controllers will make sure all GDPR guidelines are being adhered to during the verification process.

14. Once the data is inside the platform, who owns this?
 - a. Belfast City Council (data sharing agreements)
15. Is the platform compliant with laws and regulations? (eg. GDPR)

yes work with IGU on this



CIC Engagement


CIC Engagement

Overview

- 7 week engagement in collaboration with BCC, AWS and ASU.
- Agile Methodology to develop the prototype.
- Continuous feedback to improve the solution.
- Deliverable – Full working prototype

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Sign in

 **Belfast**
Data Platform

Username

Password

Sign in

[Forgot password?](#)

Prototype Demo

Q&A

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Strand 1a Shared Island Community Climate Action Funding
Date:	8 February 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Mark Mulholland, Strategic Policy and Planning Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information in relation to a current climate related funding call under the Community Climate Action Programme – Strand 1a Shared Island Community Climate Action, formally announced in January by the Irish Government’s Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee notes the update in relation to the current Shared Island funding opportunity under Strand 1a Community Climate Action Programme and agree to share details of this opportunity with their community networks.
3.0	Main Report
	Strand 1a - Shared Island Community Climate Action
3.1	Officers wish to bring to the attention of the Committee a recently announced funding call under the Irish Government’s Community Climate Action Programme. Strand 1a Shared Island Community Climate Action, is the Shared Island strand of the Programme which looks to enable communities/local authorities to take forward a cross-border climate action project in partnership with organisations in Northern Ireland, with at least 50% of awarded funding under Strand 1a for project delivery in Northern Ireland. Information on this funding opportunity has been shared across all elected members via Democratic Services colleagues. An outline brief on Strand 1a Shared Island Community Climate Action Fund is provided at Appendix A for your information.
	<u>Application Requirements</u>
3.2	Some of the key points for Members to note under this funding opportunity includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strand 1a projects should address the following five themes, 1. Community Energy, 2. Travel 3. Food and Waste, 4. Shopping and recycling and 5. Local climate and Environmental action. • The types of projects/initiatives, within communities, which are eligible for funding under strand 1a, must seek to do the following on a cross-border basis on the island of Ireland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce, or support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions • increase the production, or use, of renewable energy

- improve energy efficiency
- increase climate resilience
- identify nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity and seek to reduce, or increase the removal of, greenhouse gas emissions or support climate resilience
- assist regions within sectors of the economy impacted by the transition to a low carbon economy and involve potentially innovative solutions to address the above asks.

3.3

Shared Island projects may be applied for under three tiers:

- Small sized projects of up to €20,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner the Local Authorities in these projects, by way of the small project application form which contains a menu of options e.g., community composting, water refill stations, pollinator projects, small renewable energy projects, rewilding. Projects are not limited to the examples listed.
- Medium sized projects are valued in the range of €20,000 - €50,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner the Local Authorities in these projects.
- Larger projects are in the range of €51,000 - €100,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner Local Authorities in these projects.

3.4

Shared Island projects must involve both a community organisation and Local Authority in Ireland and a partner in Northern Ireland. The partner in Northern Ireland may be a Local Authority or a community organisation, or it may involve both. Ideally there should be community organisations based in both Ireland and Northern Ireland involved. Only one application per lead organisation may be submitted for consideration – projects proposed could cut across several of the themes and be bundled together as part of a single application.

3.5

Applications will be accepted via the Community Climate Action Officers across local authorities in the South, contact details for these officers are provided at **Appendix B**. Members are invited to direct your network of community/civic society groups to these Community Climate Action Officers to scope out a project and make introductions with groups in their respective council area. The Community Climate Action Officers in the local authorities in the South will be responsible for the administrative support in collating and submitting the final application as agreed with partners.

Financial and Resource Implications

None associated with this report.

	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix A – Strand 1a Community Climate Action Programme Brief</p> <p>Appendix B – Community Climate Action Officers contact details</p>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) will see €60.5 million from the Climate Action Fund invested in community climate action projects and initiatives, as well as capacity building, over a number of years. This Programme aims to support and empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way.

The CCAP has been developed under two strands addressing both direct climate action under strand 1/a, and climate education and capacity building under strand 2.

