

Climate and City Resilience Committee

Thursday, 7th April, 2022

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor McKeown (Deputy Chairperson);
Alderman Haire and Rodgers; and
Councillors Canavan, de Faoite, Flynn,
Gormley, Kyle, Long, McCann, McLaughlin,
Spratt and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. R. McLernon, Resilience Co-ordinator;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Aldermen Dorrian and Sandford and Councillors Baker and Brooks.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th April.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation - Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

The Committee received a presentation from Kevin Hegarty, Director of Green Growth and Climate action with DAERA.

Mr. Hegarty outlined the background to the Green Growth strategy explaining that a number of factors had contributed to catapulting it up the agenda, including the NI Assembly declaring a climate emergency in 2020, the UK's commitment to net zero and Covid recovery. The Executive Strategy was signed by all Ministers and was approved by the Executive on 21 October in advance of CoP26.

He explained that there were a number of elements to the strategy, climate action, green jobs and clean environment. The Executive had made 10 commitments/areas of

responsibility under the strategy and would focus on the following 3 in the near term: embedding green growth; investing in green growth; and leading by example. He said they had committed to embedding green growth by ensuring that green growth would be central to all budgetary and policy decisions by introducing a statutory green growth test and making green growth a budgetary priority. By investing in green growth, they would transform the economy by working proactively with business, communities and all parts of government to maximise funding and investment opportunities for green growth and promote innovation, skills, research and technology. They would endeavour to lead by example providing public sector leadership through delivering a government estate and fleet with net zero operational carbon emissions and ensure a green growth aligned with procurement strategy for all government spend. Mr. Hegarty informed the Committee of NI's 2 climate change bills explaining that climate bill no.2 was wide ranging.

A discussion followed the presentation, during which a Member asked Mr. Hegarty about the clean air strategy and other supporting strategies. Mr. Hegarty agreed to revert to the Committee with the exact dates for DAERA's supporting environmental strategies.

The Committee noted the content of the presentation.

Update on Current Issues

Net Zero Event

The Members received a report updating them on the visit to Belfast by Mayor Andy Burnham, Mayor Steve Rotherham and Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland on 30th March, 2022.

The aim of the visit was to establish a collaboration / partnership on delivering Net Zero between Belfast, Dublin, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City region ahead of a Decarbonisation Summit in England in June 2022.

The visit was framed around current efforts to decarbonise transport, heat and industry using innovations in hydrogen production, storage and use across the four cities to illustrate the challenges and opportunities arising from the transition, to show inter-linkages between different industries (transport, water etc.) and how hydrogen fitted with the wider energy system. Visiting delegations comprised Mayors and officers from the respective regions but also engaged key stakeholders locally, including Forge Integrated Primary school in South Belfast, Translink, Wrightbus, Catagen, B9 Energy, NI Water, MJM Renewables, QUB and Belfast Met. during the one day visit.

The report outlined the next steps, including that a virtual workshop would be held and areas agreed for collaboration ahead of the decarbonisation Summit in June.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

One Million Trees/UPSURGE 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 update Members on two key projects within the Climate Unit portfolio – the Belfast One Million Trees Programme and the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the project update.

3.0 Main report

The Climate Unit leads the delivery of two major projects for which external funding has been secured. Both projects work with a wide range of stakeholders locally and across the UK, EU and globally. Belfast One Million Trees Programme is the city tree planting initiative, which Belfast City Council coordinates and delivers on behalf of a range of city partners, working closely with delivery partners including the Woodland Trust, Belfast Hills Partnership, the National Trust, and The Conservation Volunteers.

The Horizon 2020 funded UPSURGE project is focused on nature-based solutions, improving the condition of soil for the purpose of growing plants and produce, the development of a community garden in an unused area of Belfast City Council's estate, engagement with and education for local stakeholders, and applying learning at a range of satellite sites likely to be focused on Council community gardens and allotments. Initially the project is a partnership with EU partners led by Slovenia, with a close working relationship between BCC and QUB driving the work of the Belfast demonstration. Belfast is one of five demonstration cities within the overarching programme of work.

