

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



**Belfast
City Council**

1st August, 2024

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 August, 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 - 14)
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Retrofit Workshop Agenda [Brenda Roddy, Climate Team] (Pages 15 - 38)**
3. **Resilience and Sustainability Board - Annual Review [Claire Shortt, Climate Team] (Pages 39 - 54)**
4. **Net Zero Belfast Pathfinder project - update [Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner] (Pages 55 - 74)**
5. **Shared Island Fund**
 - (a) Shared Island Fund update [John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy] (Pages 75 - 128)
 - (b) Shared Island Update on Belfast City Council Projects (Restricted) (Pages 129 - 136)

Climate and City Resilience Committee

Thursday, 13th June, 2024

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE LAVERY ROOM

Members present: Councillor R-M Donnelly (Chairperson);
Councillors Anglin, Bell, Bradley, Bower, R. Brooks,
T. Brooks, Bunting, M. Donnelly, S. Douglas, Flynn,
McAteer, McCabe and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. D. Caldwell, Climate Commissioner;
Ms. C. Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer;
Ms. C. Persic, Development Manager;
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance
Coordinator.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Doherty and Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th April were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Flynn declared an interest to agenda item 3. Belfast Festival of Learning Food Data Hackathon, in that Allstate, the organisation for which he worked for was referenced in the report.

A Declaration of Interest was received from Councillor T. Brooks under agenda item 2. Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 (UP2030) Update, in that her employer Queen's University Belfast was referenced in the report.

Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 (UP2030) Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the ongoing activities as part of the UP2030 Net Zero Neighbourhoods Project including stakeholder engagement, workshops, partnership working and highlight upcoming milestones.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Members of the Committee are asked to:

- Note that Belfast, represented by Belfast City Council, is a pilot city within the Horizon Europe UP2030 project which is focused on the development of a net zero neighbourhood framework using technical tools and support that are provided through the UP2030 consortium including analysis, mapping and engagement.
- To support a partnership with the RSUA to deliver the design competition in the UP2030 area in alignment with the project ambitions.
- To support Groundwork NI's Heritage Lottery bid, 'Climate Resilient Heritage' that is proposed to roll out within communities in the UP2030 pilot area.
- To note that an update report on UP2030 was also brought to the City Growth & Regeneration Committee yesterday, 12 June 2024.

3.0 Main report

3.1 In March 2022 Council was invited to participate in a three-year Horizon Europe consortium funding application from the Urban Planning 2030 (UP2030) fund to guide cities through the transitions required to meet their climate neutrality ambitions. As reported in November 2022 and March 2023, the City Regeneration and Development and Climate teams were successful in joint bid of €204,250/£176,024 to further an integrated approach between urban planning, achieving net zero and aspects of resilience.

3.2 Cities account for 70% of the global CO2 emissions and consume 78% of the world's energy. The UP2030 project is about recognising the role cities play in achieving net zero by 2050, and the sequence of actions and transitions that would be required by 2030 to ensure this target ambition is met. The 5UP approach guides the work of the project and the considerations required for the development of a framework for creating a net zero neighbourhood:

UP-Dating: Identifying the needs and barriers, and reviewing the processes, planning codes and policies that should be urgently updated to create future proofed NZ neighbourhoods.

UP-Skilling: Building capacities to upskill the entire stakeholder ecosystem, from city departments to urban practitioners to the construction industry, through to citizens.

UP-Grading: Considering the transformation at the suitable physical scale.

UP-Scaling: Scaling solutions and integrating them across sectors by shaping governance arrangements and matching financial resources.

UP-Taking: Sharing knowledge and learning through the project to create long-lasting communities of practice.

- 3.3 The project kicked off in February 2023 and will run until December 2025 and is driven by robust project milestones and constant engagement across the consortium that is made up of 46 partners, with Belfast one of 11 pilot cities and only UK city. As agreed at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in March 2023, the geographic area of the UP2030 pilot covers the Linen Quarter and the surrounding communities of Barrack Street, Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Market. The primary focus of UP2030 is on the development of a Net Zero (NZ) Neighbourhood Framework that is shaped around three thematic areas: active travel, greening and retrofit. These themes link across to the UP2030 pillars of a fair and just transition, carbon neutrality and resilience.
- 3.4 Council's UP2030 team is comprised of City Regeneration & Development and Climate team staff who collaborate on project development, engaging stakeholders and achieving the milestones set out within the wider UP2030 project. This includes regular consortium and work package meetings, project and financial reporting and ongoing contact with our liaison partner, Mapping for Change, as well as ongoing discussions with tool providers through the programme who can provide free technical support to enable the transition to NZ.
- 3.5 **Progress to date: Stakeholder engagement and workshop delivery**

Since the beginning of the project, stakeholder engagement has included mapping across sectors and areas of work, attending relevant events or meetings and building partnerships and sharing information. This has included one-to-one meetings with community representatives and site walks to understand local priorities and the challenges facing the surrounding city centre communities. It quickly became clear that there is a need to have 'climate conversations' with stakeholders to help everyone begin to understand the wider issues in relation to the impact of climate change, what the transition to net zero means for them and their work and the ways people can begin to participate in the transition. Therefore, a component part of UP2030 is to also support awareness raising regarding net zero in general and we continue to work through these multi-stakeholder channels throughout the programme to secure input into the development of the NZ Neighbourhood Framework.

- 3.6 A key feature in our approach has been linking into existing thematic stakeholder groups that have broad membership and expertise. In particular, this includes the City Greening Group that is convened by Belfast Healthy Cities; the Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel (CAST) subgroup within the Belfast Agenda; and engagement with Retrofit Hub that is coordinated by the Climate Team. There has also been engagement across government, academic, community, thematic city partners and Council teams to elicit input and included a presentation to the Resilience and Sustainability Board. This approach has ensured that we have developed a sound understanding of the challenges, opportunities and barriers across the thematic areas of work and are linked into relevant projects among city partners. An example of this is through an existing partnership with the Graduate School of Queen's University School of Built Environment and NIHE, where partners came together to deliver a QUB social innovation challenge with residents of John Street and Hamill Street.
- 3.7 This initiative was run by QUB and focused on NIHE land within the UP2030 area in the Barrack Street vicinity and focused on improving the quality of life of residents through the development of climate friendly place shaping proposals. Students from a variety of disciplines came together to deliver the challenge through the challenge title: 'Making Belfast a Green and Playful City'. Further to this work, a number of proposed interventions were identified through the consultation and NIHE are leading on exploring how these can be implemented and have already taken an initial step to begin reshaping the space based on needs identified in the engagement and supporting NZ interventions. This a strong example of multi-partner approach to deliver NZ and this along with the ongoing learnings from QUB and the NIHE will shape the UP2030 framework.
- 3.8 Additionally, Officers work in partnership with the Master's of Architecture StreetSpace initiative in QUB that has focused on the Market, Donegall Pass, Sandy Row and the Village communities over the past two years. In mid-June StreetSpace will hold a workshop based on the research and engagement with communities in these areas over the past year. The workshop is called 'Women in the Neighbourhood' and will investigate how issues of mobility and housing affect the everyday lives of women and explore solutions to foster safe, more inclusive cities and the feedback from this will further enhance our understanding of the community issues and inform the UP2030 NZ Framework.
- 3.9 As a result of our engagement sessions, we received a request from Groundwork NI to support their bid 'Climate Resilient Heritage' to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which would focus on two

areas within the UP2030 area, i.e. Sandy Row and the Market. The project would aim to ensure that the natural and cultural heritage of Northern Ireland is conserved for future generations and involves developing a network of young climate champions, supporting them to gain an understanding of the drivers of climate change, how this is/will affect the heritage of Northern Ireland, and what practical steps can be undertaken to mitigate against these effects in their local community. The programme will include training and practical action, e.g. carbon literacy training, data collection and greening projects. Members are asked to support Groundwork's bid in principal and, if successful, Officer attendance at future steering group meetings, which will ensure alignment of the thematic ambitions of the UP2030 project and can build on the momentum of engagement and data developed in the area to date, supporting development and delivery of the net zero neighbourhood framework within the pilot area.

4.0 Delivering project milestones

Key milestones achieved to date include the delivery of five workshops held between April to October 2023 with cross sector stakeholders, including a specific neighbourhood engagement session for community representatives from the pilot area. These events provided an introduction and background to the UP2030 project, exploration of the importance of climate neutrality for cities, and outlined the intention to develop a net zero framework neighbourhood approach within the pilot area but that can be replicated across the city. The workshops were interactive and facilitated input from participants with thematic and community interests as well as engaged strategic partners who operate across the city and region. This initial phase of engagement gathered quality input from diverse stakeholders that helped shape the thematic outline of the framework and refined the areas of focus.

- 4.1** Data collection and analysis has provided another layer of understanding of the UP2030 area and helped identify further needs, challenges and opportunities for net zero led regeneration to future proof the area and communities. A geospatial analysis of the UP2030 pilot area was undertaken, using interactive mapping software to overlay current information on the district such as demographics, tree data, deprivation indices, economic activity, travel to work/school behaviours, housing tenure, as well as projected climate impacts such as flooding and heat risk.
- 4.2** Building on this the initial engagement activities and data collection, a key project milestone was the delivery of five Visioning workshops with cross sector stakeholders that took place in Spring/Summer 2024. The purpose of this most recent engagement programme was to establish a common vision for the

UP2030 area and test the emerging Framework ideas. The sessions also provided a chance to identify future opportunities for improving greening and active travel, as well as exploring the potential to progress a retrofit pilot that builds on the recent learnings of the Retrofit Hub.

- 4.3 The workshops included internal Council staff, the Belfast Agenda CAST group, the City Greening Group and a session for young people organised with Alternatives. The purpose of these was to gain agreement on the vision for the project across the three themes (greening, active travel and retrofit) and underpinned by the three project pillars (carbon neutrality, resilience and a fair and just transition) by asking participants to imagine what a net zero Belfast could look like in 2050 and considering the actions required to support or deliver that transition. Participants were presented with mapped geospatial analysis data and the insights gathered on the project to date.
- 4.4 The final Visioning workshop with the Retrofit Hub will address three areas: commercial, public buildings and residential (divided into area, tenure and typology). This approach aligns to the identified areas of work within the Retrofit Hub, emerging data from the Local Area Energy Plan and will explore issues in relation to funding opportunities and financial models, capacity issues (e.g. skills/training, supply chain), policy and legislation and potential pipeline opportunities.
- 4.5 Following analysis of the feedback and findings from the Visioning sessions, coupled with analysis of the previous learning and research produced by the Retrofit Hub, we re-engaged the workshop stakeholders in a final follow up session. Through this we were able to sense check the emerging framework ideas, build a shared understanding of NZ options and agreed the adaptive pathways for the short/long term sequence of actions that would be required to support the transition and explore opportunities for pilot projects to help test concepts for the NZ Framework alongside continued stakeholder engagement.
- 4.6 An opportunity has been flagged through the Retrofit Hub Steering group to align the ambitions of the retrofit strand of the UP2030 work with a proposal to run a Net-Zero Neighbourhood Ideas Competition as a partnership between the Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA) and JP Corry with support from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the Northern Ireland Construction Group (NICG). It will challenge design teams led by Early Career Architects to generate ideas for the best way to deliver a net-zero neighbourhood in Northern Ireland. The competition seeks to explore how a holistic neighbourhood approach to lowering carbon emissions compares to a more

focused property-by-property approach. This will be an opportunity to build on the visioning outcomes of the retrofit work and engage with communities in the pilot area to codesign approaches for net zero delivery and contribute to the development of the framework. Members are requested to support UP2030 partnering with the RSUA to deliver the design competition in the UP2030 area in alignment with the project ambitions.

4.7 Maximining cross council alignment to NZ goals

Ensuring alignment of this project with the ongoing work and priorities of Climate team is a critical aspect of UP2030 and will shape future milestones and opportunities. This is particularly relevant to the work underway in relation to the Solar PV Study and possible follow up studies that could provide analysis of rooftops that may have potential for solar PV, greening interventions/retrofit or both. A Retrofit Hub Report on the UP2030 area, and an active travel scoping study would also to help us understand the potential of meeting net zero ambitions through active travel and the cost benefit analysis of these measures by using tools such as University of Cambridge innovative Scope 4 analysis. Furthermore, opportunities exist across Council to align resources and ambitions towards NZ outcomes and ensure that all investment in the regeneration of the city considers carbon neutrality, resilience and a fair and just transition to net zero.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

- 4.1** Members will be aware that given that the UK is no longer within the EU, the status of Council was changed from to being a Partner to that of an Associate which means that funding will be underwritten by the UK government (UK Research & Innovation, UKRI) fund rather than the EU. The Horizon Europe UP2030 Project is 100% funded for revenue only. No additional funding is required from Council however a small team drawn from the Climate Unit and City Regeneration and Development work together to oversee development and support implementation. Officers continue to work with partners to identify potential capital or revenue funding in the future and align current and emerging workstreams that could support the transition to net zero.

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

- 5.1** Officers are currently developing the Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Screening and will incorporate within the emerging proposals.”

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During discussion, the Development Manager answered a range of questions in relation to community engagement, tools for analysis and cost of living concerns. In relation to Scope 4 methodology, she explained that it referred to the reduction in emissions achieved by the use of a company's products or services, to help create a modal shift.

One Member highlighted that the Disability Advisory Group report on the impact and practical solutions for Climate issues could be useful to this research also.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Festival of Learning Food Data Hackathon

The Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer reminded the Committee that the Belfast Learning Festival was part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and ran this year from 22nd to 27th of April. As part of the festival, the climate team had agreed to hold a hackathon that would explore the current food systems in the city. The aim was to help tackle real-world challenges using data driven solutions. She explained that the invite was issued to students in the Belfast Met, University of Ulster (UU) and Queens University Belfast (QUB) and more than 40 students had registered their interest. To help the students tackle 'the challenges of accessing healthy sustainable food in the city', the climate team had arranged a number of workshops throughout the week that included a modelling session with Allstate data analysts, a demonstration of the latest census data, the QUB Geoportal and lessons on how to use the NISRA data platform.

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. N. Cairns Mr. L. Mowbray, the winning team from the Ulster University.

The team presented their aim to develop an app for a mobile farmer's market that would travel throughout different neighbourhoods in Belfast, aimed at those with limited access to fresh produce. These markets would offer locally sourced fruits, vegetables, and other sustainable food products at affordable prices. They explained that, by bringing the market directly to people, their objective was to eliminate the transportation barrier and make healthy food more accessible.

The team described the potential features of their app, together with the data which had been used to inform their app and the benefits of a sustainable food city. They also highlighted that they were currently studying digital technology and the app was something that they might be able to develop in the future, as part of their course.

During discussion the Committee congratulated the team on their work. Members highlighted the potential and benefits of the app and encouraged its future development.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and the presentation on the findings of the challenge from the winning group.

The Climate Change Act (Reporting Bodies) Regulations

The Committee considered the undernoted report and associated appendices:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To highlight the new regulations that will place new climate change reporting duties on public bodies, including Belfast City Council.**

2.0 Recommendation

2.1

- I. Note the attached correspondence from DAERA.
- II. Note that the regulations come into place early May 2024 and an update will be brought back to update Committee in due course.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 requires DAERA to make new Regulations, which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies. The regulations will come into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they are laid in the Assembly. However, the first reports by public bodies required under the regulations, will not be due to be submitted until October 2025.

3.2 What will be required?

There are two types of reports which we will be required to provide under the reporting duties set by the Regulations: 1) ‘climate change mitigation’ reports; and 2) ‘climate change adaptation’ reports.