Strand 1/a has two parts:

- 1) Strand 1 entitled “*Action: Building Low Carbon Communities*”, under which €24 million has been allocated from the Climate Action Fund (CAF) for local authorities to support and build low carbon communities across their operational areas, and strand 1a entitled “*Shared Island Community Climate Action*”.
- 2) Strand 1a entitled “*Shared Island Community Climate Action*”, under which, a total of €3 million is being provided by the Government’s Shared Island Fund to support cross-border and all-island¹ community climate action initiatives as an integrated part of the Community Climate Action Programme.

Context of Strand 1a

The Programme for Government and the National Development Plan 2021-30 (NDP) set out the Government’s objectives for strategic cooperation and investment for mutual benefit on the island of Ireland, including on climate action.

The Shared Island chapter of the NDP includes investment objectives on:

- Climate action funding to take up opportunities for effective cross-border climate action partnerships and interventions.
- Coordinated investment to conserve cross-border region peatlands to support biodiversity, provide valuable ecosystem services and act as carbon sinks.
- Supporting more all-island approaches to biodiversity protection, building on the success of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- Investing for more efficient operation of the circular economy on an all-island basis.

Strand 1a - Shared Island Community Climate Action

Strand 1a projects will address the same **five themes** as strand 1:

- 1. Community Energy**
- 2. Travel**
- 3. Food and Waste**
- 4. Shopping and recycling**
- 5. Local climate and Environmental action.**

¹ All-island projects are broader than cross-border projects and could involve multiple projects across both jurisdictions on the island, including through cooperation by eligible national or regional-level organisations, North and South.

Projects eligible for funding under strand 1a

The types of projects/initiatives, within communities, which are eligible for funding under strand 1a, must seek to do the following on a cross-border basis on the island of Ireland:

- reduce, or support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- increase the production, or use, of renewable energy
- improve energy efficiency
- increase climate resilience
- identify nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity and seek to reduce, or increase the removal of, greenhouse gas emissions or support climate resilience
- assist regions within sectors of the economy impacted by the transition to a low carbon economy
- involve potentially innovative solutions to address the above asks.

While projects seeking funding under strand 1a should generally address the same five themes as strand 1 projects, there are also specific areas that may be particularly suited to a Shared Island approach. In recognition of the integration of climate and biodiversity action policies, these could include:

Valuing Networks for Nature: Communities working together in nature recovery networks or ‘wildlife web’ and developing corridors of natural vegetation between existing conservation areas.

Sustainable farming: Programmes focusing on regenerative and nature-based farming on a cross-border and all-island basis could be developed and expanded.

Just Transition: Recognising the importance of a just transition for farmers and encouraging different agricultural practices on a cross-border and all-island basis, including to improve and protect land and water quality.

Peatland restoration: This has been identified as a key area of work, North and South, given the trans-boundary implications for carbon storage levels and inventory reporting, with potential for community and Local Authority cooperative interventions in border regions.

Renewable energy: Encouraging groups to build cooperation and share information in the areas of solar, off-shore wind, wave and tidal energy. Some Local Authorities have already engaged in these areas, and cross-border partnerships offer additional potential to develop projects and seek solutions.

Flood forecasting: Using the “bottom-up” approach adopted by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, small scale collaborations on flood forecasting and warning services could be piloted in particular border regions.

Coastal erosion: Potential for significant cooperation in research, data-sharing and mitigation between communities and Local Authorities across the island.

Strand 1a projects must have a clear North/South basis, with a cross-border partnership approach and impact. Strand 1a enables communities and Local Authorities in Ireland to propose a cross-border project in partnership with organisations in Northern Ireland. At least 50% of awarded funding must be for project delivery in Northern Ireland.

All Local Authorities in Ireland can assess an application received under strand 1a and make a recommendation to the Minister for a project. The €3 million Shared Island Fund is not pre-allocated.

Shared Island projects may be applied for under three tiers:

- Small sized projects of up to €20,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner the Local Authorities in these projects, by way of the small project application form which contains a menu of options e.g. community composting, water refill stations, pollinator projects, small renewable energy projects, rewilding etc. Projects are not limited to the examples listed.
- Medium sized projects are valued in the range of €20,000 - €50,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner the Local Authorities in these projects.
- Larger projects are in the range of €51,000 - €100,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner Local Authorities in these projects.