3.2 Belfast One Million Trees Programme

Belfast One Million Trees Project is a 15-year city partnership and programme of activity led by Belfast City Council aimed at increasing tree planting, maintenance and management in the city, with key outcomes being increased climate resilience, support for public health and wellbeing, support for biodiversity, reduction in water runoff, improvement in air quality and reduction in urban heat island effects. The project is one of 30 foundational projects contained in the Belfast Resilience Strategy and aligns with city strategies such as the Living with Water Programme, Open Spaces Strategy, and Local Development Plan. We have three overarching aims:

- Create an inclusive structure and processes which enable tree planting and the growth of green infrastructure and biodiversity in Belfast.
- Plant at least one million trees within the next 15 years- delivering a step change in our approach to climate adaptation and environmental improvements.

- **Protect the city and the people of the city by reducing harms from air pollution, weather impact and loss of nature and improving health and well-being.**
- 3.3 The initial proposal for the Belfast One Million Trees Programme was received by Council from the Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group. The motion came through People and Communities Committee which approved the role for Council to coordinate and manage the initiative and updates are periodically brought back to People and Communities Committee for approval. Programme management is led by the Climate Unit within Council, working closely with colleagues in City and Neighbourhood Services, and across the Council.**
- 3.4 A Belfast One Million Trees steering group was established in early 2020 which includes partners from statutory bodies, government departments, community organisations and conservation organisations. Over the course of several meetings a process was agreed whereby each year sites would be identified, assessed and planting plans put in place for the annual planting season which takes place between November and April. The city steering group sets the work programme and receives an update twice yearly. A delivery group was established early in the project which is made up of Belfast City Council, the Woodland Trust, National Trust and Belfast Hills Partnership. This group meets fortnightly and is responsible for workplan delivery. Furthermore, a communication group has been established which meets quarterly with communication representatives from Belfast City Council, the Woodland Trust and National Trust. The Communications Group created a communication plan and assets which have been adopted by the steering group and all partners.**

In parallel an internal group was established within Belfast City Council which looks at the Council contribution. That group has made recommendations such as the establishment of a tree nursery on BCC land which has resulted in the Grovelands site being developed into a tree nursery, the development of a Belfast Tree Strategy which is now underway part funded by Belfast One Million Trees funding and the development of engagement events which include the ‘Give a tree a home’ events which we have now run on two occasions in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers – once in Ormeau Park and once in Waterworks Park.

In December 2020 the Belfast One Million Trees Programme launched officially, and at the same time the Yoursay Platform launched with a Million Trees section that includes tools such as a map which members of the public can drop a pin into to indicate preferred locations for trees. To date there have been approximately 3,000 interactions with the Yoursay Million Trees page.

- 3.5** A number of workstreams are in progress through the Belfast One Million Trees Programme which include a rolling programme of business engagement which has resulted in 19 businesses being engaged in total around volunteering, sponsorship, and partnership. A total of £17,000 has been secured in partnership with businesses to date.

A supply line of native trees has been established through a contract with the Conservation Volunteers, who will also provide seed collection, tree planting and tree maintenance workshops for the Belfast One Million Trees Project.

As mentioned, we have developed a pilot tree nursery in the Grovelands site at Musgrave Park which will see trees supplied to Belfast City Council and into the city project.

We are currently planning a city tree count and land call which will be repeated annually, and we are working proactively to align with existing and new initiatives such as the Queens Green Canopy, Trees for Cities, Greenways, Planning – Section 76 developer contributions, A Bolder Vision among others.

A key piece of research is in the final draft stage – the Belfast I-TREE ECO report, which sets out the value of the existing tree cover in Belfast in carbon storage and sequestration, avoided water run-off, and amenity value. This has been undertaken by Treeconomics and Forest Research who are also forecasting the benefits of additional tree planting for the city journey to net zero. Findings of the report include identifying 83 species in Belfast, the most common being Ash, Sycamore and Beech. Belfast's urban forest's trees sequester an estimated 8,893 tonnes of carbon per year, has an associated value of £8 million. Overall, the trees in Belfast's urban forest store an estimated 318,626 tonnes of carbon, which has an associated value of £290 million. The trees within Belfast's urban forest reduce runoff by an estimated 317,000 m³, which is equivalent to approximately 127 Olympic swimming pools of surface runoff being averted every single year with an associated value of £593,000.