3.3 Climate change mitigation reports must include:

- 1. a statement, in respect of each of the three preceding financial years, of the amounts and the sources of the council’s greenhouse gas emissions;
- 2. a statement of the council’s proposals and policies for reducing those amounts and otherwise for mitigating the effects of climate change in the exercise of its functions;
- 3. a statement of the time-scales for implementing those proposals and policies; and
- 4. an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change mitigation report.

3.4 Climate change adaptation reports must include:

5. an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to its functions;
6. a statement of council's proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions;
7. a statement of the timescales for implementing those proposals and policies; and
8. an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change adaptation report.

3.5 The Regulations state that we must also have regard to the most recent 5 yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and that we must publish the report on the council website and DAERA will also publish it on theirs.

There is an opportunity for cooperation between two or more reporting bodies to submit a joint report.

3.6 What support will be provided by DAERA

DAERA will provide:

1. technical, co-designed guidance on how to complete climate change reports;
2. a reporting template containing a list of climate change questions;
3. an online climate change reporting portal to enter data; and
4. training to complete the reports.

3.7 Timescales for reporting

The frequencies and timings are set to align with the development of the 5-yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessments which are required under the UK Climate Change Act 2008 – these risk Assessments include detail on the current and projected climate change risks and impacts to Northern Ireland.

3.8 The regulations require the Council to submit the first of its 3- yearly reports on mitigation by 31 October 2025. The second and third 'mitigation report' must be submitted to DAERA by 31st October 2028 and 31st October 2031 respectively, and so on for subsequent reports every 3 years.

3.9 The first 'adaptation report' must be submitted to DAERA by 31st March 2026 (the first report will cover a 4 year period beginning from 1st January 2026). The second and third report will

be submitted by 31st January 2030 and 31st January 2035 respectively, and every 5 years from then on.

3.10 How have we prepared for this reporting?
Mitigation

A greenhouse gas emissions baseline report was completed for the Councils operations for the period 2019/20. This report included:

- Scope 1 emissions (direct emissions from combustion in Council owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles); and
- Scope 2 emissions (emissions are associated with purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling).

3.11 The report included only a small portion of Scope 3 emissions (these occur upstream and downstream of the Council's operations from sources not controlled by the Council) as it did not include the emissions from the Council's supply chain. The report estimated the Council's emissions to be 18,783 tonnes CO₂e with the majority of these from gas (46%), electricity (23%) and fleet (15%). The most significant cost centres in terms of emissions are Capital, Residual waste and GLL.

3.12 The Council's supply chain emissions have since been calculated separately (for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) and the team worked closely with Procurement to develop a capacity to track these emissions annually going forward. Scope 3 supply chain currently makes up the bulk of the council's emissions at 84% (71,714 tonnes CO₂e in 2022/23) with 18% of supply chain emissions coming from River Ridge Recycling (Portadown) Ltd and Arc 21 Joint Committee.

3.13 Going forward, an annual emission report will be provided to Committee by June each year thereafter. There are some gaps in the data around internal waste that need to be captured to get the clearest picture of Council emissions, however the climate team are working on a proposal through the climate fund that will help make the estimates more accurate.

The Council is therefore well positioned to provide the required statement of the amounts and the sources of the council's greenhouse gas emissions (1 above) by 31 October 2025.

3.14 A Climate Data Platform is currently being developed by Digital Services to store this information and track progress on delivery. This will enable a snapshot progress report at any time and the

climate team will be able to provide an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the proposals and policies (4 above).

3.15 Adaptation

A Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) undertaken by KPMG in 2023 includes an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change on Council functions (5 above). In terms of providing a statement of council's proposals and policies for adapting to climate change and the timescales for implementation (6-7 above), these are all captured in the Council's Climate Action Plan and have been included in the draft Corporate Plan. Again, it will be important going forward that the relevant Departments include these climate actions in their annual business plans and budgets to demonstrate progress on adapting to current and future climate risks in adaptation reporting (8 above).

- 3.16** The Council is therefore well positioned to deliver it's first 'adaptation report' to DAERA by 31st March 2026 (covering the 4 year period beginning from 1st January 2026). As above, the Climate Data Platform will enable regular tracking and reporting of progress.

3.17 Next steps

1. The Climate Team will be briefing DMTs as required to ensure staff are aware of reporting requirements.
2. Updates will be brought back to Committee in due course.

3.18 Financial and Resource Implications

There is no known extra funding available, however DAERA have stated that they will be providing all the necessary practical support with public bodies, training and an online portal for public bodies to use. There may be additional costs associated with data exploration and development options identified through the working group. CMT will be kept informed of the progress.

Resourcing needs are not fully understood at this point, however we will review the progress and report back to Committee in due course.

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

None Identified."

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**Climate and City Resilience Committee,
Thursday, 13th June, 2024**

Additional Item - Retrofit Workshop

The Committee agreed that a Committee Retrofit Workshop would be planned for September and representatives from NIHE, Phoenix Energy and Belfast Retrofit Hub be invited to attend. The Committee noted that the draft agenda for the Workshop would be considered by the Committee at its meeting in August.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Retrofit Workshop Agenda
Date:	8 th August 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner Brenda Roddy, Project Support Officer (Climate)

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	At the meeting of the Climate & City Resilience Committee on 21 st of June 2024, it was agreed that a retrofit workshop would be arranged for elected members in September 2024, with expert members of the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub invited to attend. The Committee agreed that a draft agenda would be considered by the Committee at its meeting in August.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	To review and approve the proposed agenda and suggest amendments as required.
3.0	<p>Main Report</p> <p>Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub takes a consortium approach to catalysing retrofit activity across the public, commercial and private building sectors in Belfast. Belfast City Council's Climate Team convenes and supports the Hub's activities as part of the wider support the team provides for the Belfast Community Planning Partnership. Progress on the Hub's activities is reported regularly to the Climate and City Resilience Committee (and to the Resilience and Sustainability Board) with their most recent meeting generating a request for a retrofit themed workshop for elected members.</p> <p>Proposed approach</p> <p>The Retrofit Hub and the Council's UP2030 team recently ran a joint mapping exercise event with retrofit experts to help visualise the need and opportunities for a neighbourhood retrofit programme, focusing on the UP2030 pilot area which includes the Linen Quarter and adjacent communities living in Sandy Row, Donegall Pass, the Market and Barrack Street. This area was selected as significant groundwork has already been done with communities to help identify what a net zero community might look like, in order to develop a methodology that can be rolled out to other parts of the city.</p> <p>The activity used data from the Local Area Energy Plan to create maps that visualised existing buildings' energy performance rating, building type and tenure, as well as retrofit measures already in place, to help participants understand the challenges and opportunities around retrofit.</p> <p>The Climate Team propose to repeat this approach drawing on Member's diverse range of expertise and their working knowledge of community needs while also enabling Members to explore what a retrofit neighbourhood approach might look like when applied to real life settings across different building types and tenures in the UP2030 area. The event will be supported by Retrofit Hub members with expertise across the various building types, technologies and with experience of working with communities on retrofit and fuel poverty. The proposed agenda is shown below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & event outline (3 hour event). Date to be confirmed. 2. Introduction to retrofit – Climate Team members and sectoral leads from the Retrofit Hub outline the main concepts, technologies, challenges and opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector buildings • Commercial sector • Residential 3. Mapping exercise – using detailed maps and a series of questions with support from expert Hub members, work in groups to explore case study sub-areas of the UP2030 area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public buildings – e.g. Cecil Ward building • Commercial buildings • Residential – selection of streets 4. Group feedback – group leaders feed main findings back to wider group with scribes capturing key findings and future actions.

3.1	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this point</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None known</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Workshop Summary – UP2030 Retrofit Action Mapping Event</p> <p>Terms of Reference – Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub – Oct 2024</p>

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Report - UP2030 Retrofit Mapping Event Notes – 18/06/2024

1. Background

In June 2024 the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub and the Council's UP2030 team recently ran a joint mapping exercise event to help visualise the need and opportunities for a neighbourhood retrofit programme. Drawing on retrofit experts and key stakeholders and working in sectoral groups, they focused on the UP2030 pilot area to answer a series of questions about what a climate ready net zero neighbourhood might look like, actions to make this happen, the barriers and opportunities as well as what might happen if no climate action were taken. (List of attendees in appendix 1)

2. UP2030 project area

The map below denotes the UP2030 project area which includes the Linen Quarter and adjacent communities living in Sandy Row, Donegall Pass, the Market and Barrack Street. This area was selected as significant groundwork has already been done with communities to help identify what a net zero community might look like, in order to develop a methodology that can be rolled out to other parts of the city.

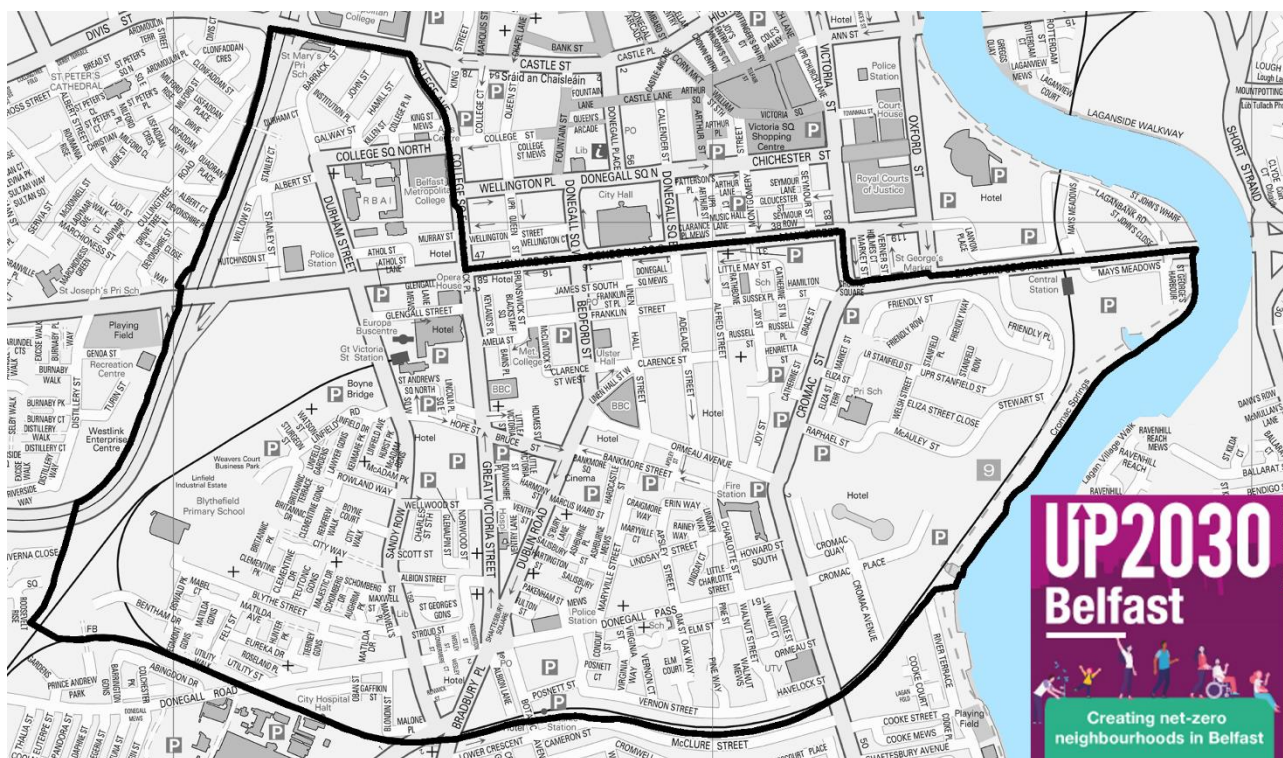


Figure 1 – UP2030 Pilot Area.

The activity used data from the Local Area Energy Plan to create maps that visualised existing buildings' energy performance rating, building type and tenure, as well as retrofit measures already in place, to help participants understand the challenges and opportunities around retrofit.

3. Task outline and questions

Attendees were grouped to work in their areas of retrofit expertise or interest, with topics covering residential (3 groups), commercial buildings group (one group) and public buildings group (one group). Groups were asked to cover a series of questions to explore potential barriers and opportunities to retrofit in their specific sector:

1. What would the impact be if we continued with 'business as usual' i.e., no action by 2050?

2. Consider a range of retrofit solutions to the property/typical properties of the street, including their costs and the impact to the owner, as well as associated barriers and opportunities.
3. Consider a financial and delivery model for each tenure type as well as any additional policies, incentives or disincentives that would support uptake at pace.
4. Propose an aggregated plan for the area and the sequence of actions that would support efficient delivery/roll out and encourage uptake.

The activity used data from the Local Area Energy Plan to create maps that visualised existing buildings' energy performance rating, building type and tenure, as well as retrofit measures already in place, to help participants understand the challenges and opportunities around retrofit. (Sample activity map - appendix 2).

4. Summary of discussion and actions

The exercise yielded two valuable outputs: issues to consider; and potential actions. The key issues discussed can be summarised as follows:

4.1 Residential buildings

Issues

Discussion covered challenges to social housing, private sector landlords and owner occupiers, looking at potential actions at householder level as well as organisational and NI Government level. Energy efficiency benefits were balanced with health and community ones and also considered how the threat of severe weather events and flood risk had to be factored in. Major barriers included lack of clarity on government commitment and policy around carbon emissions which affects investment decisions and also the limited options for funding the retrofit measures required.

Future actions

Discussion in all groups focused how to use the LAEP data to explore potential for a mixed tenure, fabric first pilot/s retrofit project focusing on a few streets. Recognising that the LAEP is a new resource, all were keen to explore the tool's potential starting with identifying what data layers are available, how current and accurate it is, and how it might be used to develop potential pilot projects. The exercise clarified steps and partnership working required.

4.2 Public sector buildings

Issues

The impacts of severe weather on public estate were recognised and these must be factored in. The public sector faces the same carbon emissions targets as GB counterparts but without access to same levels of financial or expert consultancy support. Belfast based public bodies have been trialling creative approaches to energy reduction, financing and future large-scale solutions however work must be joined up to share learnings and actions across the public sector as well as the commercial sector.

Actions

There is keen interest in using the LAEP data and other sources to plan joined up programmes such as low carbon district heating. Several research projects are coming to fruition that offer opportunities for rollout, including work led by BCC on the potential for solar PV energy generation in the city centre. Joint working and knowledge exchange is critical – a public/commercial event will be convened targeting those leading on energy across the city, sharing case studies of approaches already being successfully used to retrofit buildings and reduce emissions.

4.3 Commercial/private sector buildings

Issues

Around 85% of the commercial buildings here now will still be in place by 2050 however based on current energy performance and anticipated legislation, the majority of it risks being stranded assets within a few

decades. There is an appetite for retrofit but clear government policy is needed as well as high quality data on the energy performance of existing commercial. A strategic, city-wide strategy is required that intertwines the economic future of the city with its energy performance – an approach that can kick start long term international investment.

Future actions

Discussions required with Belfast City Council planning and regeneration teams along with university experts on institutional investment to identify local policy blockages and potential solutions. Work is required to establish a baseline of energy demand, carbon footprint, occupancy and vacancy levels in commercial (as well as public sector) stock.