Community Organisation Eligibility

Shared Island projects must involve both a community organisation and Local Authority in Ireland and a partner in Northern Ireland. The partner in Northern Ireland may be a Local Authority or a community organisation, or it may involve both. Ideally there should be community organisations based in both Ireland and Northern Ireland involved.

Organisations meeting the requirements listed below are eligible to act as the lead organisation under strand 1a provided they:

- are a not-for-profit organisation
- are in the operational area of the Local Authority to which they are applying for funding
- submit a completed application form on or before the closing date and time specified by the relevant Local Authority
- are registered with a PPN or connected with other collectives such as the Wheel, Tidy Towns and /or a community group with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which hold an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available.

Additionally, Strand 1a applications must be made by a lead community organisation in Ireland, with at least one partner organisation in Northern Ireland. Strand 1a applications will be submitted to the Local Authority in Ireland in which the lead organisation is based.

Partner organisations must be a not-for-profit organisation, a Local Authority, or a community or environmental organisation registered in Northern Ireland. The partner organisation may be a national organisation based in Northern Ireland given the potential for all-island partnerships.

The following are not eligible to act as the lead organisation or the Northern Ireland Partner:

- Private individuals
- Commercial undertakings (including sole traders).

Furthermore:

- The project applied for must be in line with the aim/purpose of the funding.
- Only one application per lead organisation may be submitted for consideration – projects proposed could cut across several of the themes and be bundled together as part of a single application.

In developing projects, Local Authorities and communities should also consider how their projects contribute to progress in relation to relevant [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

For further information please contact the Community Climate Action Officer in the relevant Local Authority in Ireland.



CCAP Contacts

	Local Authority	CCAO	Email contact	Webpage for further information
1	Carlow County Council	Áine Byrne	climateaction@carlowcoco.ie	https://consult.carlow.ie/en/applications
2	Cavan County Council	Tara Smith	tarasmith@cavancoco.ie	http://www.cavancoco.ie/ccaf
3	Clare County Council	Kelly Slattery	kslattery@clarecoco.ie	Clare CoCo (submit.com)
4	Cork County Council	Anthony O'Reilly	climate@corkcoco.ie	https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/environment/community-climate-action-programme-ccap
5	Cork City Council (closed to applications)	Orla Burke	climateactionfund@corkcity.ie	Community Climate Action Programme - Cork City Council
6	Donegal County Council	Fiona Kelly	climateactionfund@donegalcoco.ie	https://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/environment/climateaction/communityclimateactionfund/
7	Dublin City Council	Dean Eaton	communityclimatefund@dublincity.ie	Community Climate Action Fund Dublin City Council
8	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Cynthia O'Mahony	climate@dlrcoco.ie	https://www.dlrcoco.ie/CCAP
9	Fingal County Council	Sinead Fox	CommClimateActionOfficer@fingal.ie	https://www.fingal.ie/community-climate-action-fingal
10	Galway City Council	Tiarnan McCusker	climate@galwaycity.ie	https://www.galwaycity.ie/community-climate-action-programme
11	Galway County Council	Denise Feeney	climateactionfund@galwayco.co.ie	https://www.galway.ie/en/services/environment/climate/
12	Kerry County Council	Richard Curtin	richard.curtin@kerrycoco.ie	https://www.kerrycoco.ie/communityclimateactionprogramme/



