

Public Document Pack

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

23rd January, 2020

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy of the reports for the following items to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 24th January, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (d) Report on Council decision to erect bilingual/multilingual external naming and internal directional signage in Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Templemore Leisure Centres (Pages 1 - 84)
- (d) Climate Commission (Pages 85 - 90)

9. Issues raised in advance by Members

- (b) Regeneration Powers - Councillor Nicholl

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Launch of Belfast Climate Commission
Date:	24 th January 2020
Reporting Officer:	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
Contact Officer:	Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report provides an update on progress regarding the launch of the Belfast Climate Commission, a partnership between Belfast City Council and Queen’s University Belfast as part of our membership of the ESRI-funded Place Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN).
2.0	Recommendations
2.0	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	In March 2019, members of SP&R approved Belfast City Council’s membership of the ESRI-funded Place Based Climate Action Network. This decision enables us to work in partnership with Queen’s University, and alongside a range of other cities to develop

	<p>strategies and approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation. It is a unique project, and Belfast has been chosen to be one of three cities (alongside Edinburgh and Leeds) to establish a Climate Commission.</p>
3.2	<p>Belfast City Council is working to tackle climate breakdown and create a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy, with well-paid employment, innovation and creativity at its core and a thriving social economy and healthy communities. While some progress has been made towards achieving city-wide carbon reduction targets, many carbon reduction and climate resilience opportunities remain unrealised at a citywide level.</p>
3.3	<p>In the face of a challenging national policy context, the limitations on what Belfast City Council can achieve on its own, the declarations of a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' by the UK and Irish parliaments, the value in bringing together key city partners to form a Commission to mirror the UK Committee on Climate Change was recognised and Belfast Climate Commission was formally launched on the 10th January 2020.</p>
3.4	<p>The Commission is based on the geographic area of Belfast City Council but also, where appropriate in its work, includes the 5 adjacent local authority areas of the Belfast Region City Deal (Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Mid and East Antrim, Newry Mourne and Down, Antrim and Newtownabbey).</p>
3.5	<p>The Commission aims to foster collaboration by bringing together public, private and civic sectors to promote, guide, monitor and review on-going climate and energy transitions. The Commission will also act as a forum for organisations and individuals to exchange ideas, research findings, information and best practice to help Belfast make positive choices on carbon reduction, energy transition and climate resilience.</p>
3.6	<p>The Commission will bring together different groups to develop a climate risk assessment and transition plan for the city/city region and for vulnerable communities and businesses within it. It will strengthen networks, build capacities, transfer good practice and explore ways of raising the investment needed while monitoring the progress of the city towards meeting its carbon reduction targets and recommend options to keep the city on track.</p>
3.7	<p>Belfast Climate Commission was formally established in November 2019 and its first phase runs until December 2020. Progress will then be reviewed and the second phase will run</p>

	<p>from January 2021 to December 2021. The key deliverables set for the Commission include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collation of existing carbon reduction targets and measures for organisations across the city using an agreed methodology. • Agreed strategic and shared priorities and opportunities for carbon reduction, low carbon energy transition and climate resilience across the city. • To support Belfast, and Belfast Region City Deal, based organisations' understanding of the importance of energy and low carbon initiatives to their business. The aim is to facilitate the start of a pipeline of investable low carbon projects which will be supported by work to address perceived barriers to the availability of cost effective finance. • Collaborations with other organisations to identify effective carbon reduction, low carbon energy transition and climate resilience measures, research and develop projects, and attract funding for project development and/or delivery. • An annual report monitoring project delivery and evaluating progress across the city towards the city's climate reduction target and advising on future measures and updating date on emissions. <p>3.8 The Belfast Climate Commission was jointly launched by the Lord Mayor and the Vice Chancellor of Queens University alongside the launch of the Draft Belfast Resilience Strategy for public consultation on 10th January 2020.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.9 None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.10 None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix One – Press Release for Belfast Climate Commission launch and opening of draft Resilience Strategy for public consultation.

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Queen's University and Belfast City Council launch the Belfast Climate Commission to deliver action on the climate crisis

Queen's University Belfast and Belfast City Council have today (Friday 10 January, 2020) launched the 'Belfast Climate Commission', to drive action on the climate crisis.

The Commission will play a key role in place-based climate action necessary to achieve the UK Government's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

Co-chaired by Queen's University and Belfast City Council, the Commission is one of three city-based climate commissions across the UK (Belfast, Edinburgh and Leeds), funded by the Economic and Social Research Council for the Place-Based Climate Action Network (PCAN). Working alongside existing city structures and programmes, the Commission has been established to translate climate policy into action 'on the ground' to bring about transformative change.

The launch event was addressed by the Lord Mayor Councillor Daniel Baker; and the President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast, Professor Ian Greer. Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience at Belfast City Council and Co-Chair of the Commission, also opened a public consultation on a Resilience Strategy for the city, which aims to transition to an inclusive low-carbon economy in a generation.

Speaking at the launch event, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Daniel Baker said: "Like many cities, the impacts of climate change for Belfast will be profound. It is critical that we are well prepared, and protect all of our citizens, particularly the most vulnerable. We must also be ambitious in the targets we set to reduce our impact on the planet. I am particularly pleased to be launching this commission today because of its focus on place-based action and on the work that we can do to ensure climate resilient communities."

Professor Ian Greer, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast commented: "The climate crisis is the defining issue of our time, and it is essential that we understand its impact for the places we inhabit. Queen's University Belfast is delighted to be launching this major programme, in partnership with Belfast City Council, which brings together the research community and decision-makers in the public, private and third sectors to find solutions in a collaborative way."

The Commission is made up of members of a range of organisations from across Belfast, and also includes several sub-groups to focus on specific themes including climate finance and community empowerment. The work of the Belfast Climate Commission is supported by Dr Amanda Slevin (PCAN Policy Fellow, Queen's University Belfast) who chairs the Community Climate Action working group.

Co-chaired by Professor John Barry, Professor of Green Political Economy at Queen's University and by Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience, the

Commission held its first meeting in December 2019 and commenced a major study to make the economic case for decarbonisation. The author of the study, Professor Andy Gouldson, who is Chair of the Leeds Climate Commission and a co-investigator for PCAN, will present interim findings at the event.

ENDS...

Media inquiries to Zara McBrearty at Queen's Communications Office on Tel: (028) 9097 3259 or email z.mcbrearty@qub.ac.uk and Kate Lock, Communications and Policy Officer, PCAN: K.M.Lock@leeds.ac.uk or 07792 633984.

Notes to Editor:

1. Professor John Barry, Professor of Green Political Economy at Queen's University and Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience at Belfast City Council are available for interview. Bids to Zara McBrearty.
2. **Images to follow the launch. Will be sent to news and picture desks.**
3. The Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN) is a £3.5m research network funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) that has been set up to enable cities, towns and communities to build local action on climate change (<http://pcancities.org.uk>). The five-year research project, which launched on 30 January 2019, brings together the research community and decision-makers in the public, private and third sectors.
4. PCAN consists of five innovative platforms to facilitate two-way, multi-level engagement: three city-based 'climate commissions' in Leeds (commenced September 2017), Belfast (launching 10 January 2020) and Edinburgh (launching later in 2020), and two theme-based platforms on business and finance. The PCAN Fund is an integral part of the project: <https://pcancities.org.uk/pcan-fund>.
5. PCAN builds on the policy connections, networking capacity and research strengths of its host institutions: the ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy hosted by the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of Leeds; the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation; the Centre for Sustainability and Environmental Governance at Queen's University Belfast; and the University of Leeds.
6. Find out more about PCAN at <https://pcancities.org.uk> (@PCANcities)
7. More information on Belfast Climate Commission can be found @BelfastClimate or by emailing info@belfastclimate.org.uk.