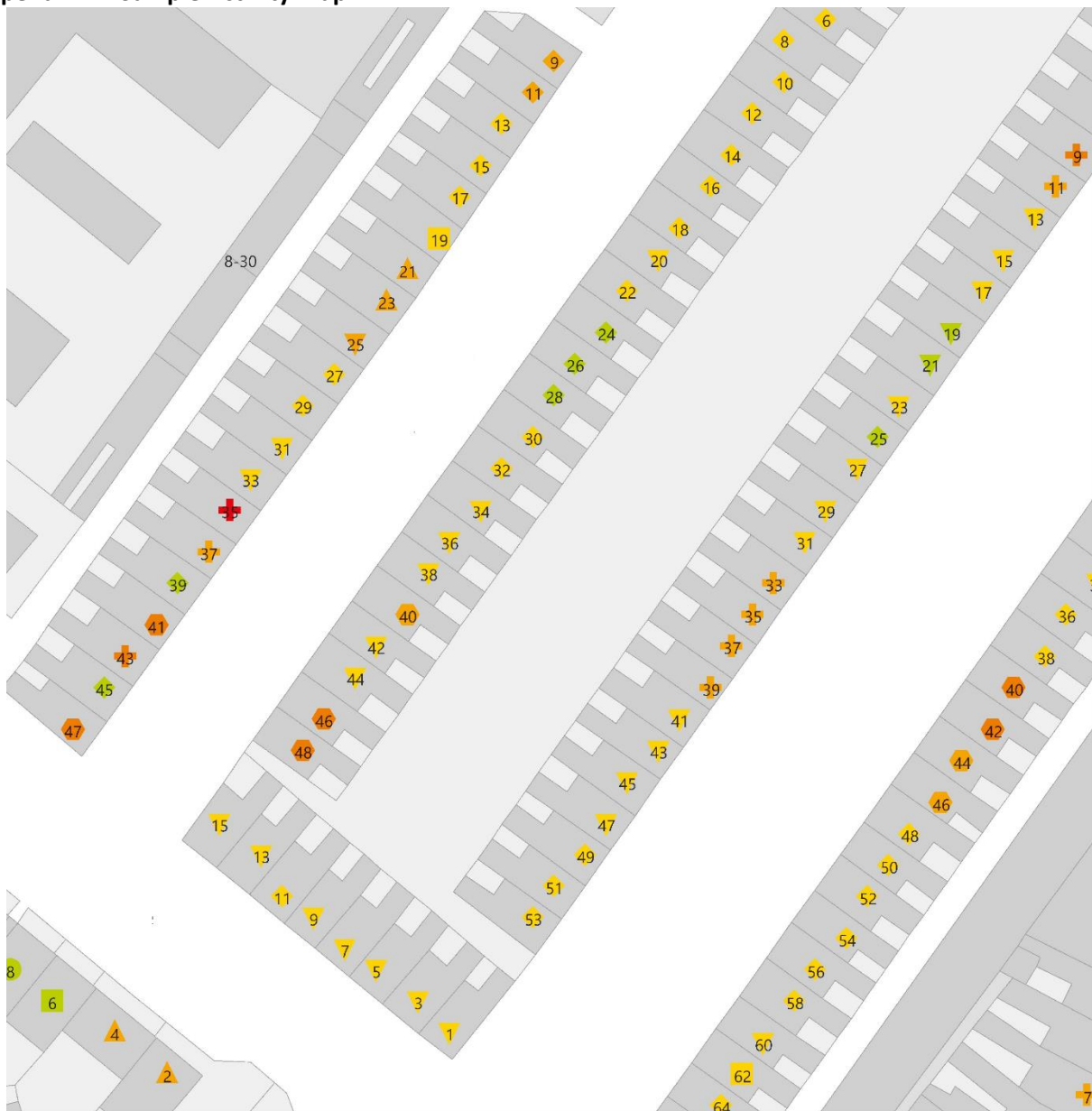
5. Next steps

Discussions will be analysed in detail and used to inform development of the UP2030 programme, helping to create a methodology for creating net zero communities across Belfast city. As part of that approach, this event will be run with members of the Climate and City Resilience Committee in order to tap into their local knowledge expertise and working knowledge of community needs.

Appendix 1 – List of event attendees

Representative	Organisation	Regeneration Project Officer	Topic
Amanda Newton	Mapping for Change	Project Officer	Residential
Angus Kerr	Dept for Communities	Director	Residential
Barry Neilson	Construction Industry Training Board	Chief Exec	Residential
Brenda Roddy	BCC	Climate - Project Officer	Public
Brian Rankin	Choice Housing	Energy & Sustainability Manager	Residential
Callie Persic	Belfast City Council	Dev Manager (City Centre Regeneration)	Residential
Ciaran Fox	Royal Society of Ulster Architects	Director	Residential
Claire Shortt	BCC	Monitoring, Learning & Reporting Officer	Commercial
Debbie Caldwell	Belfast City Council	Climate Commissioner	Residential
Eimear Taylor	Education Authority	Lead Energy Manager	Public
Elena	International Council for Global Environmental initiatives	Environmental Project Officer	Residential
Emma Sharpe	Belfast City Council	Regeneration Project Officer	Residential
Gareth Downey	BCC	Data Analyst	Residential
Gavin McGuire	Federation of Master Builders	Director	Residential
Gerard McCann	Global Commercial Real Estate Services	Exec Director	Commercial
Hannah Stockwell	Mapping for Change?	Community Development Executive	Residential
Harry McConnell	RPP Architects	Director	Commercial
Joann Russell	Mott MacDonald	Technical Director	Commercial
Katie McDonald	BCC	Data Analyst	Commercial
Martin Haran	Ulster University	Prof Real Estate and Urban Studies	Commercial
Michael Hamley	Mott MacDonald	Consultant	Public
Niamh Mulrine	BCC	Regeneration Project Officer	Residential
Raymond Gormley	Consumer Council	Head of Energy Policy	Residential
Richard Smyth	Landlord Assoc NI	Director	Residential
Richard Smyth	Landlord Association for NI	LANI Committee Member	Residential
Richard Treacy	Belfast City Council	Energy And Co2 Manager	Public
Roisin O'Neill	NIHE	Senior Grants Manager	Residential
Stephen Doherty	Ulster University	Deputy Director – Estates Services	Public

Appendix 2 – Sample Activity Map

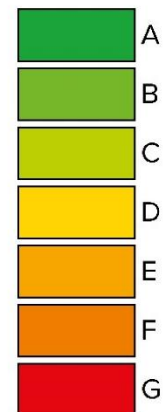


Domestic properties

Energy efficiency capacity

- Gas heating; Cavity wall insulation; Fully double glazed
- Gas heating; Cavity wall insulation
- ◆ Gas heating; Fully double glazed
- ▲ Cavity wall insulation; Fully double glazed
- ▼ Gas heating
- ★ Cavity wall insulation
- ⬡ Fully double glazed
- ⊕ None

Current EPC rating



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Terms of Reference for Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub

1.Name

The name of the partnership will be “Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub”, referred to as “the Hub”.

2. Principal Purpose

The Hub brings together NIHE, business leaders, key organisations and the Council to catalyse retrofit activity relating to all domestic, public, commercial and private buildings in Belfast.

The Hub’s work is informed by the National Retrofit Strategy produced by the Construction Leadership Council (<https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Construction-Leadership-Council-National-Retrofit-Strategy-Version-2.pdf>) and seeks to ensure that eight interlocking elements are advanced together:

- a) Leadership and communications
- b) Supporting learning and innovation culture focussed on just transition
- c) Performance standards
- d) Finance and grants
- e) Training and accreditation
- f) Materials and equipment
- g) Creating customer demand
- h) Compliance and quality regime

3. Principal Duties

- To identify opportunities for retrofit across the city and bring together the partners who can realise those opportunities.
- To identify and endorse the required standards of building performance that retrofit in Belfast needs to achieve.
- To identify ways of supporting the economic activity, skills and jobs that achieving those standards require
- To draw together partners to source and release funding
- To promote a collaborative, solutions approach sharing knowledge across ownership and tenure
- To ensure engagement with stakeholders across the city, and to support and promote complementary initiatives
- To ensure that retrofit work considers climate resilience
- To report on progress, initially to the Resilience and Sustainability Board

4. Membership

4.1. The Hub board shall consist of:

- a) An independent Chair and Deputy Chair
- b) A representative each element of the retrofit delivery system i.e.
 - i) Design

- ii) Construction
 - iii) Materials and equipment supply
 - iv) Finance
 - v) Social housing
 - vi) Private rented housing and owner occupied housing
 - vii) Vocational skills and training
 - viii) Building regulations and standards; building performance assessment
 - ix) Energy policy
 - c) The Belfast Climate Commissioner
 - d) A member of the Resilience and Sustainability Board
- 4.2 The Hub will be able to co-opt further members as required e.g. representatives of voluntary bodies with relevant specialist expertise.
- 4.3 Named alternates can be provided for the members of the Hub by agreement with the Chair.
- 4.4 There will be an expectation that members of the Hub will be making substantial contribution in kind to the work of the Hub outside of the regular meetings, e.g. leading or participating in Task and Finish groups or sub-groups, secondment of experts, sharing of 'best practice'.

5. Meetings of the Hub

- 5.1 Meetings will take place four times a year.
- 5.2 Each Member of the Hub will have a vote though agreement on matters considered by the Hub will generally be by consensus. Further persons co-opted by The Board will be non-voting unless the terms of reference are amended.

6. Quorum

- 6.1 The Chair or Deputy Chair plus one third of Board members will form a quorum, with at least one representative from the Council, one business representative and one other business or organisation representative.

7. Governance

- 7.1 The work of the Board shall be reviewed by the Resilience and Sustainability Board.
- 7.2 Direct reporting Task and Finish or Sub-groups can be appointed, as needed, to progress the Hub's priorities.
- 7.3 Clear reporting arrangements shall be put in place for each sub-group or Task and Finish group that reports directly or indirectly to the Hub.
- 7.4 The Hub will be guided by the city's Climate Action Plan and Local Area Energy Plan.

8. Review

- 8.1 The Hub is recommended to review these Terms of Reference on a 12 monthly basis, reporting to the Resilience and Sustainability Board

Reviewed 13/10/2023



CLIMATE ACTION

Retrofit Action Mapping Event Report

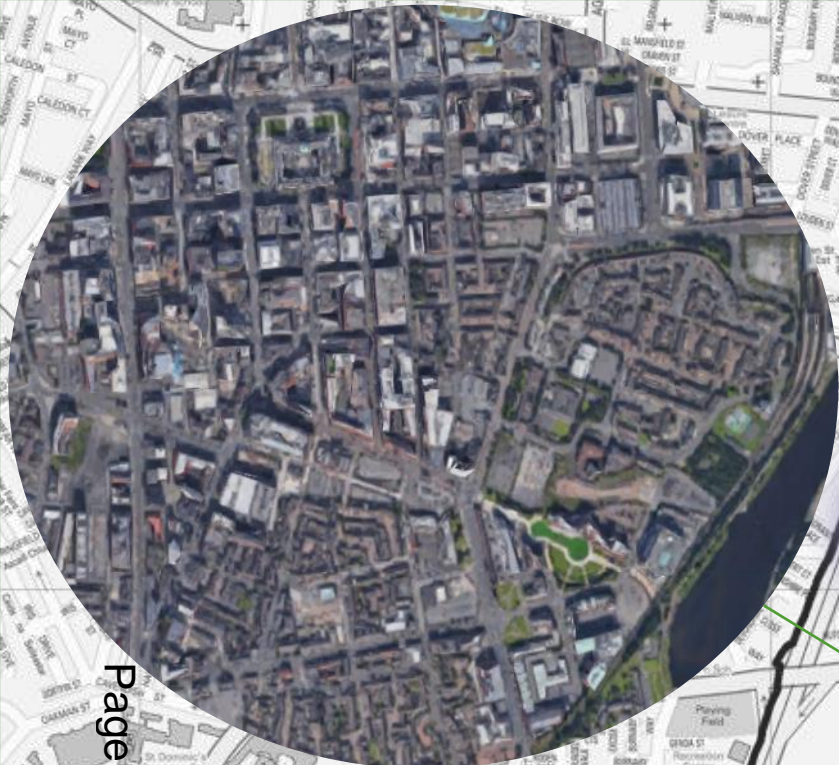
Brenda Roddy, Climate Team

➤ www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change

UP2030 Retrofit Action Mapping Event



- Aim of the event
- Specialist working groups
- Questions
- Findings



UP2030 Area

Barrack
Street

Linen
Quarter

Market

Sandy
Row

Donegall
Pass

Established Communities

Business District and new
Communities

Specialist Working Groups



- Residential - 3 groups
- Public sector group
- Commercial sector group

Activity questions

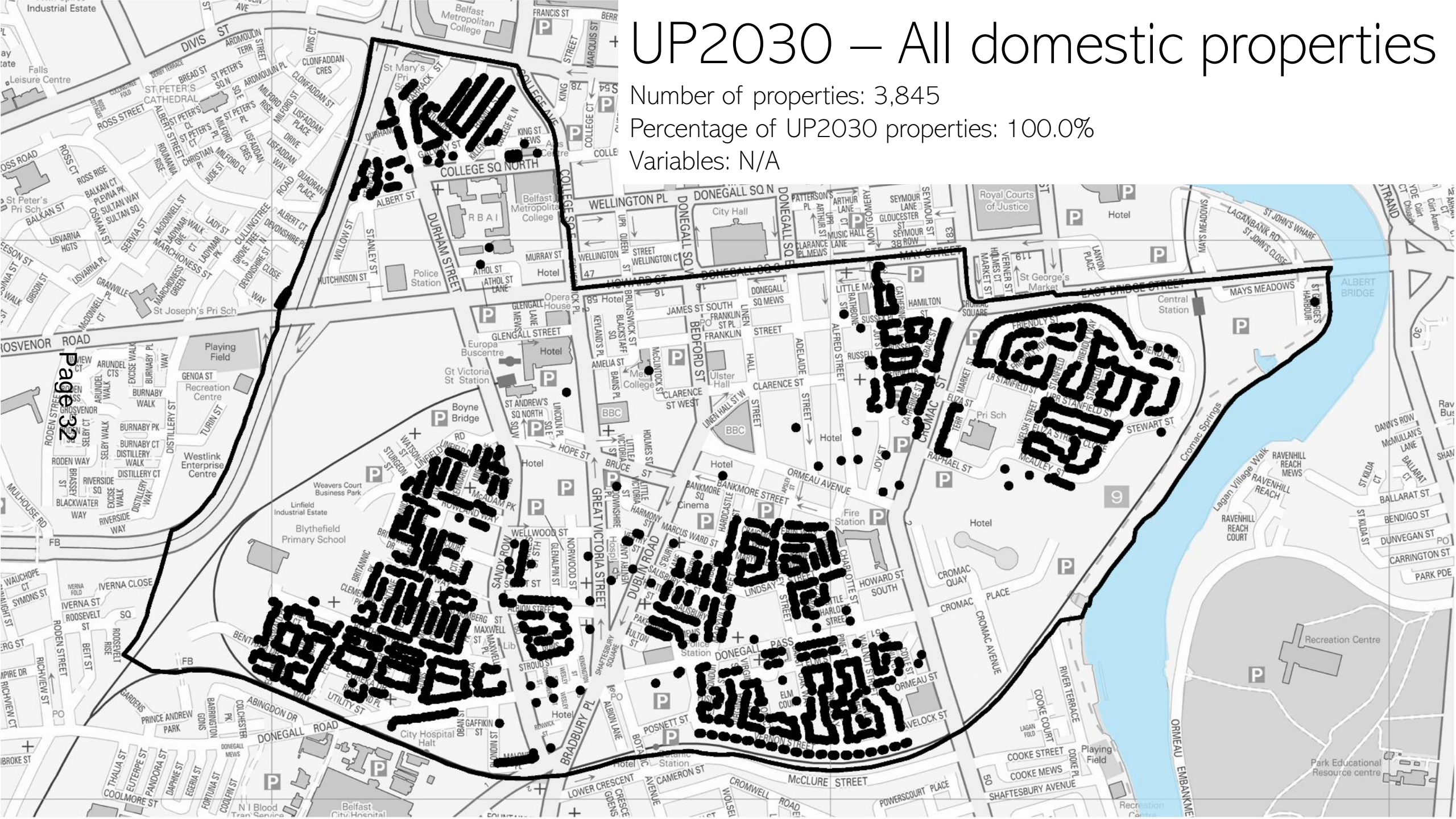
- Impact of business as usual
- Solutions – barriers, opportunities, costs
- Financial & delivery model
- Aggregate plan for the area