13	Kildare County Council	Victoria Kavanagh	climateactionoffice@kildarecoco.ie	https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/ClimateAction/CommunityClimateActionProgramme/
14	Kilkenny County Council	Breda Maher	Breda.Maher@kilkennycoco.ie	Community Grants - Kilkenny County Council (kilkennycoco.ie)
15	Laois County Council	Karen Moore	kmoore@laoiscoco.ie	https://laois.ie/about-the-council/climate-action/community-climate-action-fund/
16	Leitrim County Council	Mark Corrigan	communityclimateaction@leitrimcoco.ie	https://www.leitrimcoco.ie/eng/news/whats_current/community-climate-action-fund.73349.shortcut.html
17	Limerick City and County Council	Dr Darren Barry	communityclimatefund@limerick.ie	https://mypoint.limerick.ie/en
18	Longford County Council	Linda Beirne	lbeirne@longfordcoco.ie	https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/environment/climate-action/community-climate-action-fund/
19	Louth County Council	Fiona Lennon	climateaction@louthcoco.ie	Community Climate Action Funding Strand - Louth County Council (louthcoco.ie)
20	Mayo County Council	Lorna Dennehy	lornadennehy@MayoCoCo.ie	https://consult.mayo.ie/en/applications
21	Meath County Council	Anne O'Brien	climateactionmcc@meathcoco.ie	Community Climate Action Programme Funding Streams Meath.ie
22	Monaghan County Council	Jamie Nolan	climateaction@monaghancoco.ie	https://www.monaghan.ie/environment/community-climate-action-programme2/
23	Offaly County Council	Sinead McEvoy	climate@offalycoco.ie	https://www.offaly.ie/climate-action-community-climate-action-programme/
24	Roscommon County Council	Breata Coyle	climate@roscommoncoco.ie	https://www.roscommoncoco.ie/climate
25	Sligo County Council	Karen Kennedy	climateaction@sligococo.ie	Funding for Community Climate Action (sligococo.ie)
26	South Dublin County Council	Ian Jackson	climatechange@sdblincoco.ie	https://www.sdcc.ie/en/climate-action/community-climate-action-programme/



27	Tipperary County Council	Marie O'Donnell	communityfund@tipperarycoco.ie	https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/climateaction/community-climate-action-fund
28	Waterford City & County Council	Susan Lee	climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie	https://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/departments/environment/carbon-neutral-waterford/ccap.htm
29	Westmeath County Council	John Jackson	ClimateActionTeam@westmeathcoco.ie	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072165740243
30	Wexford County Council	Clinton Donovan	climateaction@wexfordcoco.ie	Wexford County Council (submit.com)
31	Wicklow County Council	Julie Sammiller	ccap@wicklowcoco.ie	https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Climate-Action-and-Biodiversity/Community-Climate-Action-Fund

