



<b>Subject:</b>	Amazon Web Services – Climate data platform challenge
<b>Date:</b>	8 February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer, Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner

**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?**

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

**Call-in**

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
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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.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note this update and provide any feedback</li> <li>2. Agree to further updates at future committee</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b>Background</b> 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	<b>AWS Challenge</b> 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	<b>Outputs</b> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>

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