- 3.6** External funding was secured in 2020 from the Woodland Trust Emergency Tree Fund (289k over a 3-year period) which includes targets including:

- Develop and implement a new Belfast Tree Strategy
- Plant a minimum of 35 hectares per year
- Plant a minimum 1000 metres of hedgerow planted/restored per year
- Plant 10,000 trees outside woods per year
- Identify at least 2 strategically important sites per year (Cavehill)
- Produce 5 x farm plans per year

- Commission an I-Tree ECO project which will form the evidence base for the Belfast Tree Strategy and support the implementation of the Belfast One Million Trees Programme
- Minimum of 2,500 people engaged per annum through the programme
- We want to run a programme of community engagement which will commence early in 2021
- Hold 10 x woodland workshops and produce 2 x good practice guides
- Enhance community/micro-nursery coordination and support
- Assist and support 5 organisations with volunteer programmes (100 volunteers annually)
- Market our achievements and promote good practice, enabling public participation

3.7 Draft tree planting targets for the initiative are with the steering group for approval but we have recommended the following:

Year	Target	Actual	Year	Target	Actual
21/22	15,000	39,000	28/29	95,000	0
22/23	20,000	24,000*	29/30	100,000	0
23/24	30,000		30/31	90,000	0
24/25	50,000		31/32	85,000	0
25/26	70,000		32/33	80,000	0
26/27	75,000		33/34	75,000	0
27/28	85,000		34/35	70,000	0

3.8 Horizon 2020 UPSURGE Project

The official title of the UPSURGE project is ‘City-centred approach to catalyse nature-based solutions through the EU Regenerative Urban Lighthouse for pollution alleviation and regenerative development’

3.9 The project is led by Maribor in Slovenia who coordinate a consortium which Belfast is one element of. The overarching work packages are:

- WP1 Management - E-Institute
- WP2 Overall NBS Assessment - LEITAT
- WP3 Environmental Verification with Multimodal Sensing - OPERATE
- WP4 Digitalisation and Connectivity with Citizens and Stakeholders - OC

WP5 NBS Demonstrations - QUB

WP6 Regenerative Assessment Enabling Regenerative Transition GCE

WP7 European Regenerative Urban Lighthouse - ICLEI

WP8 Quintuple-Helix based Verification, Communication and Dissemination - IETU

WP9 Ethics requirements - E-Institute

Belfast is one of five demonstration cities, with the Belfast work programme being managed by Belfast City Council. A total of 660,000 euros was secured for Belfast which includes infrastructure works, staff time, sensors and data platform, community engagement and training, and travel.

- 3.10 People and Communities Committee approved the use of Lower Botanic Gardens as the key hub in the UPSURGE initiative and the use of learning from the hub at associated satellite sites in the city, which are likely to be Council allotments and community gardens.**
- 3.11 A steering group meets every three weeks which is made up of a team from QUB and BCC staff, to agree the Belfast work programme and to link back into overarching project meetings which happen of each of the work packages. An internal group within BCC has been established to advise and feed into the project.**
- 3.12 To date we have undertaken a stakeholder mapping exercise and we are currently planning several stakeholder engagement and co-design workshops focused on the Lower Botanic Gardens site. A site visit and initial soil sampling has commenced, with the intention of developing an agroecology hub focused on research, training, engagement and also incorporating multiple uses in the wider site such as health and dog walking for example. The aim is to create a multipurpose space which benefits local people and the wider city.**
- 3.13 A series of discussions have also taken place in relation to procuring sensors, data platform and wireless network, with Digital Services supporting this workstream and leading on the procurement which will be based on a specification developed by one of the workstreams for all cities use.**
- 3.14 The UPSURGE project is a four-year project which is in year 1 at present. It is planned that the infrastructure works will take place in 2023, with stakeholder engagement and co-design taking place in 2022, along with sensor deployment.**

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

4.1 All activities are financed through previously approved internal and external funding.

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

5.1 Any good relations or equality implications will be identified as part of the Council's screening process."

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Belfast Agenda Review (Action Planning 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 update the Committee on the progress of the Belfast Agenda Review, including the action planning phase.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i Note the following report which was submitted to the March SP&R Committee outlining progress of the development of the refreshed Belfast Agenda Strategy document and supporting four-year Delivery Action Plans;**
- ii Consider and provide comments on the emerging strategic intents and measures of success (stretch goals) as set out in slides 12-22 in Appendix 1.**
- iii Note the proposed next steps and timeline as set out in slide 33 in Appendix 1; and**
- iv Note the plans for continued elected member engagement, detailed in section 3.5.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The following report was submitted to April's meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee and sets out the emerging strategic framework for the refreshed Belfast Agenda. Given the cross-cutting nature of the priorities, objectives and targets which will provide the focus for community planning over the period 2022-26, it was agreed to bring this to the attention of members of the Climate & City Resilience Committee.