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The Belfast Agenda

Belfast Agenda Refresh

8 February 2024



Timeline: Our Shared Journey



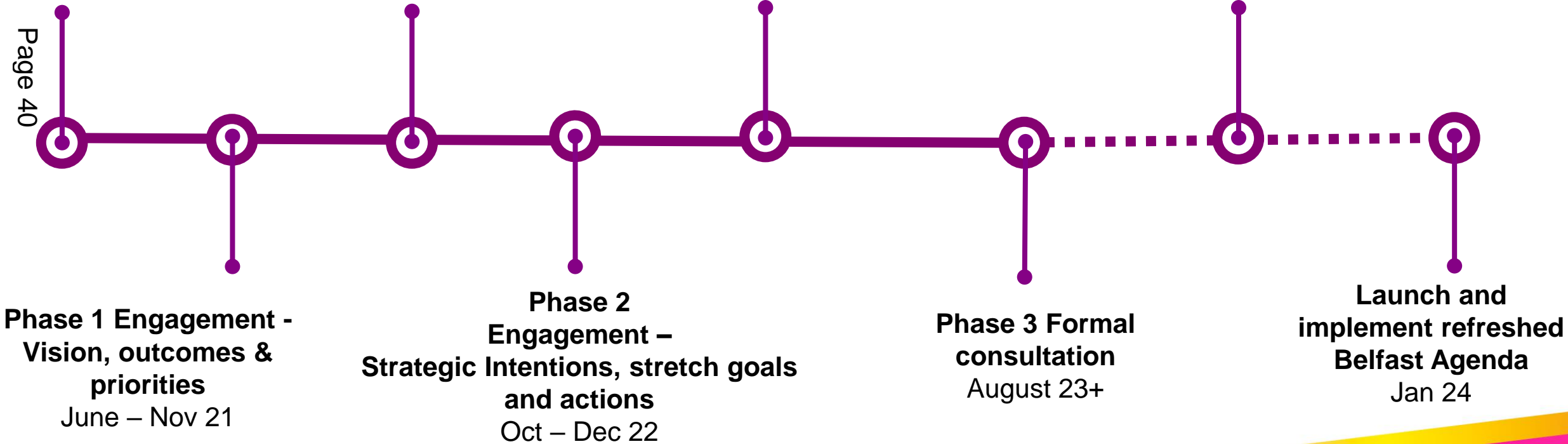
Review Launched
9 June 21

Co-design approach to refreshed Belfast Agenda
Nov 21 - Sept 22

Finalise draft Belfast Agenda
Nov 22 – Mar 23

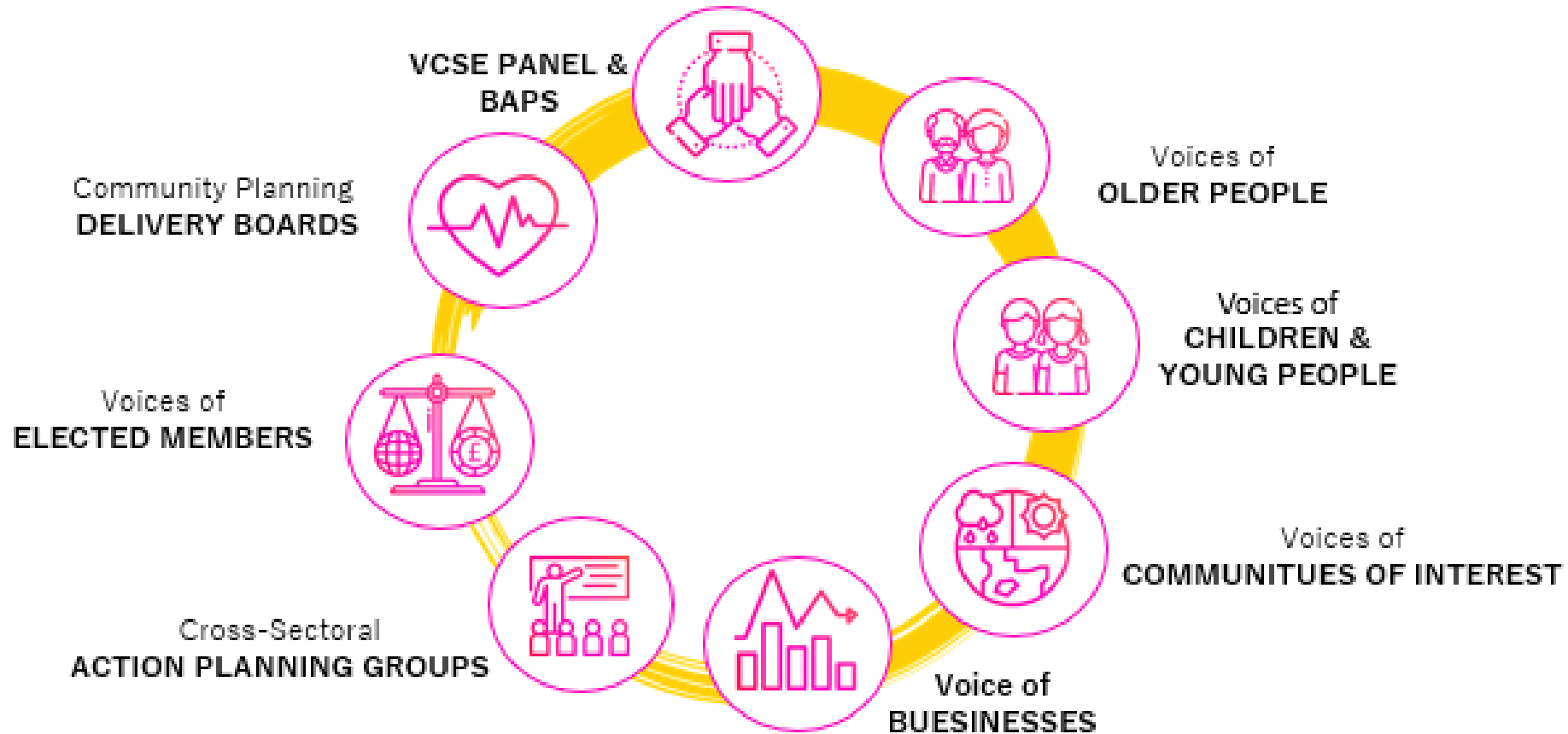
Finalise Belfast Agenda
Nov 21- Jan24

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Collaborative Approach

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Participation and Engagement

Phase 1: June – November 2021 Strategic Framework: Vision, outcomes and priorities

- 10 workshops via Zoom
- 130 participants
- 63 organisations
- 435 survey responses (online & paper)
- Community Planning Delivery Boards and VCSE Panel workshop sessions



Phase 2: Oct. – Nov. 2022 Priority Action Plans: Strategic intents and measures of success

- 10 workshops
 - Online | Face-to-Face
 - Area | Thematic | Communities of interest
 - Elected members, business/ developers and equality, diversity and inclusion.
- 176 participants from 110 organisations
- Online discussion forum responses and paper comments via comment boxes
- Community Planning Delivery Boards and VCSE Panel workshop sessions

Phase 3: August – October 2023 Formal Public Consultation: Strategy & Action Plans

- 82 survey responses (68 online and 14 written submissions)
- EQIA consultation
 - 4 public meetings – two online and two face-to-face
 - 8 written responses
- Community Planning Delivery Boards and VCSE Panel meetings

**Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent.
A great place to live and work for everyone.**

Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict.

A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone.

A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region.

A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world.

A city people dream to visit.

Belfast will be a city...

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By 2035...

Our city is home to an additional **66,000** people



Our economy supports **46,000** additional jobs



There will be a **33%** reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods



Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential



Our carbon emissions will be reduced by **80%**



Our focus for the next four years



KEY

Theme 1: Our people and communities – Making life better for all our residents

Theme 2: Our Economy – Creating inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity

Theme 3: Our Place – Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city

Theme 4: Our Environment – Creating a net-zero emissions and climate-resilient city

Theme 5: Compassionate City - Leaving no one behind – making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city.

Call to Action

Devolution of further place-shaping powers such as regeneration to councils.



Climate Change Act framework for tackling climate change and roadmap to net zero emissions.

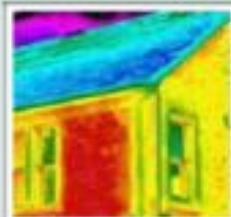


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DfC Anti-Poverty Strategy - helping alleviate impact of poverty across the city.



Housing retrofit - investing in the energy efficiency of the existing and new homes within the city.



Mental Health Strategy – reform of services, together with the promotion of positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience across society.



Childcare Strategy - deliver extended, affordable and high-quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged three to four.



High speed rail - investing in a high-speed rail network and service between Belfast and Dublin.



A Bolder Vision create a more attractive, accessible, safe, vibrant, and reimagined City Centre.



Belfast Region City Deal – unlocking £1 billion co-investment to deliver more than 20 transformative projects and programmes, create up to 20,000 new and better jobs and help make the region a global investment destination.



10X Economy – embraces innovation to deliver a ten times better economy which benefits all our people.



Enabling environment for change

City Leadership

which is empowered to place-shape local economies and communities



Ensuring alignment with Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035

which will facilitate growth by coordinating to where it can be of most benefit to the wellbeing of the community and environment



Partnership Working

maximising the opportunities for all through strong established partnerships including e.g., Community Planning, Belfast Region City Deal and VCSE Panel.



Aligning our **collective funding** to city outcomes and accessing national and regional funding opportunities.



Maximise use of **resources and assets** to deliver collaborative gains and outcomes for the city and our people.



Accountability – clear accountability for delivery through our city governance. Working together to deliver shared city outcomes and being subject to public accountability.

Our focus for next four years

Our people and communities

Priorities

Areas of focus (action)

Health inequalities

1. Address chronic homelessness by focusing on vulnerability and supporting the physical, mental, and social needs of those impacted.,
2. Promote and improve positive mental health and emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of support and services available and actions that can be taken at an individual level to improve or maintain good mental health.
3. Improve health by focusing on narrowing the inequality gap, increasing levels of physical activity and reducing the numbers of people who are obese or overweight.

Community and neighbourhood regeneration

1. Develop a joined-up approach towards neighbourhood regeneration, connecting our people, places, and services at a local level through partnership, planning and delivery supported by strong and empowered communities and citizens. For example, four area-based plans.

Our economy

Priorities

Areas of focus (action)

Educational inequalities

1. Every child and young person is supported in their wellbeing and learning so that they develop the skills and capabilities to fulfil their potential and progress into a positive destination (such as employment or further and higher education)

Jobs and skills

1. Create Inclusive pathways to good employment.
2. Improve the alignment of skills demand and supply to support sustainable business growth.
3. Drive enhanced productivity and create better jobs through investment in innovation and skills.