UP2030 – All domestic properties

Number of properties: 3,845

Percentage of UP2030 properties: 100.0%

Variables: N/A



Domestic properties

Energy efficiency capacity

- Gas heating; Cavity wall insulation; Fully double glazed
- Gas heating; Cavity wall insulation
- ◆ Gas heating; Fully double glazed
- ▲ Cavity wall insulation; Fully double glazed
- ▼ Gas heating
- ★ Cavity wall insulation
- ⬢ Fully double glazed
- ✚ None

Current EPC rating



- Building structure
- UP2030 boundary

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Findings - Residential



- Cross tenure focus and actions
- Consider emissions, people, health, resilience
- Potential cross tenure pilot retrofit projects
- LAEP data role



Findings - Public



- Face UK targets without funding or support
- Creative approaches to finance & technology
- Explore LAEP data potential
- Joint event with commercial sector



Findings - Commercial



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- Risk of stranded assets
- City strategy required
- Govt policy & data essential



Next Steps

- Feed findings into UP2030
- Further explore potential of LAEP data
- Develop and roll out actions
- Elected member training



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Subject:	Resilience and Sustainability Board - Annual Review
Date:	8 th August 2024
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner
Contact Officer:	Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting 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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☐

No

☐

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	To provide members with an overview of the progress of projects outlined in the Resilience Ambitions document and the additional projects emerging from the Resilience and Sustainability Board.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. This update gathers together projects currently taking place in the city that ultimately aim to support the transition to an inclusive, resilient and low emission economy.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Elected Members will be aware that in December 2020, Belfast launched a Resilience Strategy, a framework to safeguard the city against situations (shocks and stresses) that could threaten its safety and stability over coming years. The development of the Strategy was led by the Belfast Resilience Commissioner, who worked alongside a range of key partners to undertake extensive data, and consultation to inform its development. Belfast became a member of the 100 Resilient Cities Network and was able to draw upon valuable experience, insights and resources to help develop the Resilience Strategy.</p>
3.2	Using a wide range of data and research and, following a two-year programme of engagement across the city, the Resilience Strategy identified a number of shocks and stresses which could make Belfast more vulnerable in the future. The strategy set out 30 strategic ambitions and foundational programmes which it felt would transition Belfast to an inclusive, net-zero emissions, climate resilient economy within a generation. The ambitions and programmes differed in both scale and the direct role that the council could play in assuring delivery.
3.3	The strategy had been developed as a city rather than a council document, to be delivered in partnership with external partners across the city. There has been significant progress made on many of the ambitions outlined within the strategy with regular reporting to the Climate & City Resilience Committee and the Belfast Agenda Resilience & Sustainability Board on ongoing climate activity. Many of the programmes contained within the Resilience Strategy are being progressed, monitored, and reported on individually through the appropriate led organisations with the ultimate goal;
3.4	To transition to an inclusive, net zero-emissions, climate-resilient economy in a generation
3.5	The Ambitions document comprised 30 projects designed to transition the city. The Resilience and Sustainability Board oversee the delivery and implementation of Belfast's Resilience Strategy. The Board have a particular responsibility for climate action, climate resilience and sustainable development across the city. The Board supports the embedding and delivery of sustainable development and resilience across all Belfast Agenda priorities, linking across Boards as appropriate, and reporting on progress to the Community Planning Partnership.
3.6	Since 2020 when the Ambitions document was developed, these projects have progressed and new projects have emerged across the city. The Board's first Annual Review is intended to capture the progress of all of the projects that support the transition.
3.7	For each project, the review captures some basic project information and includes a backward and forward look. Going forward the review will be completed on an annual basis.

3.8	Each Board member completed a template that captures the aims of the project, what has been delivered and their next steps. This template was also completed for new projects, delivered by board members organisations, but not highlighted in the Ambitions document.
3.9	<p>The review has been structured around the updated Belfast Agenda (Our Planet) so that it aligns with current ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change; • Creating a sustainable circular economy; and • Innovating to net zero.
3.10	The report also highlights the UN Sustainable Development Goals that are covered through the list of projects.
3.11	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There was no additional cost in the creation of this document.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None known.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Resilience and Sustainability Board - Annual Review

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CLIMATE ACTION

Ambitions Review

Claire Shortt, Climate Team, BCC

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change

The Belfast Agenda

Continuing the conversation



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Theme 4

Our planet

Creating a sustainable, nature-positive city

Theme 3

Our place

Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city

Theme 2

Our economy

Creating inclusive and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity

Theme 1

Our people and communities

Making life better for all our residents

Theme 5

Compassionate city

Making Belfast a welcoming, caring, fair and inclusive city – leaving no one behind

Theme 4 – Our Planet



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



**Creating a sustainable
circular economy**



Innovating to net zero

Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change



Street Trees and
Ecological
Connectivity

UPSURGE



Sustainable drainage

Living with Water
Programme

Belfast Tidal Flood
Alleviation Scheme

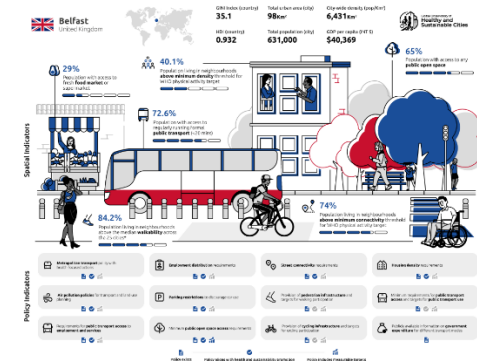
QUB Environmental
Solutions Centre

- Groundswell
- SPACE Project
- Sustainable Cities Challenge




Belfast Heat Pack and
Vulnerability Index

URBANARK




One Million Trees

Aims and Objectives	Looking Back	Looking Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To create an inclusive structure and processes which enable tree planting and the growth of green infrastructure and biodiversity in Belfast.To plant at least one million trees within the next 15 years- delivering a step change in our approach to climate adaptation and environmental improvements.To protect the city and the people of the city by increasing carbon capture, reducing harms from air pollution, weather impact and loss of nature and improving health and well-being. 	<p>To date the programme has planted 91,313 trees across the city and delivered a programme of engagement with schools, businesses and local communities. In 2021 £289,989 was secured from the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund, with at least £78,000 leveraged by partners. The programme has initiated a business engagement and schools programme, a workshop series, established a number of tree nurseries, delivered agroforestry projects, an online engagement platform to identify sites and delivered give a tree a home events with over 4,000 citizens engaged so far.</p> <p>The programme has supported the adoption of a Tree Strategy for the city and developed an iTree eco report identifying over £16m in annual benefits of trees to the city from flood alleviation, air pollution capture and carbon sequestration. The MT programme is part of a UK wide Million Trees club with the Tree Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The current ETF funding ends in May 2024 - priority identifying new programmes of funding and investment to continue the partnership.A Tree Equity map will allow planting of trees to align with areas most in need. An opportunities assessment of potential sites is under development.Council is currently seeking funding to develop a tree warden programme that will focus on maintenance, monitoring and management of newly planted sites.Developing a pipeline of potential planting programmes and supporting nursery development.Continued engagement and dissemination of research - evidence base to support the delivery of climate adaptation in Belfast through tree planting and stewardship.
Partners BCC, The Belfast Hills Partnership, The National Trust, The Woodland Trust, The Conservation Volunteers, Belfast HSCT, Belfast Harbour, DfI , QUB, Lisburn City and Castlereagh Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Council, Education Authority NI, Translink, Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group, The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Electricity, Climate NI, Ulster Wildlife, DAERA, Choice Housing.	Contact Alan Wardle, Belfast City Council: WardleA@belfastcity.gov.uk	




Sustainability and Food

Aims and Objectives	Looking Back	Looking Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a diverse, robust, and sustainable cross-sector food partnership with a long-term food strategy. Develop a range of local policies and food access initiatives to effectively promote access to sustainable and healthy food for all. To establish a diverse and connected local good food movement with sustainable food enterprises, backed by local catering and procurement practices; and To develop systemic responses to address the negative climate and nature impacts of the local food system. 	<p>In June 2022 a Theory of Change workshop was attended by 32 organisations, agencies, government bodies, businesses and charitable and voluntary voices to identify a series of priorities for a new Sustainable Food Partnership.</p> <p>30 Stakeholder interviews and desktop research was also used to inform a comprehensive baseline of work currently underway in the city.</p> <p>A research report and 1 year action plan was developed, and funding secured for a part time Sustainable Food Coordinator for 2 years from 2022-2024 from BCC and Sustainable Food Places to help setup and run the Partnership. A governance structure agreed February 2023. In June 2023 - new Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership launched.</p> <p>May 2023, SFP worked in partnership with QUB students to identify solutions for building better local and sustainable food options in Belfast City Centre, with concepts presented back to the Partnership.</p> <p>The Draft Belfast Agenda Refresh 2023-2027 embeds sustainable food work as a priority. Growing sites - currently under construction (Lower Botanic) whilst a second has applied for planning permission (Binkil).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop collaborative working across the Sustainable Food Partners, Network and BCC Coordination Group. Secure a full time coordinator role to help run the SFP and develop a growing strategy Adopt the Food Poverty Action Plan by Dec 2023 and establish a new city-wide Food Poverty Working Group. Achieve a Bronze Award for the city from Sustainable Food Places by December 2023. develop the evidence base of the influence that Belfast's food system has on climate change and its role in reducing emissions and building greater food resilience Develop a codeligned Sustainable Food Policy and 3 year Strategic Plan for the city. secure investment in a sustainable food programme, run a participatory budgeting programme-sustainable food
Partners The Leader Social Supermarket, Footprint Women's Centre, Nourish NI, Nature Play NI, Queen's University Belfast, Bryson Recycling, Area Partnerships, New Leaf Compost, Public Health Agency, Food Ethics Council, Hggy Organics, Binkil (Co-Chair), UJLST Belfast, Belfast Health Development Unit, Fish City, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, Social Farms and Gardens, Ulster University, Two Sisters, Belfast Healthy Cities, L4McKe, BCC.	Contact Maura Oagley (Sustainable Food Coordinator) Adaptation and Resilience Advisor, Belfast City Council. maurao@belfastcity.gov.uk	



Sustainable Drainage

Aims and Objectives	Looking Back	Looking Forward
<p>This Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan seeks to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect against flooding by managing the flow of water through a catchment from source to sea; Enhance the environment through effective wastewater management and provision of blue/green spaces to benefit local communities; and Grow the economy by providing the necessary capacity in our drainage and wastewater management systems to facilitate new development projects including house building. 	<p>Living With Water in Belfast, an Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management in Greater Belfast, was ratified by the NI Executive and published by the Department for Infrastructure in November 2021.</p> <p>Living With Water in Belfast is a long term plan that promotes partnership working to develop and deliver integrated sustainable solutions for the benefit of society.</p> <p>Initial estimates indicate that implementation of the Plan could cost around £1.4 billion over the next 12 years, with over £1.2 billion of this needed to upgrade our Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) and sewerage networks.</p> <p>Approximately £200m is also needed for investment in blue/green infrastructure which includes more natural drainage solutions to help manage the flow of water through the urban areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the management of such a significant programme, the Living With Water in Belfast study area has been divide into nine smaller catchment areas. Integrated Catchment Delivery Plans (CDPs) will be developed and implemented for each of the 9 areas. The CDPs will include river flood alleviation projects, upgrades to sewerage networks and WwTW and integrated blue/green initiatives. Development and delivery of the CDPs will be taken forward by four Catchment Delivery Groups made up of officials from DfI, NI Water, NIEA and other delivery partners.
Partners NI Water, Belfast City Council, NIEA, DAERA, Utility Regulator NI	Contact Living With Water Programme lww@niwater.gov.uk	



Creating a Sustainable Circular Economy

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Belfast Local Area Energy Plan	Leveraging on the Belfast Region City Deal	Belfast Destination Hub - A Low Carbon Exemplar for the City	A Bolder Vision for Belfast	Belfast Harbour – Green Port	Translink - A Zero Emissions city bus fleet by 2030
Electric vehicle infrastructure	Belfast Electric Vehicle Strategy	Translink - Developing a Hydrogen Eco System	Eastside Greenways	UP2030	Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub
Fuel Poverty	NIHE Retrofit Programme	Solar PV analysis	Re-wind	LQ BID Sustainable District	Sustainable Tourism



Training and skills for an inclusive low-carbon economy



Translink - Developing a Hydrogen Eco System

Aims and Objectives	Looking Back	Looking Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To procure and place into service within the Belfast Metro Network, 23 zero emission Hydrogen Fuel Cell double deck buses by the end of 2022. To install the necessary hydrogen refuelling infrastructure to facilitate refuelling of hydrogen fuel cell buses. To upgrade depots to enable safe and efficient maintenance of hydrogen powered buses. To aid, Translink's plans to target a 50% reduction in GHG emissions, per passenger km, by 2030. To support a net zero public transport system by 2040. 	<p>The project was supported by funding from the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) as well as DfT. As well as the buses, the first Hydrogen Refuelling Station (HRS) in Ireland was commissioned in 2021, as well as an upgrade to the maintenance facility to ensure safe and efficient maintenance of the buses.</p> <p>Translink have implemented a further Zero Emission Programme involving collaboration with Wrightbus on development, build and delivery of 100 Zero Emission buses, which included 20 Streetdeck Hydroliner fuel cell double deck buses.</p> <p>To support these vehicles the Project also undertook significant work to introduce a further innovative hydrogen refuelling station with Logan Energy and associated upgrades to maintenance facilities in Newtownabbey Depot.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to decarbonise Belfast's transport system through modal shift to Public Transport and Active Travel from the private car. Continue to work with the industry to ensure that high volumes of locally produced green hydrogen can be obtained to enable further roll out of fuel cell buses. Carry out further comprehensive route modelling assessments to inform the future bus technology choice. Continue to assess the total cost of ownership for zero, low or convertible technologies. Perform depot and operational assessments to determine suitability of the different zero emission technologies. Lead the transport transformation in NI creating public transport that attracts people from private cars for a better quality of life for all. This decarbonisation programme poses an opportunity to help position Northern Ireland as a market leader in renewable energies such as the Hydrogen economy. Further zero emission buses to ensure Belfast has a net zero bus network by 2030.
		