The November 2021 SP&R Committee received an update on the emerging findings and recommendations following the initial phase of Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation engagement to inform the refreshed Belfast Agenda (BA) for the period 2022-2026. As reported at the November meeting, there was broad agreement that the existing long-term vision and outcomes of the BA remain relevant, and the proposed priorities for focus were the things that stakeholders and communities believed community planning could help address over the next 4-year period. There had been feedback in relation to how some of the priorities had been framed and the need for them to be easily understood. As a result, some minor changes had been made to the framing of the priority areas such as, changing 'economic recovery' to 'Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth'. A summary of the current Belfast Agenda priority framework (which reflects many of the changes) is attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 Bringing focus and commitment to delivery

Building on the recommendations and consensus reached through Phase I, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and council has committed to co-design specific and measurable actions plan(s) which would underpin the priority areas of focus. Subsequently, a small group of core partners (cross-sectoral) has been brought together to help further develop the approach to co-designing each of the priority areas and cross-cutting themes. Each task and finish group were responsible for analysing the range of outputs from phase 1 of the 'Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation' engagement process; assessing relevant strategies, plans and local intelligence (including information received through the call for evidence); feedback from the community and Belfast Agenda Board engagement workshops; online and paper-based survey results; and the current delivery plans of existing Belfast Agenda Boards.

Based on this initial analysis, partners prepared a strategic framework to help bring focus and shape the co-designed action plans consisting of:

1. What we are trying to achieve over the next 4 years (strategic intent);
2. How will we measure success (stretch goals); and
3. How will we realise such success (SMART Action Plan(s)).

Figure 1 below illustrates this framework and how a structured and informed approach is being implemented with partners to ensure there is a strong thread between each of the priority areas, ambitions, measures of success and importantly the focus for collaborative action.

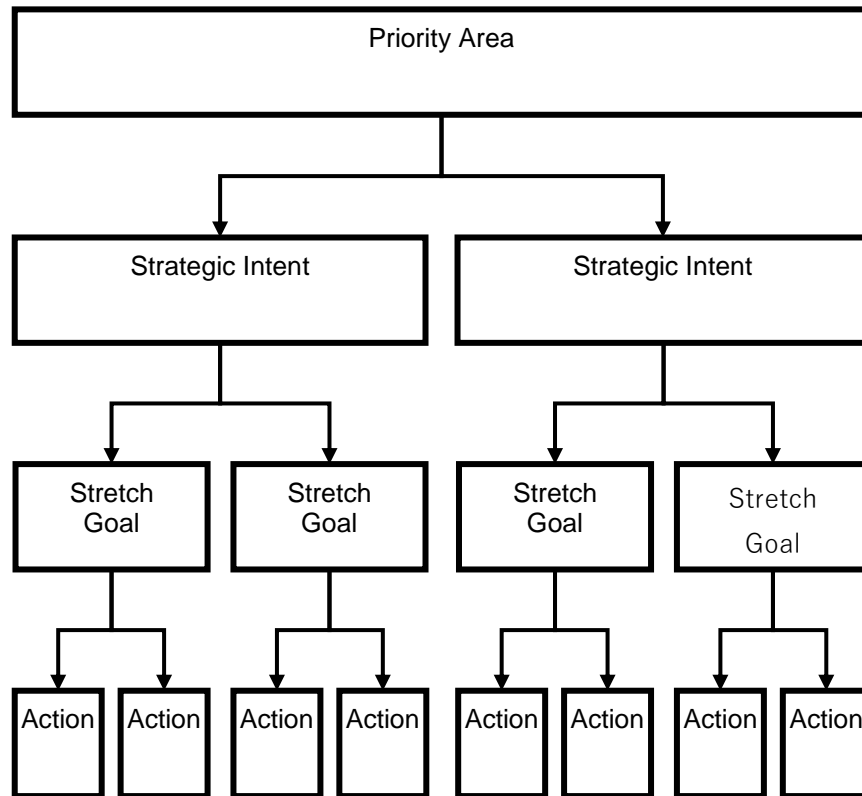


Figure 1: strategic framework adopted by partners to bring focus and shape co-designed action plans