Sustainable and inclusive economic growth

1. Help grow local business by improving innovation, growth and survival rates, particularly in sectors aligned with the NI Executives vision for a 10 x Economy.
2. Work together to support innovative businesses to grow and become more competitive through a relentless focus on innovation and external sales aligned with the vision for a 10x Economy.
3. Support digital transformation within the local economy.
4. Improve socio-economic inclusion by supporting businesses to adopt more inclusive practices, providing fair work and decent pay, and supporting local growth.

Our place	
Priorities	Areas of focus (action)
Housing-led regeneration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work together to increase housing supply across all tenures in the city council area. 2. Work together to increase the provision of social housing (including accessible properties) across the city council area. 3. Increase the city centre residential population. 4. Adopt a placemaking approach to develop thriving and sustainable communities. 5. Deliver a strategic shift towards the prevention of homelessness. 6. Improve energy efficiency in social housing through retrofit.
Connectivity, active and sustainable travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) which will provide the strategic framework for bringing forward our climate commitments, supporting the integration of a prioritised and modernised public transport system and a network of walking and cycling routes. 2. Deliver the second stage of the Belfast local Development Plan 2035 which supports an efficient integrated transport network offering travel choice that minimises congestion and pollution. 3. Support projects that encourage people to use forms of sustainable travel. 4. Support behavioural change projects that replace car journeys with walking, wheeling and cycling.
Future city centre and wider regeneration and investment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transform the city centre into a dynamic, vibrant and experiential destination, whilst sustaining its distinctive offering 2. Support the delivery of a placemaking approach to the physical and cultural regeneration of the city 3. Attract more visitors who stay longer and spend more in local economy. 4. Promote and position the city to compete globally to attract inclusive and sustainable investment.

Our planet

Priorities

Areas of focus (action)

Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change.

1. Increase the number of trees across the city.
2. Develop a demonstrator site in Botanic Gardens to test nature-based solutions through the UPSURGE project to strengthen climate resilience.
3. Promote the uptake of nature-based solutions across the city to support climate resilience.

Creating a sustainable circular economy

1. Promote sustainable circular economy approaches.
2. Promote a Just Transition to Net Zero in Belfast
3. Increase the use of Electric Vehicles in Belfast and improve access to charge points.
4. Reduce energy consumption (and bills) of housing and public /commercial buildings.
5. Decarbonise the heat supply to buildings in the city.
6. Embed sustainable food practices and partnership working in Belfast.

Innovating to Net Zero

1. Deliver Belfast Local Energy Action Plan.
2. Support the city to decarbonise at scale.
3. Create a net zero zone park to design and demonstrate green technology.
4. Develop a stable supply of green energy to the Net Zero Park and surrounding lands to support the industrial cluster.
5. Accelerate the transition to low carbon manufacturing.
6. Support Green Multi-Modal Mobility.

A Compassionate City

Priorities

Areas of focus (action)

Inclusive growth and anti-poverty

1. Embed more inclusive practices across the city, supporting organisations to use their powers as employers, procurers, [investors](#) and community members to enable those at risk of economic exclusion to participate in the city's social and economic opportunities.
2. Develop strategic and co-ordinated approaches to address the adverse impacts of poverty and support those most in need.
3. Expand our efforts to build community wealth, which seeks to redirect and retain wealth back into local communities and the local economy, and place greater control and benefits with local people.
4. Develop Belfast's status as a learning city through fostering a culture of lifelong learning which allows everyone to fulfil their potential.

Good relations and shared future

1. Understand and address inequalities and support the inclusion and integration of all communities including minority ethnic communities.
2. Enhance good relations across the city and deliver joined-up and innovative approaches to the new Peace Plus programme

Older people

1. Ensure Belfast is an Age Friendly City by meeting the needs of older people and maximising the benefits from their lived experiences.
2. Support our older people to live healthy and socially connected lives with a focus on those most in need

Children and young people

1. Ensure every child is seamlessly supported through their early years (children aged 8 and under) to realise their potential to develop and thrive.
2. Increase the participation, empowerment and resilience of children and young people

Focus and next steps

- Distributed leadership approach - partners taking ownership and self-mobilising / tasking
- Focus on delivery and building momentum
- Resource commitments – enabling and ensuring delivery
- Greater focus on localities and tailoring approaches
- Performance - measuring impact
- CPP endorsement and formal launch of Belfast Agenda refresh