Partners Wrightbus, Logan Energy, Power NI		Contact Ian Campbell - ian.campbell@translink.co.uk

Sustainable Tourism

Aims and Objectives	Looking Back	Looking Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To measure Belfast's sustainability performance at a destination level To benchmark the city's performance against leading destinations globally To identify priority areas for improvement and development To put in place interventions to accelerate sustainability practices within the sector To build sustainability capacity, culture and buy-in across the industry To help to position Belfast as a responsible and sustainable destination to visit, meet and live. 	<p>Since 2020 Belfast has moved from 47th/48th to 8th in the world (84.01%) across 73 destinations globally. It is the only city in Ireland to make the top 10 and only one of two UK destinations in the top 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VB is now the 3rd highest performing Destination Marketing and Management organisation in the GDS index with 93% Belfast's industry/supplier performance has been transformed from 41% in 2021 to 73% in 2022 Successful Green Tourism certification and acceleration of sustainability practices. 80% of Belfast's hotel bedrooms will be sustainably certified in 2023 from a baseline position of 23%. VB won the Global GDS Innovation award in 2022 for its 'Changing the Menu. For Good' project which has raised over £20,000 for food banks and homeless charities in the city in 8 months. Cruise Belfast (VB-BH) developed its first cruise sustainability plan. Visit Belfast ICC Belfast and Eventful won the ABPCO Best Equality Diversity and Inclusion Award for the Harkin Summit in 2022. 	<p>We aim to improve our scores and maintain our Top 10 position.</p> <p>Key priority areas currently being scoped are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of an Isla Trace tool to allow the measurement of carbon of business events coming into the city and plan to design and reduce emissions. A carbon baseline study to measure the footprint of Belfast's tourism industry. The study would establish evidence based targets and roadmap to decarbonise. Reviewing and expanding Changing the Menu. For Good. Measurement and reporting of social impact across the industry.
Partners Visit Belfast, Belfast City Council, Global Destination Sustainability Movement, Green Tourism, https://www.gds.earthdestination/Belfast/2022/		Contact Rachael McGuickin, Director of Business Development, Sustainability and Transformation, Visit Belfast rachaelmcguickin@visitbelfast.com



Linen Quarter as Northern Ireland's first sustainable district

Aims and Objectives 68	Looking Back 106	Looking Forward 151
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop sustainable transportation options and promote active travel. To minimised environmental impact and promote clean energy sources. To promote efficient use of resources and reduce waste. To increase awareness of climate adaptation and mitigation. To enhance overall well-being and quality of life for all. To ensure all employees have access to fair and just compensation. To create a vibrant and safe social space for all. 	<p>Projects delivered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruiting and onboarding of a Healthy and Sustainable Manager Successfully organised a health week in June 2023 attended by 330 participants. Delivered climate awareness training for levy payers. LQ BID designed and installed Flaxx (Brunswick St) and parklets (Linenhall and Bedford St) Launched the roll out of our Cycling UK 75% subsidized accreditation fee for levy payers and accompanying social media campaign. Accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation. This will be followed by an implementation plan in partnership with the Living Wage foundation Regenerated Bankmore Square, including managed habitat. Summer programme filled with inclusive social activities that has been attended by 800 participants. 	<p>Our target for the next phase relies on stakeholder engagement and a conducive public policy that supports and prioritises sustainability.</p> <p>Transportation and Mobility: increased Cycling Friendly Employers accreditation from Cycling UK, connected cycling lanes and more pedestrian zones for increased safe social spaces.</p> <p>Social Outcome: develop long-term planning solutions that are tailored to the community.</p> <p>Challenges and Support Needed: Several challenges include a lack of engagement and resistance to change. The key to overcoming these barriers lies in stakeholder engagement and prioritising sustainability in policy making.</p> <p>Moving Forward: Greater collaboration needed to fully deliver our bold vision of a sustainable district - including local and private participation. We will continue to provide improvements while addressing environmental, social, and economic sustainability challenges. Our aim is to collectively contribute to the creation of a district that is environmentally responsible, economically viable, socially inclusive, and resilient to the future. www.linenquarter.org</p>
Partners Power NI, Cycling UK, RiverRidge , Living Wage Foundation, GEMS NI, Belfast City Council (UP2030), Climate NI, British Heart Foundation, DfI, DfC ,		Contact Regeneration Christiaan@linenquarter.org Healthy and sustainability Lawrence@linenquarter.org High level LQ initiatives Chris@linenquarter.org

Innovating to Net Zero

Delivery of
Local Area
Energy Plan

Net Zero Tech
Park

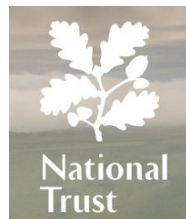
Green Energy
Project

Green
Shipping
Corridor Study

Links to the sustainable development goals and indicators



Board Membership



THANK YOU



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Subject:	Net Zero Belfast Pathfinder project - update
Date:	8 th August 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact 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?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

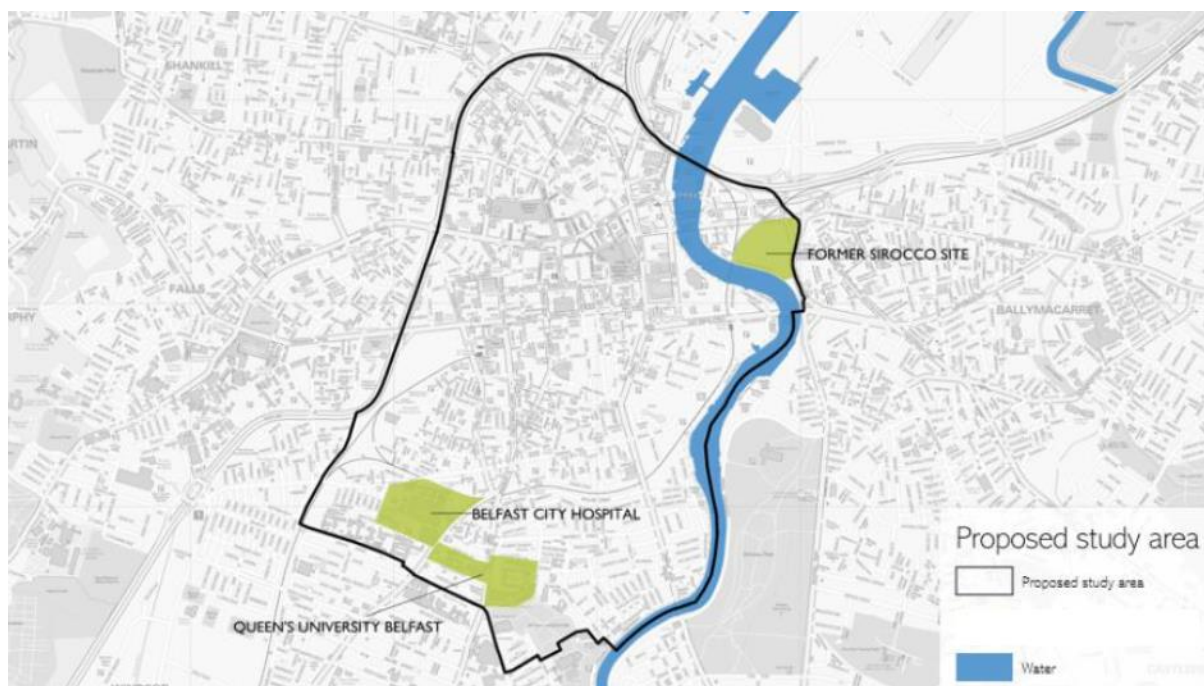
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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	To provide an update on the Belfast Net Zero Pathfinder project which is de-risking two strategic projects to decarbonise the built environment in Belfast: a heat network and a solar PV project.
1.1	
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>To note the contents of the report, specifically that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. the one year project commenced on 1st June 2024 and will be implemented over in partnership with the Energy Systems Catapult; II. the project will de-risk and progress two priority projects (heat network and a solar PV project) from the Belfast Local Energy Action Plan (LAEP) and Queen's Island Decarbonisation Plan; III. a Project Assessment is currently underway (to scope the projects) with a market readiness assessment and business model development due to start in August; IV. Alongside this work, two separate projects are progressing to determine the potential for adoption of rooftop solar PV and to provide Council with an understanding of the technical and commercial factors surrounding the introduction of a low carbon heat network in Belfast; and V. Shared Island funding has also been secured with Cork under Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) Strand 1A to install solar PV on Donegal Pass Community Centre.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Context
3.2	The Belfast Local Energy Action Plan (LAEP) and Queen's Island Decarbonisation Plan (developed by the Energy Systems Catapult with a local energy consortium) were presented to elected members in April 2024. The LAEP included five outline priority decarbonisation projects as cost effective and deliverable interventions that could deliver significant energy savings and emission reductions while also unlocking growth and job opportunities across the city. These comprised: domestic retrofit, heat network, solar PV on public buildings, solar car port with EV charging and oil boiler to heat pump transition. There were also two modelled scenarios for Queen's Island (a Heat network and Solar Photovoltaic Carports).
3.3	Members gave approval to establish a LAEP delivery group to support the delivery of decarbonisation projects across the city; and establish a community of practice to ensure that the data generated by the modelling is fully utilised by key stakeholders across the City. This work is underway and a report will be brought back to update elected members in due course.
3.4	Members were also notified in March 2024 that funding (£150K) had been secured from the Innovate UK Net Zero Living Pathfinders competition to de-risk two of the priority projects identified by the city's LAEP and the Decarbonisation Plan for Queens Island area of Belfast. The two projects are a heat network and a solar PV project which are assessed to have the greatest potential to reduce emissions from the city whilst also delivering significant socio-economic benefits for local communities.
3.5	The Belfast Net Zero Pathfinder project enables Belfast to act immediately upon delivery of the LAEP and QIDP to progress two projects using a whole systems approach to decarbonise a local area. The project commenced on 1 st June 2024 and will be implemented over the coming year in partnership with the Energy Systems Catapult.
	Overview of the project
3.6	<p>The project will focus on overcoming the following non-technical barriers to the delivery of the two decarbonisation projects identified in the LAEP and QIDP, specifically around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low maturity / readiness of market/supply chain to progress net zero innovation;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity of the Council to progress decarbonisation projects; • appropriate business models (e.g. off-taker arrangements) to enable an attractive value proposition to investors; • optimum legal and commercial arrangements for Council to engage with private sector to enable net zero projects; and • potential public resistance to decarbonisation projects and their impact on the local area. <p>3.7 By accelerating and de-risking the delivery of two priority decarbonisation projects identified in the LAEP and QIDP, the project will support ongoing efforts by the Council and its partners to reduce emissions from the city's built environment which is the largest source of emissions in the City. Project activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Assessment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determine objectives for two priority decarbonisation projects (heat network and solar PV) from the LAEP / QIDP b. Analysis of non-technical barriers to delivery (above) 2. Assess the maturity / readiness of market actors (potential off-takers, investors etc) to engage and deliver low-carbon projects 3. Develop capacity of key stakeholders including Council to take forward LAEP / QIDP outputs 4. Commercial viability and routes to finance <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Business model analysis (value and finance flows) b. Define optimum legal and commercial arrangements for Belfast City Council (BCC) to catalyse investment - this will enhance the capacity of BCC to engage the private sector in developing and delivering complex clean energy projects. 5. Identify opportunities for downstream investments to upskill and empower excluded groups and communities through consultation and engagement 6. Assess economic, environmental and social impacts of the interventions <p>Progress</p> <p>3.7 The Energy Systems catapult have commenced the Project Assessment which will scope out each of the two projects in more detail. This will provide the necessary information for the subsequent work packages. Procurement of a commercial and legal firm to deliver 4b is also underway with an initial workshop planned for August. The market readiness assessment and business model development will also commence in August.</p> <p>3.8 Alongside this work, an initial district heat network feasibility study is being commissioned to provide Council with an understanding of the technical and commercial factors surrounding the introduction of a low carbon heat network in Belfast. This work is being overseen by an internal Heat Working Group which has an overarching remit to inform and lead on the development of the Councils approach to incentivising the development of a heat network in Belfast. The work will take place from August through to November and will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy Demand and Supply Analysis – this will include energy profiling of the target area (see Appendix A) to identify key anchor loads; 2. Heat Mapping and Profiling – to identify opportunities for the supply and use of heat; 3. Energy Masterplanning – to identify promising demand clusters, potential locations for an energy centre, private wire opportunities, provide an optimised solution and initial route map as well as an initial techno-economic assessment; and
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<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p>	<p>4. Heat Mapping & Masterplanning Outputs – summarised in a technical report with proposed next steps.</p> <p>A separate project is also progressing to determine the potential for the adoption of rooftop solar PV in the same target area. This is a follow-on project from an earlier solar PV study of selected council buildings presented to members in August 2023. The results of this study will be presented to members once the work has been completed.</p> <p>Shared Island funding has also been secured with Cork under Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) Strand 1A to install solar PV on Donegal Pass Community Centre which was selected as it had the strongest potential for generation and lowest payback (as evidenced in the solar PV report by GIA).</p> <p>These four strands of work are being coordinated by the Climate Team working closely with Property and Projects, Legal Services and Procurement.</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this point</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None known</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendix A: Target area for heat network study</p>

Appendix A: Target area for heat network study



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CATAPULT
Energy Systems

Belfast

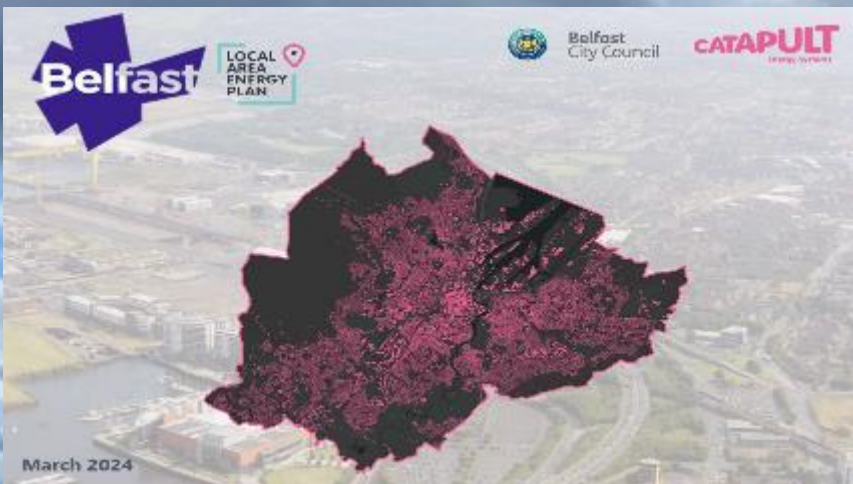
**CLIMATE
ACTION**

Belfast Net Zero Pathfinders
Aug 24

Climate and City Resilience Committee

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change







Retrofit



District heat network

Priority decarbonisation projects



Rooftop solar PV



Households on oil transition to low carbon heating



Solar car port with EV charging

Retrofit Hub

Heat network – Market engagement

Heat mapping, masterplaning and feasibility

UP2030 project

1st June 2024

31st May 2024



Belfast Net Zero Pathfinder de-risking project (solar / heat network)

Form LAEP
delivery group
and a data
Group

Use the LAEP to build
a pipeline of net-zero
aligned investments

Measure the decarbonisation and social co-
benefits



Engage citizens

The Project will de-risk two of the priority projects identified in the city's **Local Area Energy Plan** and the **Decarbonisation Plan for Queens Island** area of Belfast : 1) **heat network**, and 2) **a solar PV project**.

Key outputs

- Project assessment – July
- Market readiness report - November
- Business model analysis - January
- Legal / commercial arrangements – May
- Opportunities assessment – April
- Impact assessment – June
- Final report - June

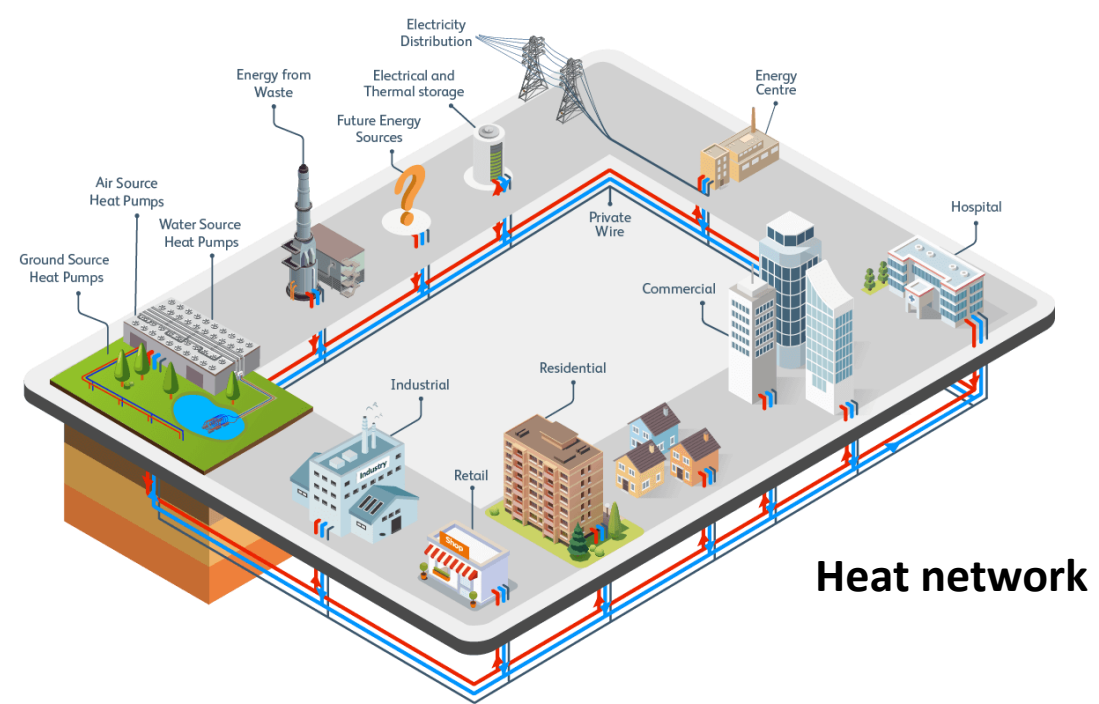
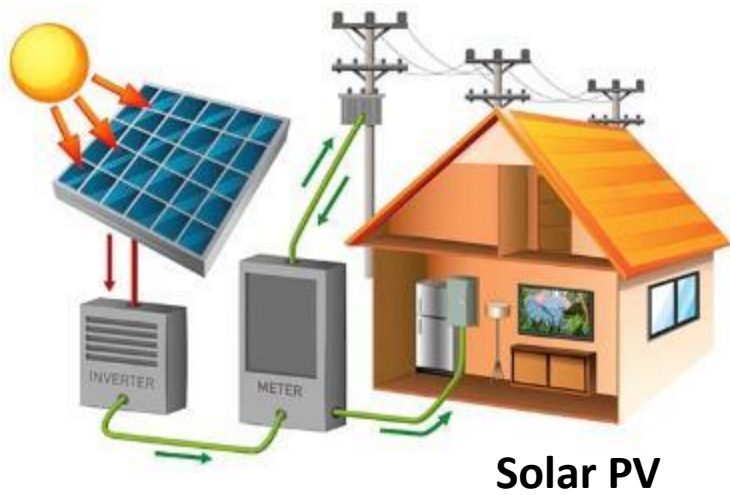


Belfast
City Council



Project components

1. **Project Assessment** and analysis of non-technical barriers to delivery
2. **Market analysis** - assess the maturity / readiness of market actors (potential off-takers, investors etc) to engage and deliver low-carbon projects
3. Develop **capacity** of key stakeholders including Council to take forward LAEP / QIDP outputs
4. **Commercial viability** and **routes to finance**
 - Business model analysis (value and finance flows)
 - Define optimum legal and commercial arrangements for Belfast City Council (BCC) to catalyse investment
5. Identify opportunities for downstream investments to **upskill and empower excluded groups and communities** through consultation and engagement
6. Assess **economic, environmental and social impacts** of the interventions



Project Assessment

Market analysis

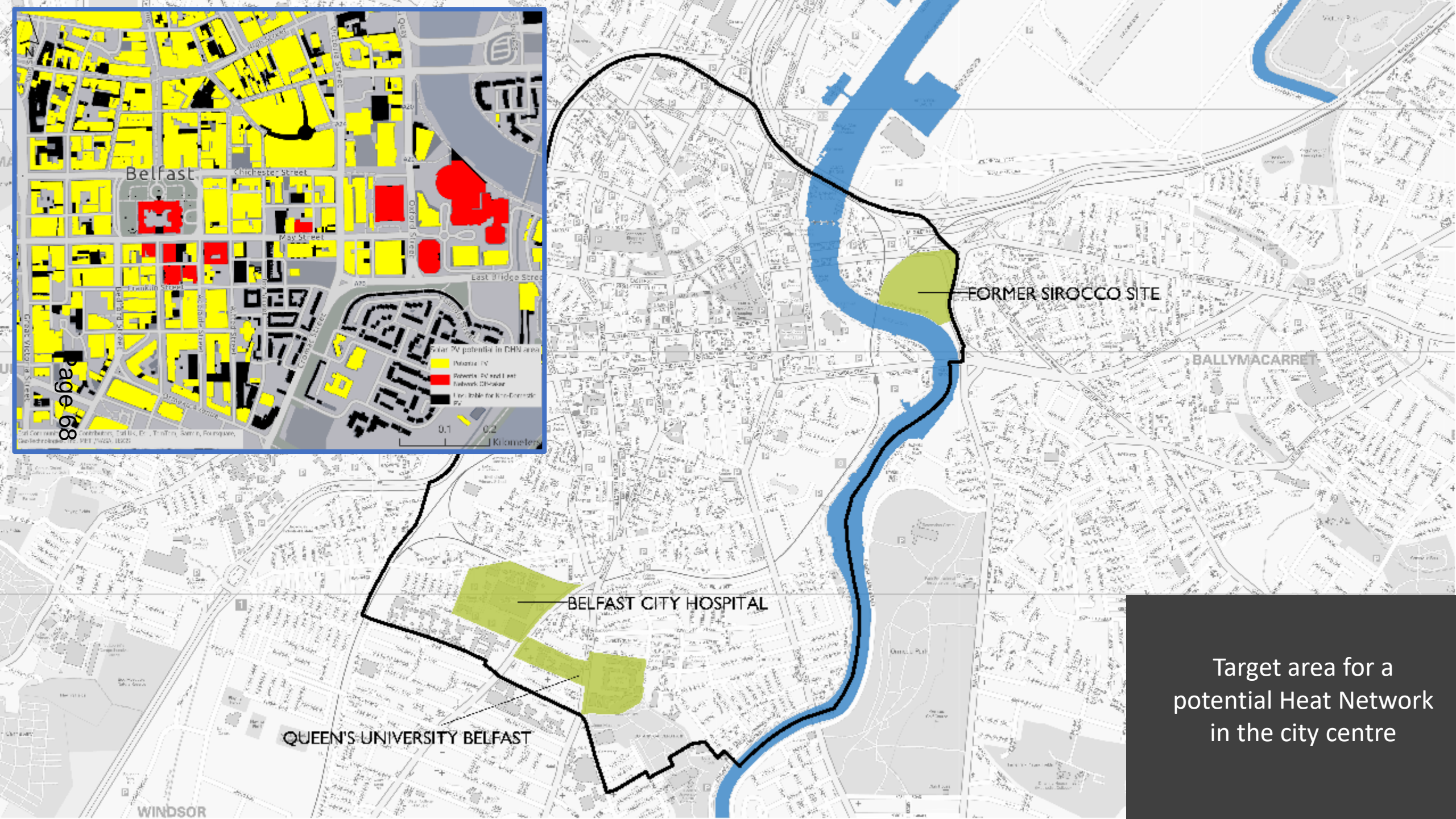
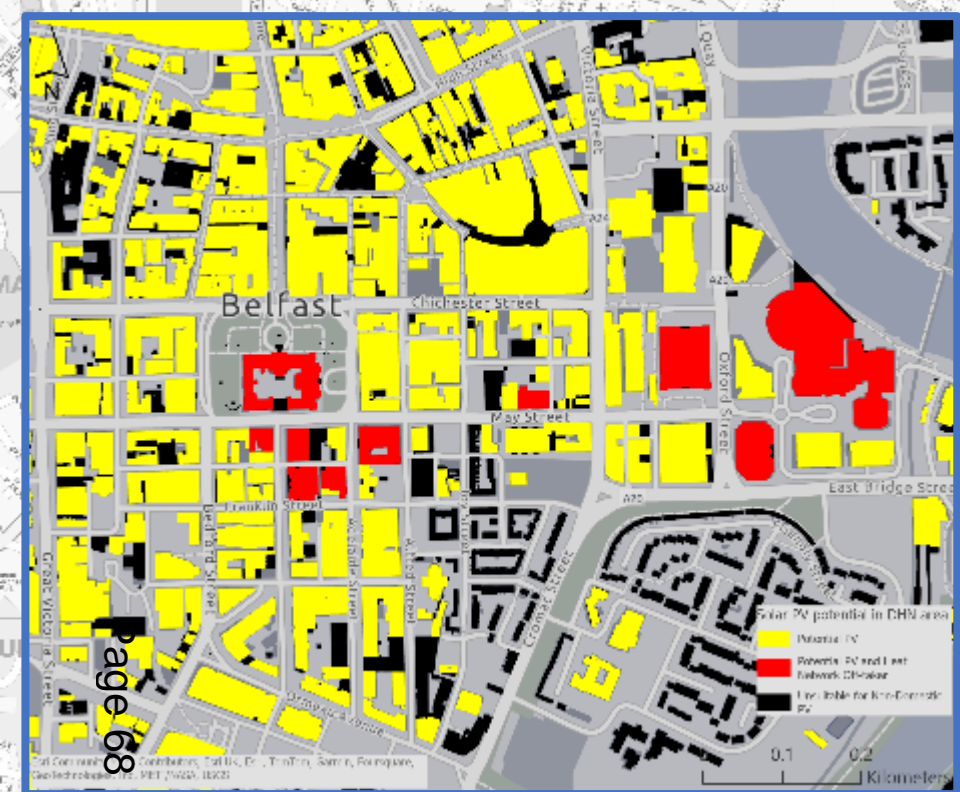
Capacity development

Business model analysis

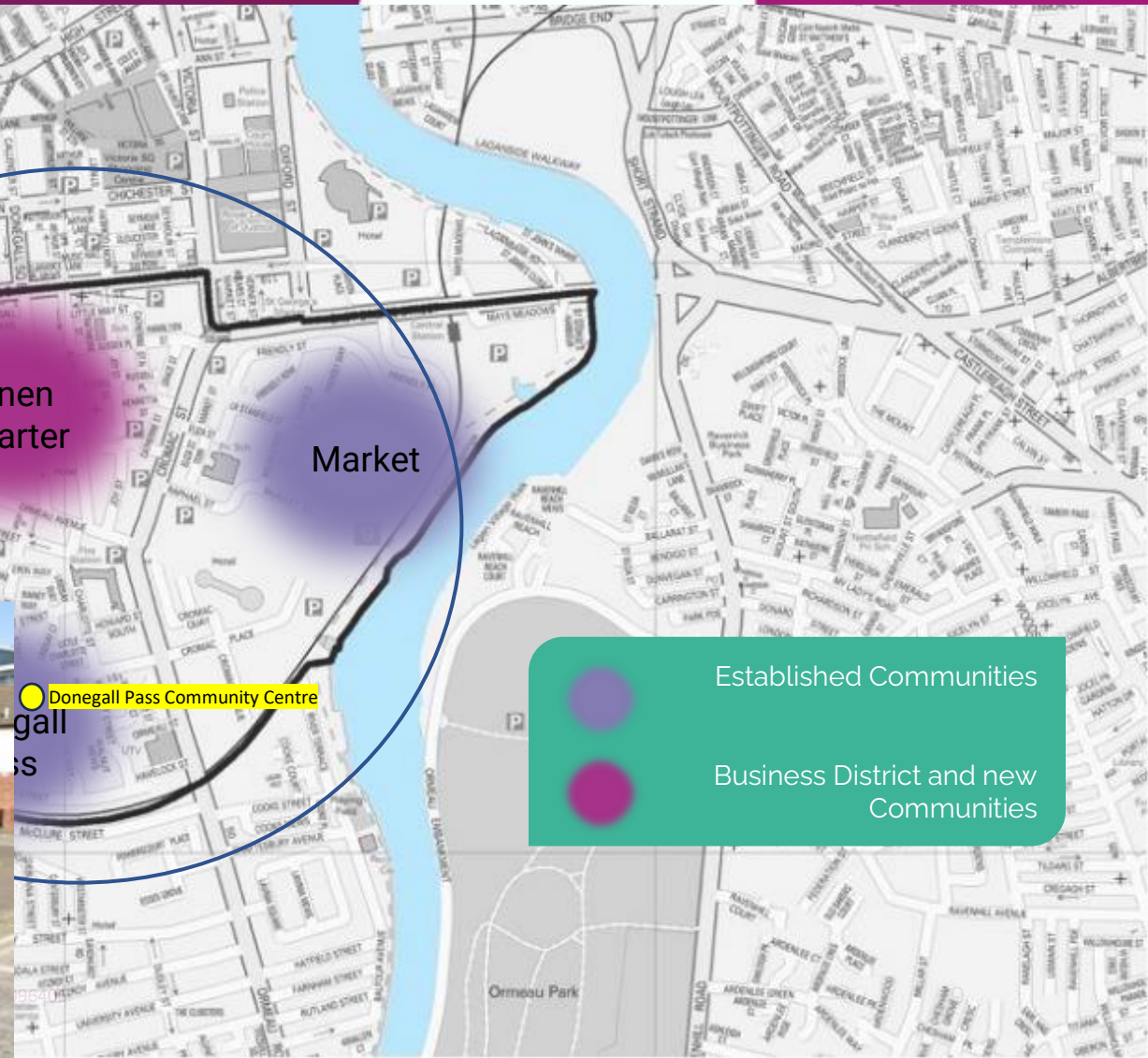
Optimum legal and commercial arrangements

Upskilling and empowering excluded groups and communities

Assessment of economic, environmental and social impacts



Target area for a
potential Heat Network
in the city centre



Barrack Street

Linen Quarter

Market

Sandy Row

Donegall Pass Community Centre

Established Communities

Business District and new Communities

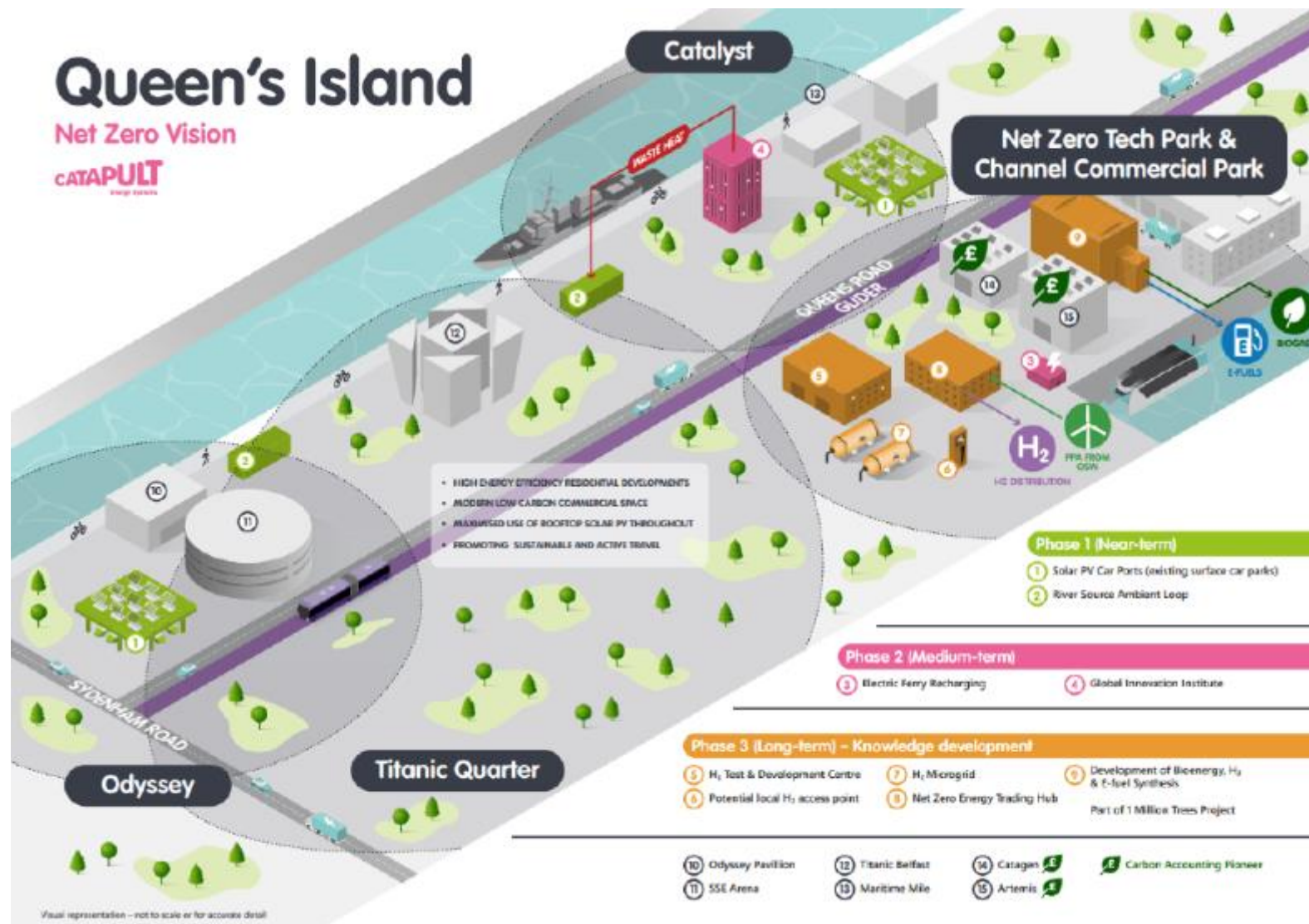
Belfast

Queen's Island Decarbonisation Plan











Solar car port Odyssey

Heat network

Solar car port Catalyst

- Option to extend network to future potential waste heat source (Global Innovation Institute)
- Option to extend/replicate ambient loop for existing Catalyst buildings
- Option to supply domestic hot water, heating or cooling to future site developments
- Support development of Net Zero Technology Park

Next steps

Inception phase

(Procurement, M&E system,
Technical Assistance – Involve /
SPACE)

Project Assessment and analysis of non- technical barriers to delivery

Market analysis

Assess the maturity / readiness of
market actors (potential off-
takers, investors etc) to engage
and deliver low-carbon projects

June 24

July 24

Nov 24

Integration with ongoing work on solar, Heat network, UP2030, Retrofit Hub

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Subject:	Shared Island Funding Update
Date:	8 August 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

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1. Information relating to any individual
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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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

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 an update in relation to the Shared Island Initiative, and the role of officers in securing funding opportunities for the Council and also promoting these opportunities with organisations across the City.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that an online information session was held for local organisations on 22 July 2024, with presentations on the Shared Island Initiative, Shared Island Civic Society Fund and Reconciliation Fund provided by officials from the Shared Island Unit (SIU) and Department of Foreign Affairs (DfA), the presentation slides are provided at Appendix A for Members information; • two successful bids between Belfast City Council and Cork City Council under the Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) Strand 1A; and • that local organisations have recently been successful in received funding under the Shared Island Creative Youth Partnerships funding.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee will recall that it has received two presentations and updates on the Shared Island Initiative, in June 2022 and February 2023, delivered by the SIU which operates within the Department of the Taoiseach. As well as these presentations the Committee has received updates on Belfast City Council Shared Island projects in September 2023 and February 2024.
3.2	<p>Shared Island initiative</p> <p>The Shared Island initiative is a whole of Government priority to engage with all communities and political traditions to build consensus around a shared future on the island, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. The Shared Island initiative is backed by the Government's Shared Island Fund, with at least €1 billion out to 2030 ring-fenced for delivery of all-island investment commitments and objectives in the Programme for Government and revised National Development Plan 2021-30; and informed by a programme of engagement with people across the island through the Shared Island Dialogue series and a comprehensive policy research programme, which provides a stronger evidence base and analysis of the island of Ireland across a range of economic, environmental and social areas.</p>

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p>Shared Island Civic Society Fund Round 3 - Online Information Session</p> <p>Following the announcement by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DfA) of a third round of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund at the end of June. Officers engaged with departmental officials to arrange an online information session for Belfast organisations to provide guidance to local organisations on the process for applying to this fund, which closed on 2 August 2024.</p> <p>The information in relation to this funding opportunity and online session was also circulated to all elected members to disseminate across their local community networks. Allowing for the holiday period this session was well attended with a number of local organisations represented. During this session officials from the DfA and SIU delivered presentations on the Shared Island Initiative, Shared Island Civic Society Fund and the Reconciliation Fund.</p> <p>Community Climate Action Fund Strand 1A</p> <p>The Committee is also invited to note the recent confirmation that two Shared Island bids between the Council and Cork City Council under CCAF Strand 1A have been successful. The successful projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar-Powered Community Services in Cork and Belfast €87,024 total for both cities with €46,620 to install solar PV on Donegal Pass Community Centre. • Delivery of capital-only community gardening and growing elements of the food proposal €30K in total (€15 for Belfast City Council) <p>Following these awards officers will engage with partners to progress the delivery of these projects.</p> <p>Creative Youth on Shared Island</p> <p>The Committee are also invited to note that last week the Taoiseach, Simon Harris TD, and Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, announced the awarding of funding to six successful Creative Youth on a Shared Island projects as part of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. The successful projects were created as a result of direct consultation with children and young people. Successful projects involving Belfast organisations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Shared Island Songwriting Project,” a series of residential 'hot houses' with children and young people from Laois, Offaly, and across Northern Ireland. Led by Music Generation Laois the project will culminate in the creation of twelve original compositions that will be showcased at festivals and arts centres.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macnas’ “Future Parade,” bringing together young people from Belfast and Galway for a series of workshops and residential experiences to create parades that celebrate their collective creativity. • Extern Northern Ireland, working with twenty young people from Greater Belfast and Dublin, who have multiple and complex needs by providing a safe space for them to tell their stories using Theatre of the Oppressed techniques. • “Creative Connections - Shared Writing Across the Island” with Fighting Words, which will engage children and young people aged 15-24 from communities up and down the island through connected creative writing initiatives, including scriptwriting, poetry, prose, and songwriting.
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix A – Presentations from online Information Session, 22 July 2024



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Shared Island
Initiative

Shared Island Initiative

Page 79

22 July 2024

Shared Island initiative - overview



- **Programme for Government - Shared Island chapter:**
 - *“Work with all communities and traditions on the island to build consensus around a shared future, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement.”*
 - **Significantly-enhanced level of ambition** for collaborative all-island investment cooperation (PfG and National Development Plan 2021-2030).
 - Deepening **cooperation and connections** across the island.
- **Good Friday Agreement** - relationships (N/S and E/W), institutions, principles, commitments.
- **Whole of Government approach:**
 - Shared Island unit in D/Taoiseach driving and coordinating; projects and programmes delivered by Government Departments and Agencies.
 - Working through **all-island partnerships** with NI, UK, Local Authority, Education and Civil Society partners.

Shared Island initiative - elements

Building a Shared Island

- Deliver long-standing and new cross-border investments

Dialogue on a shared future

- 16 events, 3,500+ citizens from all communities, traditions and regions.
- Youth Forum of 80 young people meeting over a year to agree vision and values for a shared future.

Research programme

- Evidence and analysis on economic, social, cultural, and political considerations for the island.



Shared Island Fund

- Deliver **strategic investment objectives on Shared Island** in the Programme for Government and revised National Development Plan.
- Allocations by Government to Ministers to take forward projects.
- Working **with Executive, UK, Local Authority, Education, Civil Society** partners.
- **Portfolio approach** - Government, Executive, UK Government, Local Authority, EU funding sources to projects – e.g. Ulster Canal.
- Departments operating competitive **funding calls for all-island programmes**.

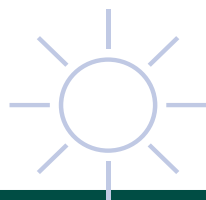
Shared Island Fund –Allocations



Shared Island
Initiative



A more sustainable island



- €7m for all-island **bioeconomy** demonstrators
- €11m for **cross-border peatland restoration** and biosecurity initiative
- €15m for **sports club EV charging point** installation

A more prosperous island



- €44.5m for teaching building at **Ulster University Derry**
- €20m for **Co-Centres for Research and Innovation** through Science Foundation Ireland
- €7.6m **collaboration** by Wild Atlantic Way and Causeway Coastal Route

A more connected island

- €3m Shared Island **Civic Society Fund**
- €7.4m for **Arts investment projects**
- €6m Shared Island dimension to **Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027**

Shared Island - latest announcements

- 20 February announcement by Government
- €800m in total for SI investment priorities:
 - €600m to **A5 upgrade** and progressing related N2 and Donegal TEN-T schemes.
- **Hourly frequency rail service Dublin – Belfast.**
- Contribution to **Casement Park redevelopment.**
- Construction of **Narrow Water Bridge.**
- Shared Island **Enterprise scheme.**
- Cooperation on **reducing educational disadvantage.**
- Renewal of **Battle of the Boyne** visitor experience.



Shared Island
Initiative

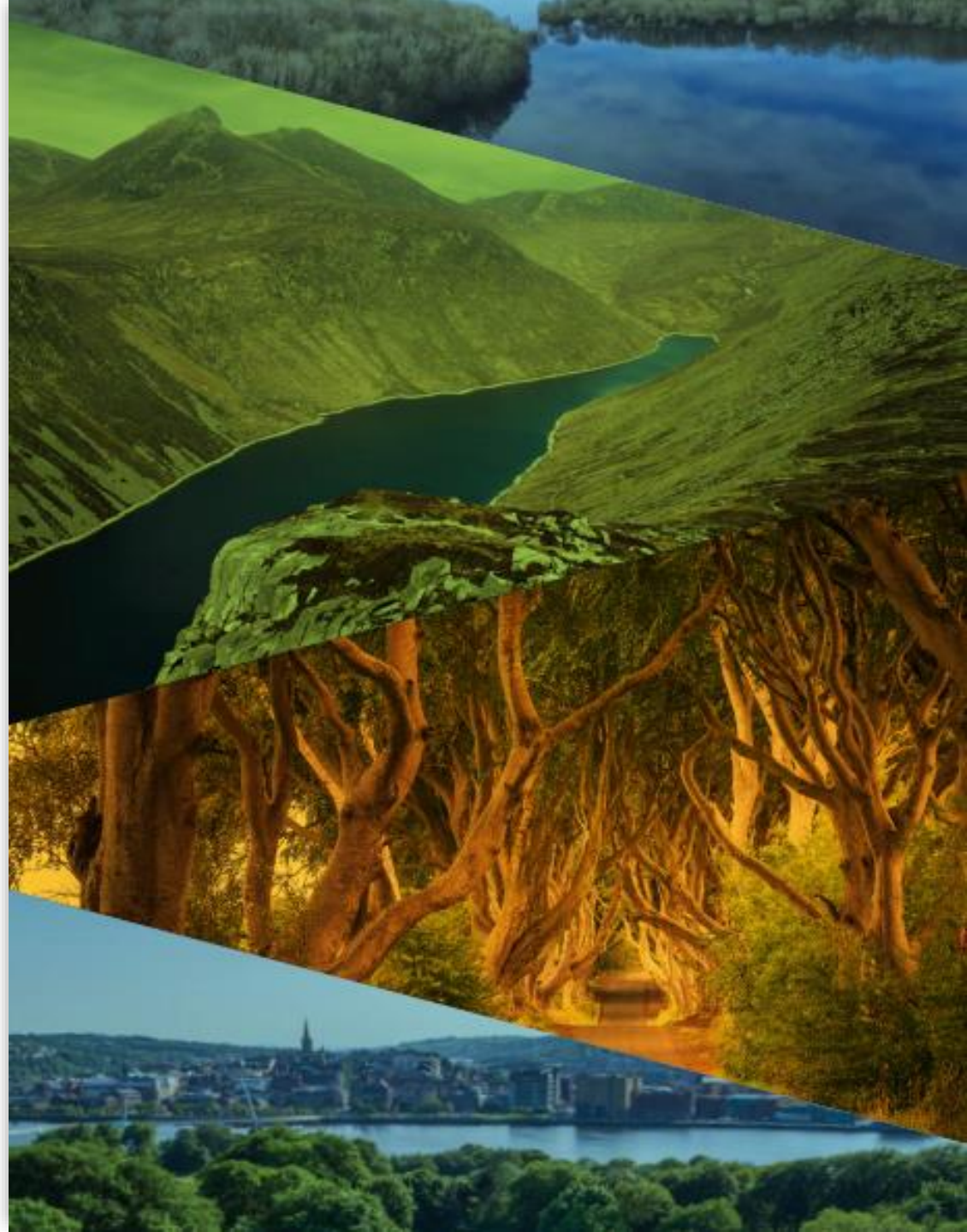


Local Authorities

Creative Ireland programme (€6m)

**Shared Island Local Authority
Development** funding scheme (€5m)

**Shared Island Community Climate
Action** Programme (€3m)



Shared Island dimension to the Creative Ireland programme

Overview

- €6 million for a Shared Island dimension to the government's Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. Elements include:
- **Cruinniú na nÓg 2024:** Events programmed on an all-island basis.
- **Creative Communities on a Shared Island:** €850,000 to 9 cross-border creative and cultural projects led by Local Authorities.
- **Creative Youth on a Shared Island:** Funding of up to €180,000 to at least 3 projects that nurture collaboration, hope and understanding.
- **Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community:** €350,000 of Shared Island funding in 2024 for Local Authority led cross-border arts and health partnerships to deliver 5 projects.



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme

Overview

- Seed capital grants of up to €250,000 for cross-border Local Authority Partnerships.
- Support for Local Authorities North and South in progressing feasibility and development work on new joint investment projects which can deliver on shared local and regional development goals.
- Potential cross-border projects across a range of sectors including biodiversity, heritage, tourism, decarbonisation, the circular economy, rural and urban regeneration, education, business innovation, and cultural and creative industries.
- Departments currently engaging with Local Authority partners on the feasibility reports.

Page 87

Objective

- Generate well-developed pipeline of cross-border Local Authority projects.

Impact

- Local Authorities cooperating to deliver shared regional development goals.
- More strategic cooperation by central and local government on the island.



Shared Island Community Climate Action Programme

Overview

- €3m for Shared Island strand to Community Climate Action Programme.
- Projects to include a partner in Northern Ireland (can be a Council).
- Minister for Environment [launched](#) Strand 1a in January 2024.
- Administered by Community Climate Action Officers in Councils.
- Grants of €5,000 to €100,000.
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications currently engaging with Local Authorities on applications received.

Objective

- Support Local Authorities to step up climate action in partnership with communities across the island.
- Cross-border projects particularly sought on: Valuing Networks for Nature; Just Transition; Renewable energy; Flood forecasting; Coastal erosion.

Impact

- Help to reach climate and energy targets on the island of Ireland.
- Support collaborative community involvement on climate action.



Shared Island research programme



Shared Island
Initiative

ESRI publications to date:

- *Cross-Border Trade in **Services***
- *Enhancing attractiveness of the Island of Ireland to **FDI***
- *Analysis of **Primary Health Care** Systems of Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Comparison of **Education and Training Systems** and outcomes*
- *Modelling **Productivity Levels** in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Coordination of **Energy infrastructure and renewable energy supports***
- ***Early Childhood Education** and Care, North and South*
- ***Migrant Integration** and Experience in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- ***Student Mobility** in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- ***Social and political attitudes** in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- ***Contrasting Housing Supply** in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- ***Gender and Labour market** inclusion on the island of Ireland*



Upcoming research:

- ***Income distribution levels; Child poverty** – Q4 2024*

All reports available at gov.ie/sharedisland/research

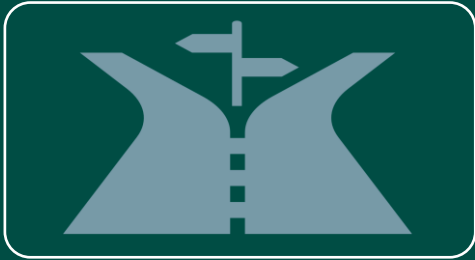


Shared Island Youth Forum

- 80 young people (18-25) from diverse backgrounds across the island.
- Themes of Sustainability; Opportunity; Wellbeing; Equality; and Culture and Identity.
- Deliberative forum over a year to set out their visions and values for a shared future.
- **Outcome Statement of visions and values to be published in the autumn.**

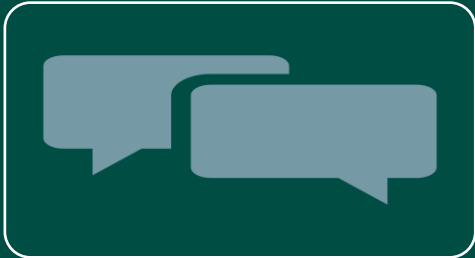


Shared Island initiative – 2024



Continue to implement Government **Shared Island investment priorities.**

Page 91



Shared Island **Youth Forum Outcome Statement** and continue the **Shared Island Dialogue series.**



Progressing the **Shared Island research programme** to provide evidence and analysis on the opportunities, and the challenges, around deepening cooperation and connections on the island.



Further Information

gov.ie/sharedisland

sharedisland@taoiseach.gov.ie



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Department of Foreign Affairs

Shared Island Civic Society Fund



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- The Shared Island Civic Society Fund was launched in January 2023 to promote practical North South cooperation and engagement across a range of sectors and themes, consistent with the objectives and the commitments of the Good Friday Agreement.
- The latest round of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund is now open and will accept applications up to Friday 2nd August at 1PM, with total funding available of up to €1.5m.
- Applications are required to have a clear North South dimension, involving cross-border partners collaborating on a project to strengthen North South civic, economic, cultural, and/or political links.
- Grants of up to €50,000 available (average grant request of €25,000-€30,000)



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Objectives of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund

Applications must have a strong North South dimension and applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their proposed project will do one or more of the following:

- Deepens North South links through the development of sustainable cross-border civic relationships
- Develops and/or deepens cross-border relations between civic society organisations, North and South



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- Promotes constructive and inclusive dialogue around the opportunities and challenges facing the island through cross-border and cross-community engagement
- Contributes significantly to the development of an all-island civic society ecosystem, particularly in relation to areas of cooperation and fundamental rights provided for under the Good Friday Agreement
- Adopts an innovative or novel approach to building North South relations



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General Advice

- Identify and consult with partner organisation, where appropriate.
- Think about which of the organisations is best placed to lead on the application.
- Be clear, concise, and specific in completing the application form
- Ensure that the partner organisation reads the final application and agrees with the content.



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Describe your project

- Summarise the entire project in a few short sentences
- Should include the following information:
 - *Objective of project*
 - *List of project activities*
 - *Background, age, and number of participants*
 - *Outputs and outcomes*
- Should capture – *Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How*



Proposed Project and Activities

Must clearly describe:

Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outline the objective of this project
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who the participants will be
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The types of activities planned• The potential outputs
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the activities will take place
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How often the activities will take place• A timeline is useful to detail activities in chronological order
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the participants will interact• How the activities will contribute to achieving the objectives of your project



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Outcomes and impacts of the project

- Extremely important section in appraisal process
- Clearly articulated and well thought-out, persuasive language
- Why you think your project is a good fit with the Shared Island Civic Society Fund



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Finances and Budget

- Organisational sustainability
- Have you been funded by other Government sources?
- Funding received in the last 12 months
- Project budget should be Clear, Consistent and Descriptive
- Show your work! How are your costs estimated?



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Project Budget *continued*

Items we do NOT fund

- Salaries and other core costs, but administrative overheads can be considered
- Retrospective costs
- Standalone activities that are not part of a wider project/programme
- Capital – buildings, vehicles or equipment



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Evaluation of the project

- A detailed vision on how you will evaluate the project, e.g. surveys, feedback forms, publications etc
- Essential for your final report requirements
- The impacts of this work – the immediate results, e.g. number of people trained/engaged, activities carried out etc.
- This is a further opportunity to sell this project and show us what you intend to achieve with this work



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Additional requirements

- Tax Clearance Certificate from www.revenue.ie (if €10,000 of a grant or more requested)
- Organisation's recent signed accounts
- Letters of support
- Bank details
- Child Protection Policy (if organisation works with under 18s)



- Further information is available at:
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/999af-shared-island-civic-society-fund/>
- Any questions should also be directed to
sharedislandcscsfund@dfa.ie.



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Reconciliation Fund

July 2024

Who Am I?



Jenny Quinn



Joint Director of the Reconciliation Fund

Part of a team of 12 working with the
Reconciliation Fund in DFA

Manage the Multi-Annual Funding Round

The Reconciliation Fund awards grants to organisations working to build better relations within and between traditions in Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between Ireland and Britain.



Reconciliation Fund

Since 1982

the Fund has supported...



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OVER
3,000
PROJECTS

with

MORE THAN
€65 million

GRANT FUNDING

January 2023



40 Years of the Fund



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Reconciliation Fund Schemes



ANNUAL

1 Annual Round per year

One-Year Projects

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic Partnership Scheme

3-Year Projects

Reconciliation Fund Grants



Annual Scheme

Awards grants to around **100-120** projects each year.

Supporting projects across the community, voluntary, and NGO sectors

Amounts for grants vary – from **€2,000** up to **€500,000** per year

75% of Grants awarded in 2023 were for **€30,000** or less

€25,000

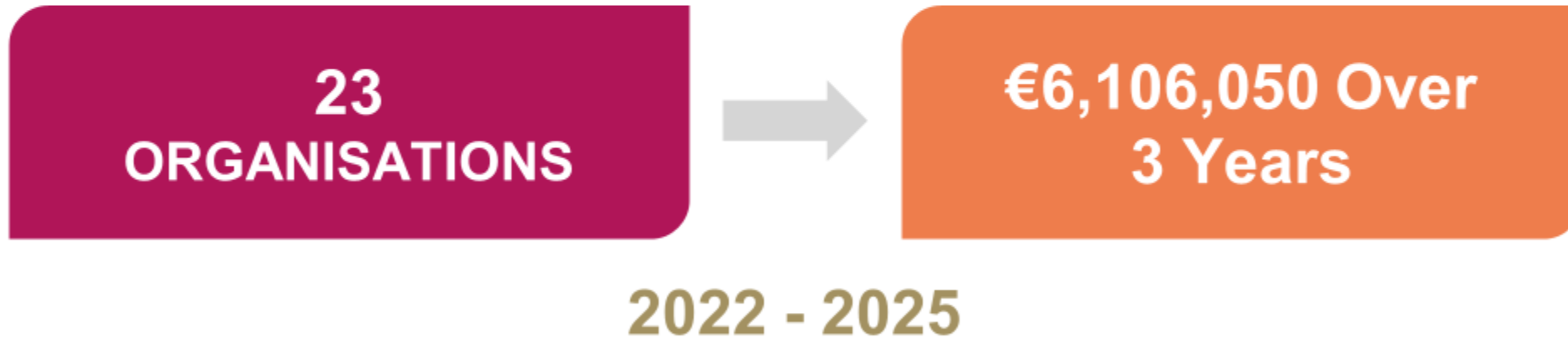
Typical Grant Award

Reconciliation Fund Grants

Strategic Partnership Scheme



Multi-annual funding support to enable organisations to operate more strategically and increase their impact



2024 Annual Round Details



Round Opened: **Monday 12th February 2024**

Round Closed: **Wednesday 20th March 2024**

Payments issued: **July 2024**

Application process is **online**

Application Portal available on **dfa.ie/reconciliation**

Recent Annual Funding Rounds



Annual Round 2023:

Value of Applications Received: €7,403,128

Funding Awarded: €2,021,290 (90 projects)

Annual Round 2024:

Value of Applications Received: €7,948,191

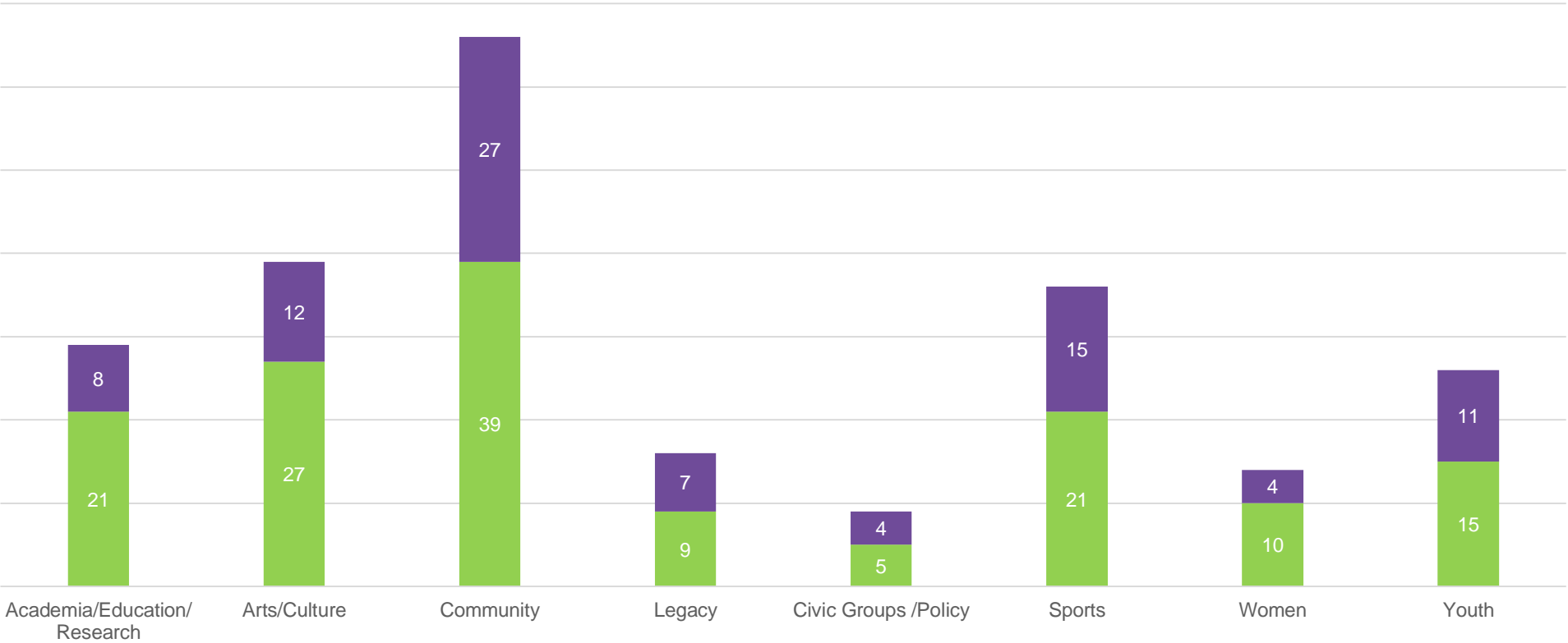
Funding Awarded: €3,423,593 (147 projects)

Total Applications Received for Annual Round 2024: **241**

Total Successful Applications: **147** (*27 new to the Reconciliation Fund*)



Funding by Sector in Annual Round - 2023 vs 2024



Strategic Partnerships



Q3 and Q4 – Development and launch of revised Strategic Partnership scheme.

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NB: Criteria to be developed, likely will not be open to organisations new the Reconciliation Fund.

Contribution to the objectives of the Reconciliation Fund Strategy



EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SECTION

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- The Reconciliation Fund Strategy is our guiding document when appraising applications. **It will be re-designed in Q3 2024.**
- Available at www.dfa.ie/reconciliation

Reconciliation Fund Strategy

2021-2024



Key focus is to support projects & organisations that seek either to...

REPAIR those issues which lead to division, conflict, and barriers,
or to

BUILD a strong civil society that encompasses all communities.

Reconciliation Fund Strategy

2021-2024



15 PRIORITY AREAS of activity including...

- Dialogue programmes that seek to build understanding between peoples and traditions within Northern Ireland and on a North-South basis.
- Initiatives that promote inter-community links and reduce segregation in Northern Ireland, including in the area of integrated education.
- Programmes that address the legacy of violence during the Troubles.

Priority Areas *Continued...*



- Projects that specifically target sectarianism, and which are aimed at eliminating sectarianism from society.
- Initiatives that help tackle paramilitarism in local communities.
- Programmes that develop the role of women in peace-building and civic and political life.
- Exploration of issues around identity (including language & other cultural traditions) in ways that promote understanding, tolerance and inclusivity, or help to recognise the common aspects of traditions and identities shared by different groups.

General Advice for Applying



- Be clear, concise, and specific
- Think about who the best placed person to fill out the application form is
- Have someone else read the application

Background Information about your Organisation



- A detailed explanation of the context you are working within (e.g. border, marginalised, hard-to-reach)
- Identify the gap that your organisation would fill with this project
- What makes you the ideal organisation to deliver this project

Proposed Project and Activities



- Must clearly describe:

Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outline the objective of this project
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Items We Do NOT Fund



- Off-island's travel, e.g. flights
- Retrospective programmatic/core costs
- Commission/loss of profits, e.g. lower ticket takings from a theatre production
- Private Pension Contributions

In summary....



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Your project needs to be aligned to
the Strategy!



CONTACT US

**For all general queries
on the Reconciliation
Fund, please contact**

reconciliation@dfa.ie



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Department of Foreign Affairs
RECONCILIATION FUND

Thank you!

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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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