



<b>Subject:</b>	Installation of Solar PV on Donegall Pass Community Centre
<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of Organisational and City Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p><b>Insert number</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>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</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>									
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table><tr><td>After Committee Decision</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>After Council Decision</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>Sometime in the future</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>Never</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide an update on delivery of the solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on Donegal Pass Community Centre -- funded through the Shared Island Fund.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. €46,620 was secured from the Shared Island Fund to install solar PV on Donegal Pass Community Centre with an additional €4,500 secured allowing for the installation of battery storage;</li> <li>II. Donegal Pass Community centre will be used as a test site to explore renewable energy generation potential for other council sites; and</li> <li>III. Engagement is planned with the centre's users to build awareness about the advantages of solar PV.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>In 2023 Belfast City Council partnered with Cork City Council on a Shared Island funded feasibility study that assessed the solar PV potential on a number of high consuming council sites in both Cork and Belfast. In Belfast, the potential solar PV generation for 25 council owned buildings was estimated and linked with electricity consumption.</p> <p>The results of the study were then used to complete a joint application with Cork City Council last summer to access capital funding to install solar PV on three community centres in Belfast (Donegal Pass Community Centre) and Cork (Fairhill Fairfield Community Association and St. Vincent's Hurling and Football Club). One of the conditions of the funding was that it had to have a community focus. These community buildings were selected due to their high potential solar PV generation matched to high energy consumption levels as highlighted in the feasibility study.</p>
<b>3.2</b>	<p><b>Progress to date</b></p> <p>The panels have since been installed and have the potential to generate 37,898kWh/year against a current energy consumption of approximately 19,000kWh/year (ie the panels will produce approximately double the amount of energy currently used). This would reduce carbon emissions in the city by approximately 13 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh annually (equivalent to charging a smart phone 120,000 times) and save around £7000 per year on the electricity bill. A further application was submitted to request additional funding to purchase batteries to store excess electricity generated during times of high generation and low usage. The aim is to use the Donegal Pass Community Centre to test the workings of solar array and battery storage and explore its potential on other council sites across the estate.</p>
<b>3.3</b>	<p><b>Funding process</b></p> <p>Belfast City Council (Property and Projects) issued the tenders for the installation of the panels. The tender included the replacement of the electric board with a separate additional section for the quotation of retrofitting of battery equipment. The battery installation was not</p>

3.4	<p>part of the initial grant offer, however the opportunity to access reserve funding arose and the council was able to take advantage of this to purchase battery storage.</p> <p>One of the main conditions of the funding was that the project had to be completed within 18 months (by February 2026) and it has been completed successfully on time.</p> <p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <p>The Climate team is currently working with the Energy Manager, outreach staff and community centre staff to engage with the centre's users to build awareness about the benefits of the solar panels, how they reduce carbon emissions from the centre and save money allowing for funds to be redirected to other activities.</p>
4.0	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The project was funded through a €51,120 grant from the Shared Island Fund.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
5.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	None