- 3.3 Output from this initial exercise will inform the next phase of the Continuing the Conversation engagement programme, where we will continue to work with partners and communities to co-design delivery plans. This represents an ongoing and complex process, which requires participation and involvement across sectors and communities at multiple levels, which has resulted in some priorities being more developed than others. The emerging frameworks for each of the priorities are attached as part of the presentation attached at Appendix 1 (slides 12 to 22) which had been discussed with the All-Party Working group on Community Planning when it met on 23 February 2022. Please note that since the working group meeting of 23 February, the strategic intents and stretch goals have been further developed, particularly the City Development elements following the Board meeting on Friday 11 March. This reflects the dynamic nature of the co-design process which remains a work in progress. Members are asked to consider and provide feedback on the emerging frameworks outlined by 15 April 2022

to communityplanning@belfastcity.gov.uk. This feedback will then be reflected in future iterations and can be discussed further with members as the strategy is further refined.

3.4 As discussed with the All-Party Working Group, it is proposed that the timeline for developing the refreshed Belfast Agenda strategy document and underpinning delivery plans includes sufficient time for direct and genuine engagement with partners, communities/ communities of interest and specific sectors including the business and private sector over April and May 2022. In addition, more formal and intensive consultation activities are planned on the strategy document as well as further engagement to co-design the action plans during May and June 2022. Slide 33 in Appendix 1 outlines the proposed next steps and timeline for this process. It is felt that the timeline will allow for greater input and enable valuable buy-in to the emerging plans.

3.5 Political engagement with elected members

In addition to the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning on 23 February 2022, and subsequently the Strategic Policy, and Resources Committee, it is also intended to bring a similar paper, presentation, and discussions to the Social Policy Working Group in April 2022. The intention would be to bring a further iteration of the draft strategy and emerging action plans to Party Group Briefings and Committee in April 2022 for further consideration, input, and refinement. It is important to note that the feedback and recommendations from Members received following the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning meeting (23 Feb) will be factored into the continued refinement of the BA Refresh.

3.6 Financial an Resource Implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will be covered from existing budgets. The review process will continue to involve the participation of all community planning partners, who will need to commit their resources to the review process and the agreed action plans.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

It is recommended that the consultation and engagement activities to review the Belfast Agenda will take account of the draft Audit of Inequalities and include specific sessions with targeted harder to reach groups to ensure that equality implications are considered as part of the review process.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Update on Shared Prosperity Fund

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 emergent Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF).

2.1 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds help to pay for initiatives supporting business development, research and development, investment in digital and green infrastructure, as well skills and training interventions and support for job-seekers.

3.2 The ESI funds that the UK received were:

- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which focuses mainly on support to small businesses and on research and innovation, with a smaller emphasis on moving towards a low carbon economy;
- The European Social Fund (ESF), which is very strongly focused on employment. The main way it does this is by encouraging people into the workforce, such as by building networks between employers, local authorities and charities, and by improving people’s skills. ESF funding also included the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), which funds schemes such as apprenticeships and traineeships;
- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which funds improvements in agriculture as part of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (as opposed to income support payments to farmers, which are not part of structural funding);
- The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), a much smaller fund supporting improvements in fisheries.

3.3 In the EU’s 2014-20 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period, the last MFF in which the UK was an EU member state, its funding allocation from ESI funds was €16.3 billion. This worked out to around £2.0 billion per year on average.

3.4 Northern Ireland has been a net beneficiary of the EU Structural funds and their impact has been significant – indeed in Northern Ireland we received approx. 5% of the total UK allocation, while only representing 2.8% of the population

- 3.5 The European Social Fund has been a vital component in addressing inequalities, poverty and supported the creation of more and better jobs, which it does by co-funding projects that improve the levels of employment, the quality of jobs, and the inclusiveness of the labour market in areas of impact. ESF projects are funded to a value of 65% by ESF with a 35% match funding requirement historically. Data provided by Department for the Economy and contained in appendix 1, indicated that ESF allocation for the current programme period in Belfast March 2018 – to March 2022 had a value of £55,479,367 for ESF with the total value being £85,352,887, including 35% match funding of £29,873,520.
- 3.6 The UK Government announced in 2017 that ESI fundings successor will be a Shared Prosperity Fund . The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a Government-allocated fund which is intended to reduce inequalities between communities, as part of the Government’s wider ‘levelling up’ agenda.
- 3.7 The objectives set by the Government for the SPF is to tackle inequalities between communities, and raise productivity in those parts of the country whose economies are furthest behind, but so far it has given few details around its scale, design and implementation.
- 3.8 On February 2nd 2022 Pre-Launch Guidance for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was published. It stated that that it would provide £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.
- 3.9 The pre-launch guidance confirmed that in England, Scotland and Wales local government will be given responsibility for developing an investment plan for approval by the UK Government, and for delivery of the Fund thereafter. This delivery model follows the recent approach of the Levelling Up Fund which provided a ring fenced portion of funding to 100 leading local authorities while in Northern Ireland the round one levelling up and community renewal funding was dispersed via a competitive bid process.
- 3.10 The guidance confirmed that the approach in Northern Ireland is as per the extract below,

‘In Northern Ireland, the UK Government is considering options for development of a Northern Ireland investment plan. We are committed to working with local partners to ensure that the investment plan reflects the particular needs of Northern Ireland’s economy and society. We want this plan to draw on the insight and expertise of local partners,

including the Northern Ireland Executive, local authorities, City and Growth Deal geographies, businesses and the community and voluntary sector to target interventions where most appropriate. This plan will be used by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities who will have oversight of delivery for Northern Ireland, working closely with local partners.'

- 3.11 The guidance confirmed that for the devolved administrations broader governance, statutory and regulatory requirements will be detailed in a Prospectus, which is expected to be published in the spring. It is important to note that as well as governance the specific amount of funding available to address the broad objectives of the programme have not been provided as yet.
- 3.12 Over successive funding cycles, councils have effectively managed and deployed EU resources to support local economies. In the current programming period, councils are responsible for administering around £18million of funding to support business start-up and growth. This comprises ERDF funding matched with budget from Invest NI and supported by resources from each of the councils. The lack of ERDF resources presents a significant risk to this support and will impact significantly on the predominantly micro business base in the region.
- 3.13 Local authorities in Northern Ireland are also at the centre of the EU's PEACE funding – an instrument that is unique to this region. Local Peace Plans – developed across three priority themes within each council area – account for around £45million of expenditure across Northern Ireland on a range of activities aimed at building positive relations and embedding peace within local communities. Again, councils play a lead role in developing locally-agreed plans and overseeing delivery – including accountability for all spend.
- 3.14 Members will be aware that Labour Market Partnership structures that have been established within each of the council areas over the last year. These Partnerships aim to improve employment outcomes and enhance skills levels of local residents. They bring together regional government departments, local skills providers and business representatives to develop innovative approaches that can improve outcomes for key target groups and help local companies to secure the talent pipeline that they need to grow their business. While these partnerships are in their infancy we propose that they can be a useful conduits for identifying and shaping priority interventions in the skills arena. We would also propose that the aforementioned structures established for administering and accounting for ERDF and PEACE funding could also act as useful conduits and instruments for shaping the objectives and assisting with the dispersals of SPF funding.

3.15 Council officers have engaged with representatives Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and recently representatives from NILGA met with Minister O'Brien, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. While this engagement is welcome the lack of clarity regarding the design process for Shared Prosperity, formal engagement routes, governance and the level of funding are still a concern for Council given the significant level of investment, its impact and existing infrastructure. SOLACE has formally written to Minister O' Brien to request that councils have a lead role in the new programme and have asked that more detail on the issues highlighted above are provided as soon as possible.

3.16 Finance and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

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

There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report."

The Director of Economic Development highlighted that the guidance confirmed that, for the devolved administrations, broader governance, statutory and regulatory requirements would be detailed in a Prospectus, that would be published in the spring. He said it was important to note that as well as governance the specific amount of funding available to address the broad objectives of the programme had not been provided as yet. He highlighted that there was no clarity on the process.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and the comments of the Director.

Recap on Issues to be Raised at Future Meetings

The Resilience Co-ordinator raised the item in relation to issues to be raised at future meetings. After discussion, the Committee agreed on the following:

- that the Resilience Co-ordinator would circulate to Members options for climate and resilience training;
- that the Resilience Co-ordinator would re-circulate to Members the list of items for discussion at future meetings that had previously been agreed.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the report associated with the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following item as, due to the nature

of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Update on Legal Proceedings

The Divisional Solicitor submitted for the Committee's consideration a report updating the Committee on legal proceedings which had been issued by the Council in respect of the Decision by the DAERA Minister on 2nd February, 2022 to halt border checks which were required under the EU-UK Protocol.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson