

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



**Belfast
City Council**

6th June, 2025

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall and remotely via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 12th June, 2025 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
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Matters Referred back from Council/Motions**
 - (a) Notice of Motion - Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (Pages 1 - 4)
3. **Presentation - Blackstaff Greenway Feasibility Study (Sustrans) (Pages 5 - 34)**
4. **Shared Island Civic Society Fund (Pages 35 - 38)**
5. **District Electoral Area Profiles - Local Area Energy Plan Dataset (Pages 39 - 42)**
6. **Climate Training for Elected Members and Corporate Management Team (Pages 43 - 46)**



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty
Date:	12th June, 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>
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Never	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>								
Call-in									
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>								

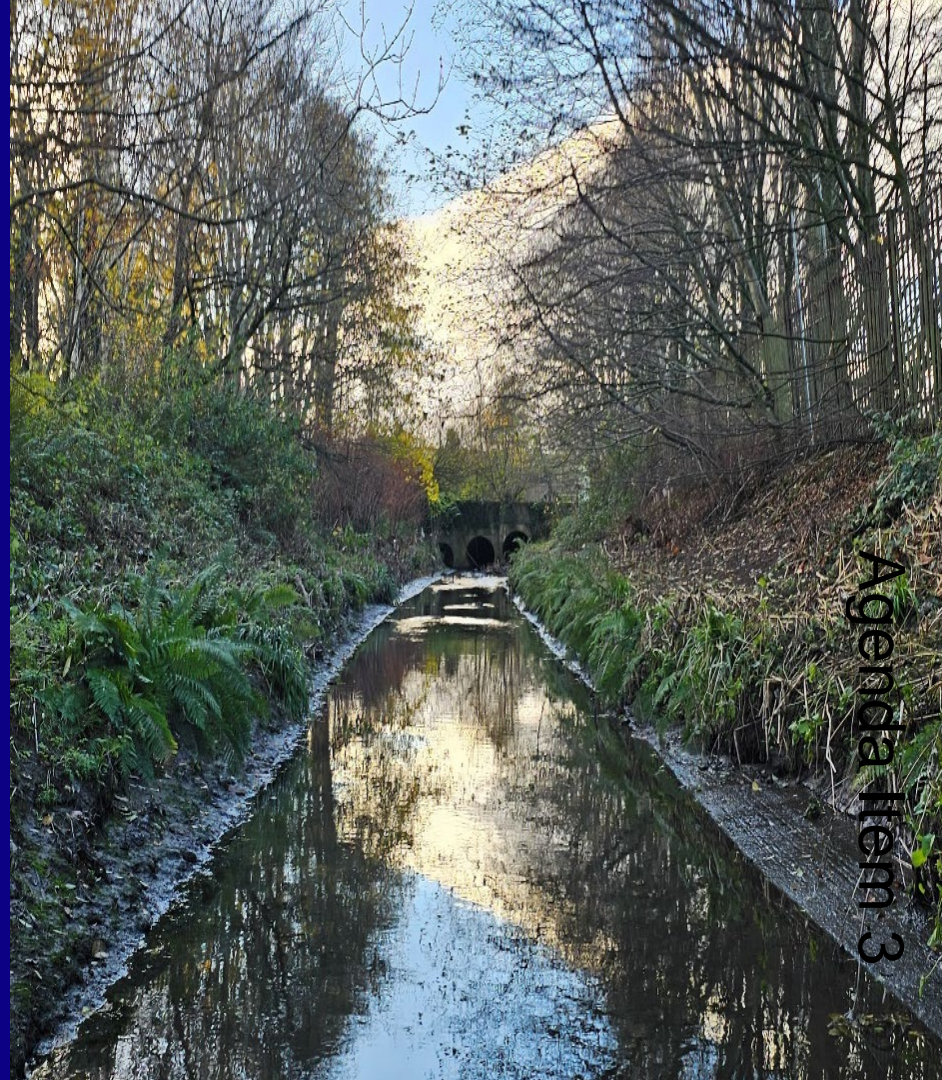
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion referred to it by the Standards and Business Committee, on 22nd May, in relation to Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that a subsequent report will be brought to Committee, if it so agrees, outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and any potential cost implications.</p>
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Order 13 (n), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, is as follows:</p> <p><i>(n) The Standards and Business Committee will refer all Notices of Motion directly to a standing committee when the matter to which the Notice of Motion refers falls within the remit of that committee. At Council, the Lord Mayor will indicate that the Notice of Motion was received and referred. There will be no speakers on such Notices of Motion at Council.</i></p>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Motion: Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty</u></p> <p>“Recognising Northern Ireland’s commitment to achieve net zero by 2050, (and Belfast City Council’s previous motion recognising a climate emergency), Belfast City Council will endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, an initiative to secure an international and legally binding treaty to phase out fossil fuels, and will write to the Northern Ireland Executive as well as the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero urging them to support this initiative.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Anthony Flynn</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Brian Smyth</p>
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and to write to the Northern Ireland Executive, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero urging them to support this initiative.

3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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Blackstaff Greenway Feasibility Study

BCC- Climate City Resilience Committee



Our vision

“A society where the way we travel creates healthier places and happier lives for everyone.”

Page 6

Our mission

“We make it easier for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.”



Contents



- The Brief
- Guidance and Plans
- Context
- Route Appraisal
- Proposed route
- Moving forward

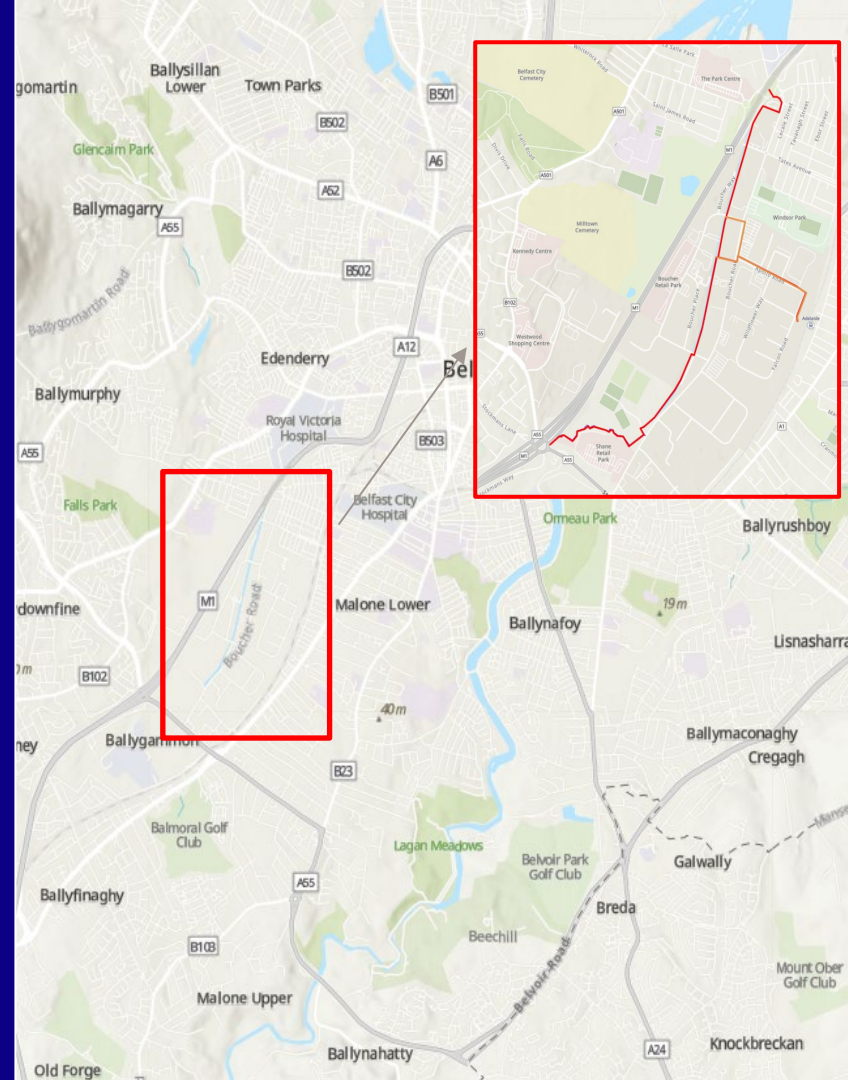


The Brief

Belfast City Council engaged the services of Sustrans to complete a Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway.

~ 2km

Blackstaff Greenway would follow the route of the Blackstaff River from Stockman's Way roundabout through Boucher Road playing fields and continuing through the Boucher Estate terminating at the 'Rise' sculpture. The report will also examine connections to Adelaide Train Station.

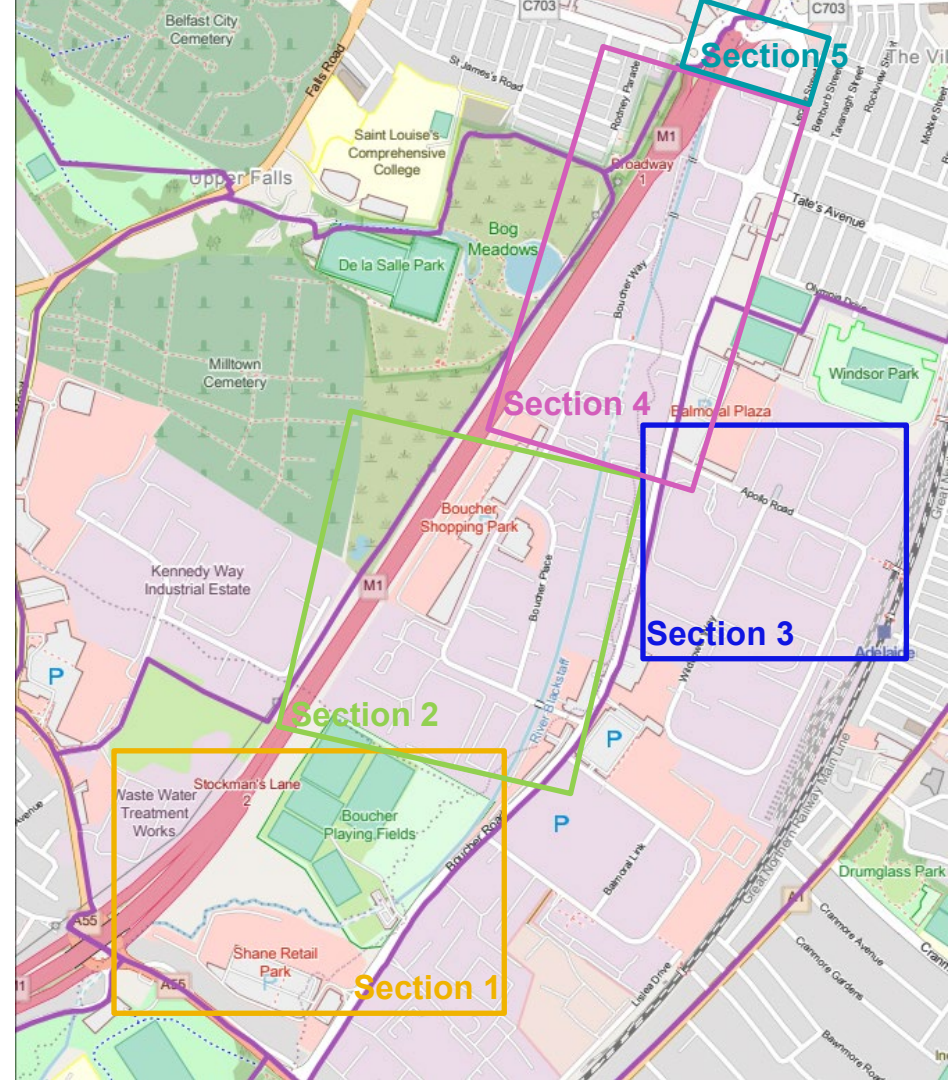


Route Optioneering

- Desktop Study
- Site Visit with engineer
- Stakeholder engagement
- Preliminary Ecological Assessment

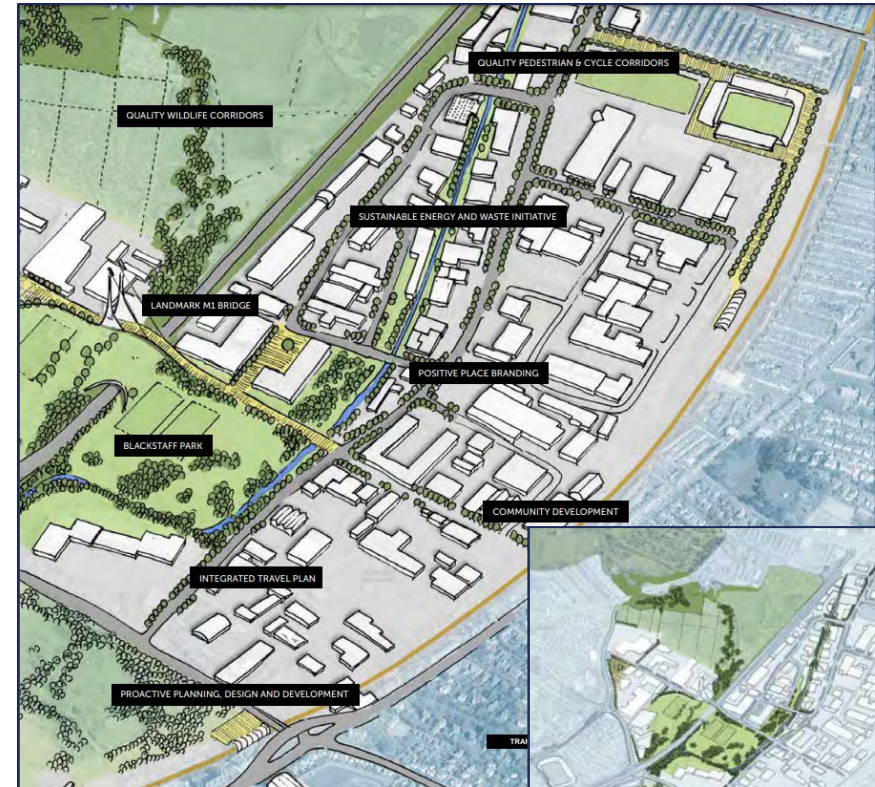
“ To make cycling an attractive alternative to driving short distances, cycle routes should be at least as direct – and preferably more direct – than those available for private motor vehicles”.

LTN 1/20 4.2.7



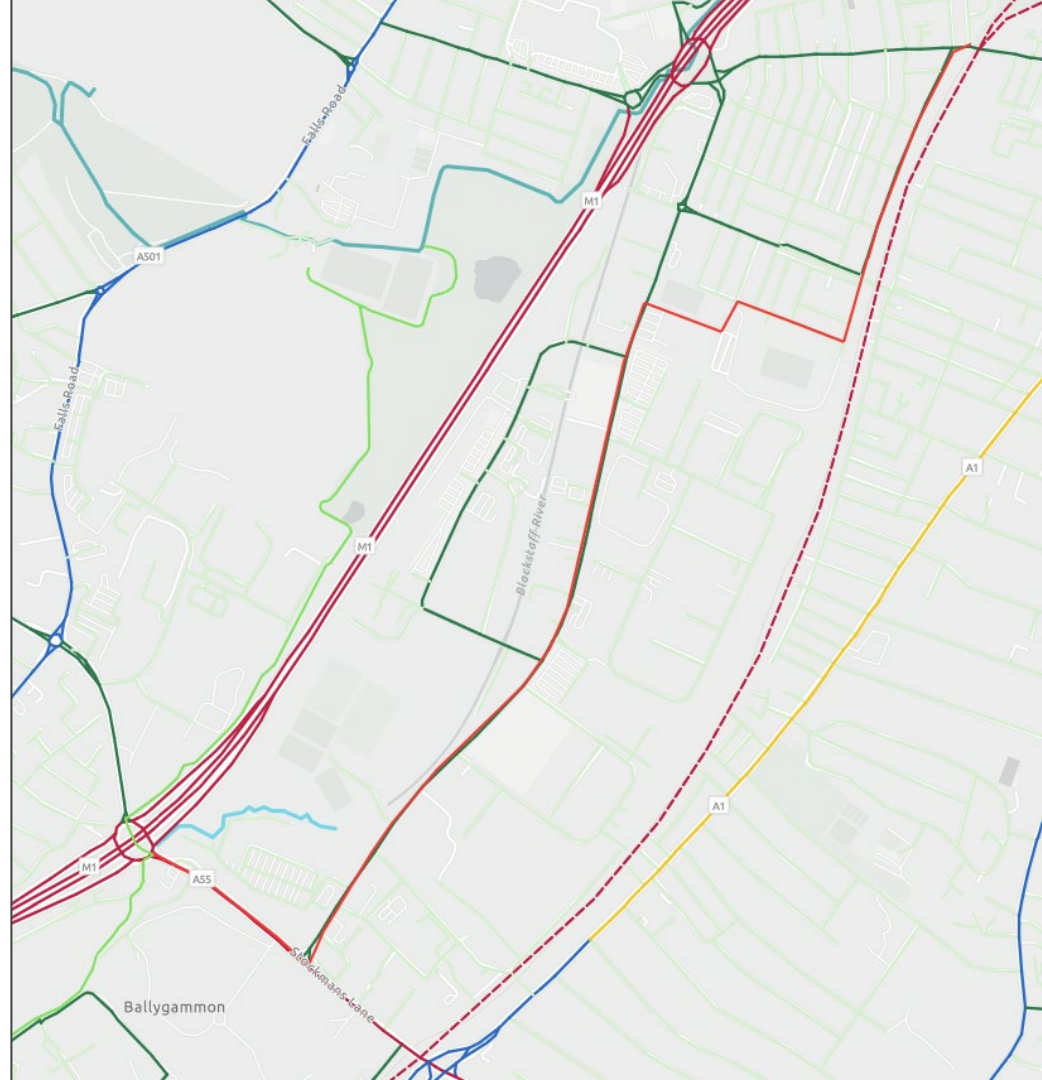
Relevant Guidance and Plans

- Department for Transport LTN 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design
- Cycling by Design, Transport Scotland
- National Cycle Network (NCN) Principles
- NI Gear Change
- Belfast Local Development Plan 2035
- Transform South/West – Enhancing Place, Connecting Opportunities, Serving Belfast (2016)
- Belfast Cycle Network 2022-31
- Eastern Transport Plan



The Study Area

Current & Future Transport Network



Legend

West_Belfast_Greenway_Updated



Transport Network Hierarchy ETP Met Area

— Strategic Movement Network

— Quality Mass Movement Corridors

— Lower Volume Movement Corridors

— People and Movement Places

— People Places

— Greenways

- - - Strategic Rail

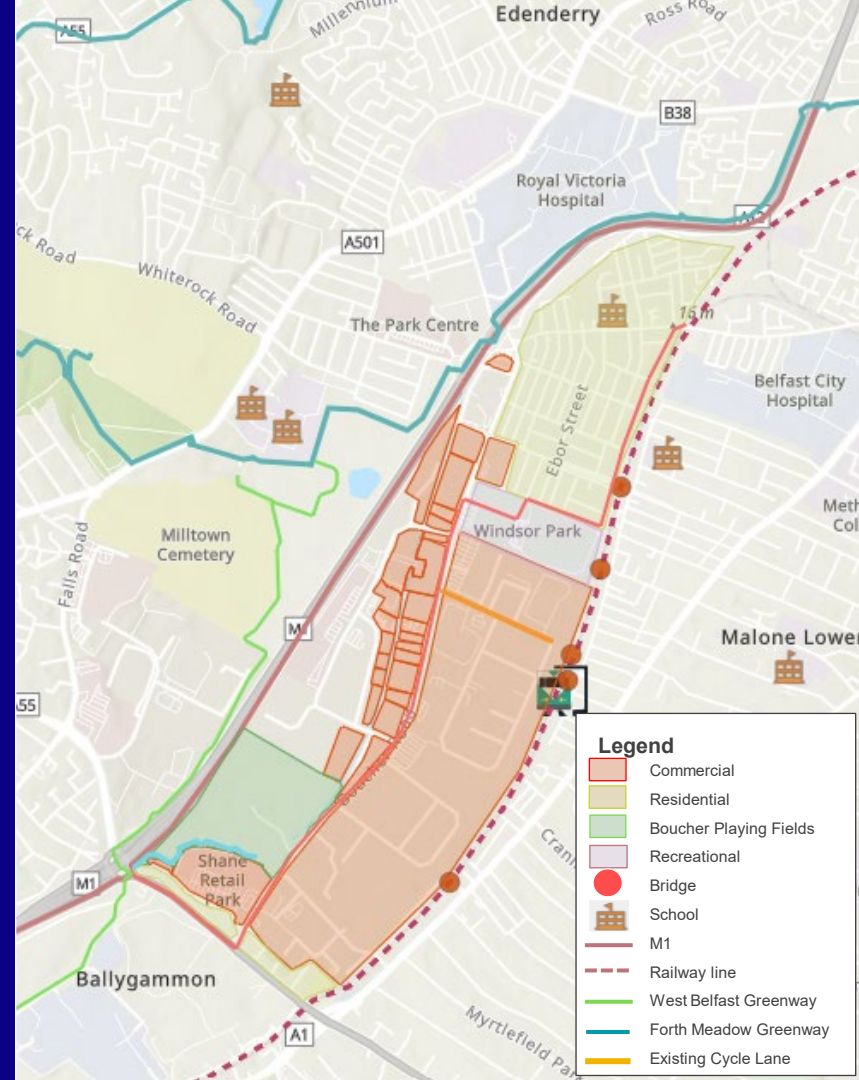
— Belfast Cycle Network

Forth Meadow Route



Existing Characteristics

- Vehicle dominated
- Commercial and industrial use development directly adjacent to the river
- Low permeability
- Limited green space
- Recreation – Windsor Stadium and Olympia
- Limited existing cycle infrastructure
- 1 school in the immediate vicinity



Why a greenway?

Active Travel Demand

30% of Belfast residents want to drive less

Equity

School in the vicinity. Many without access to a car.

Access to key destinations

Olympia Leisure Centre, Windsor Park Stadium, Adelaide Train Station, Boucher Playing Fields. Large retail hubs

Greening the Grey

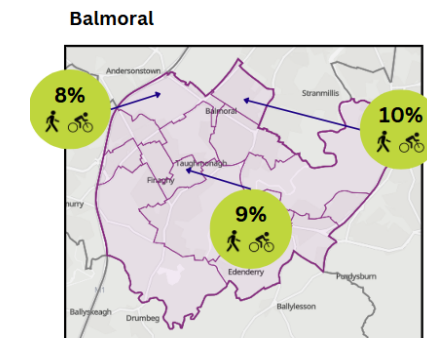
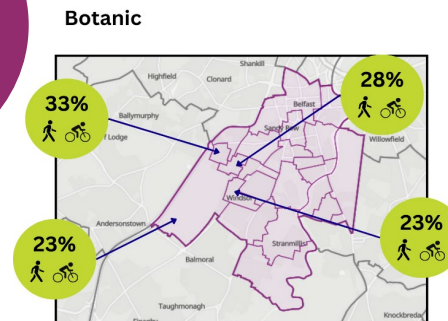
Climate resilience & enhancing biodiversity

Public Health & Wellbeing

Reduce risk of chronic diseases & improve quality of life

Business Satisfaction

31 collisions between 2017 – 2019 in the study area



Source: Census NI. 25% of Botanic residents walk or cycle to work/study despite the lack of safe infrastructure.

Site Considerations

Flood risk

Highways

Utilities

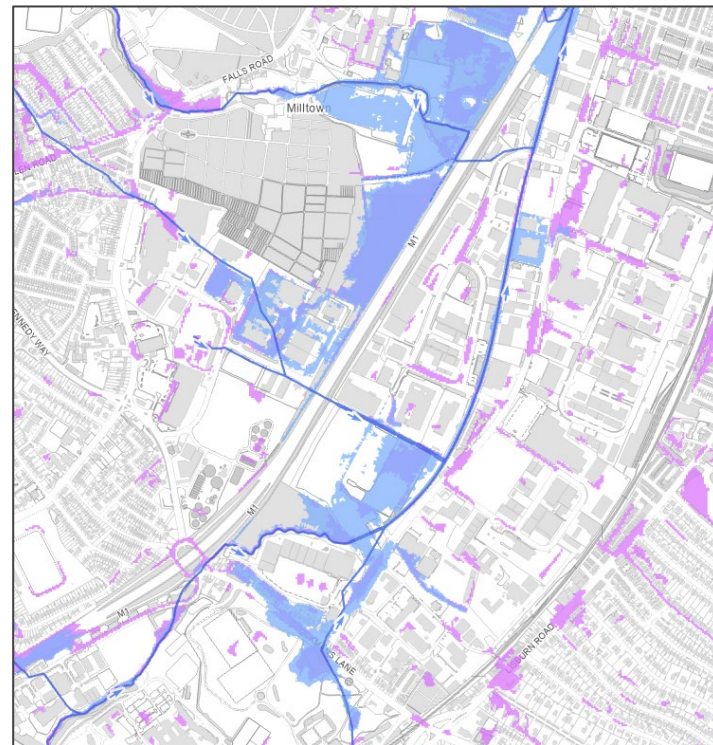
Air Pollution

Heritage

Contamination

Land use

Topography



Surface & Fluvial Flood Map

Integration



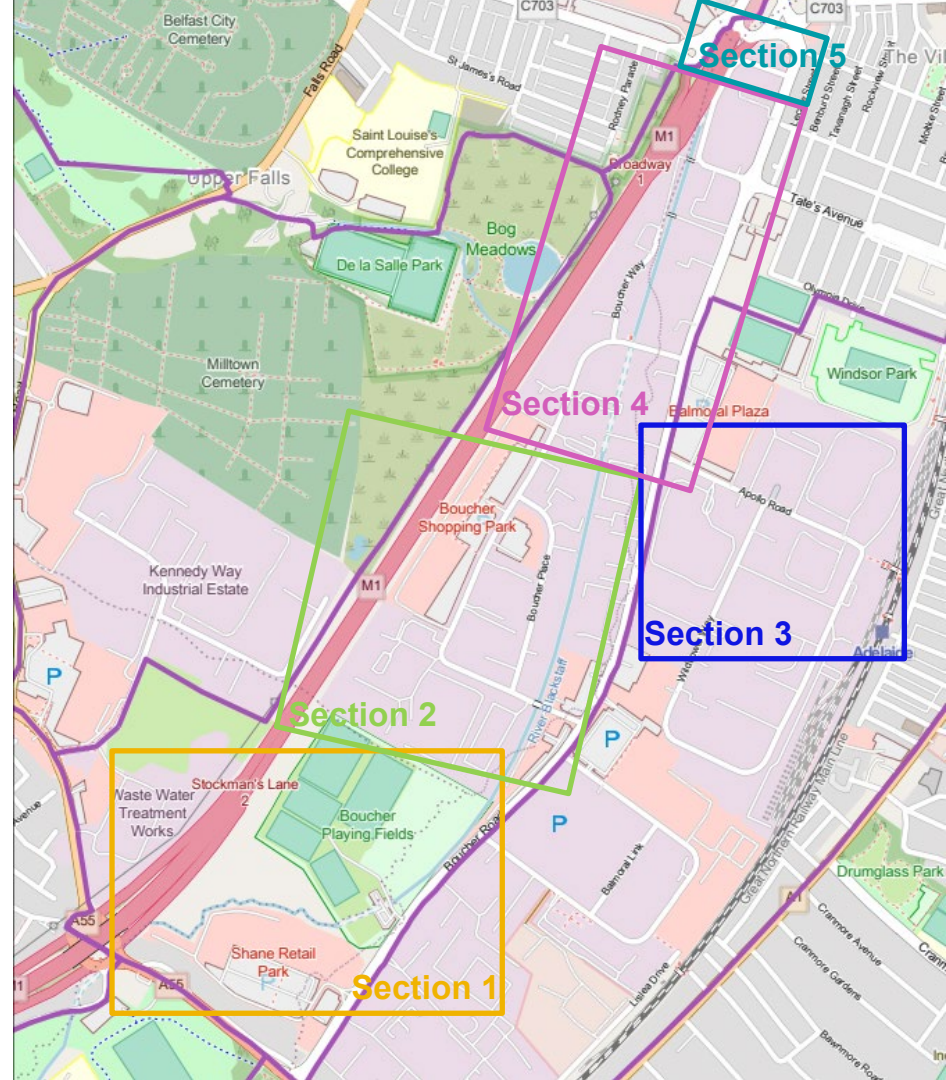
Boardwalk Example, Lias Lane, 13
Midlands. Source: Sustrans

Route Optioneering

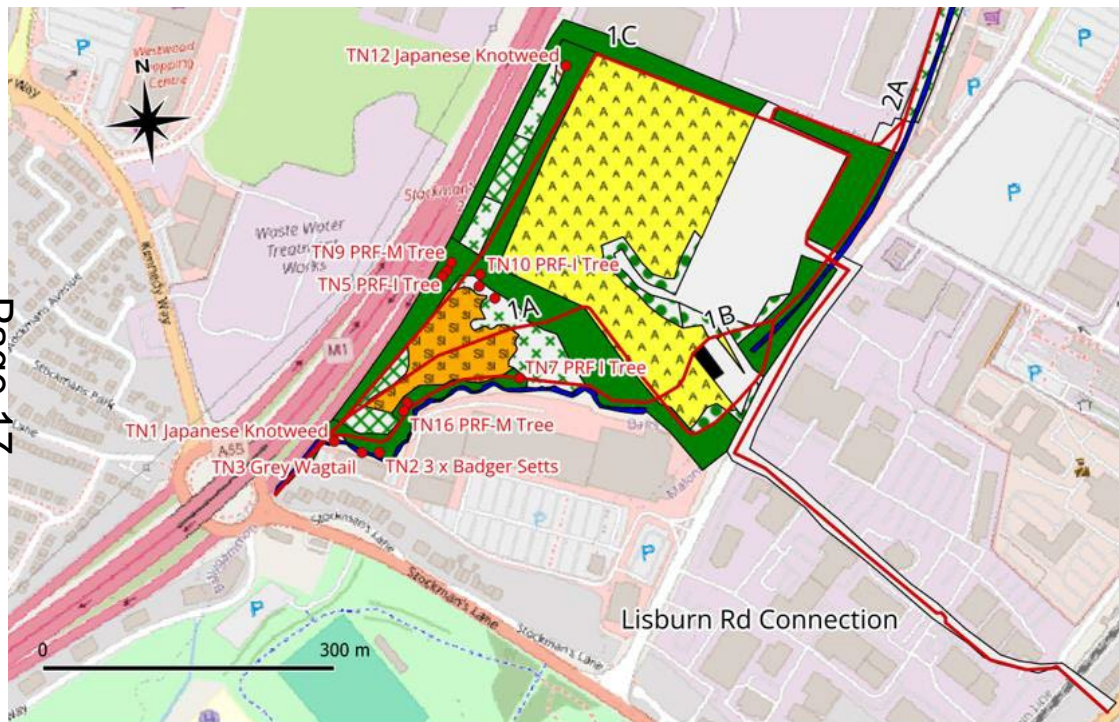
- Desktop Study
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LTN 1/20 4.2.7

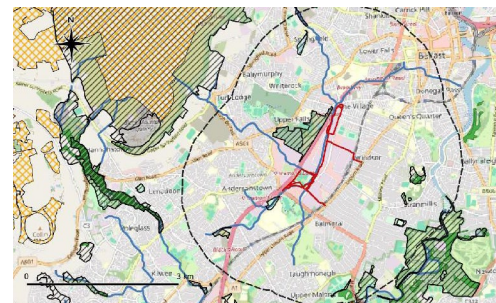


Ecology



Legend

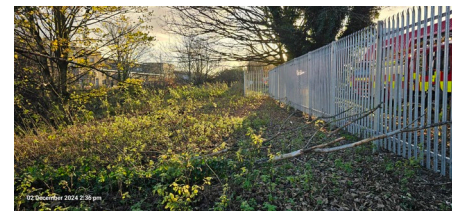
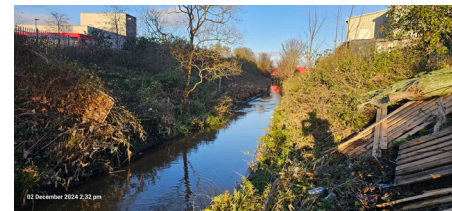
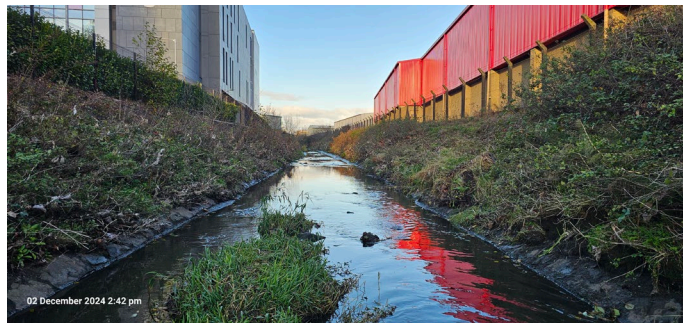
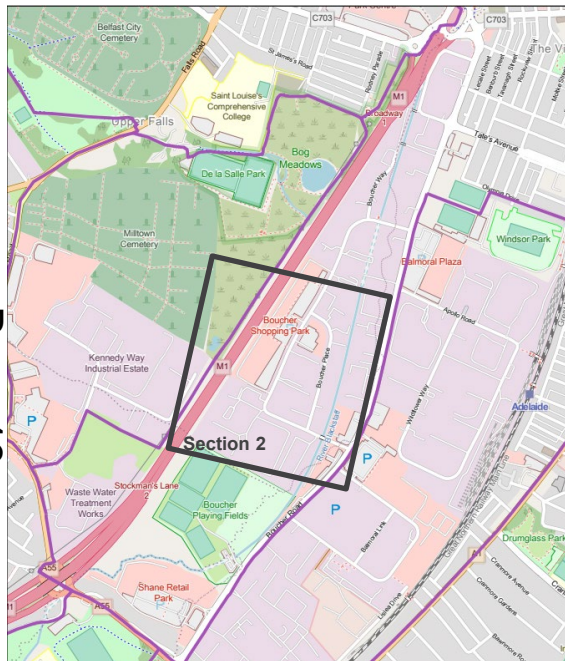
- Target Notes
- Route Options
- J 1.4 Amenity Grassland
- J 3.6 Buildings
- A 2.1 Dense Continuous Scrub
- G 2.1 Eutrophic Running Water
- J 5 Other Habitat
- B 2 Neutral Grassland
- C 3.1 Other Tall Herb and Fern Ruderal
- A 2.2 Scattered Scrub
- A 3.1 Parkland / Scattered Trees
- A 1.1.1 Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland



Section 1 – Boucher Playing Fields



Section 2



Section 2- Cantilever Solution



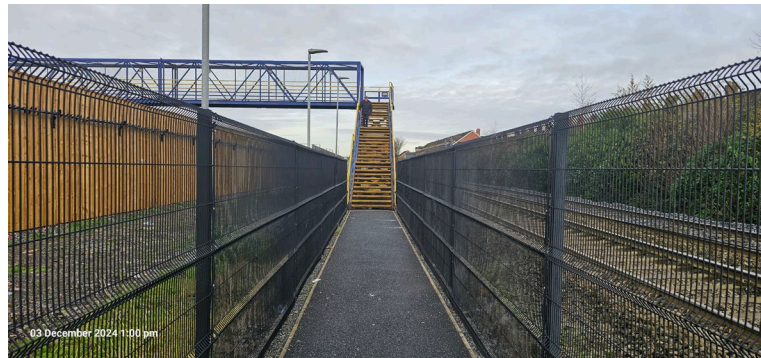
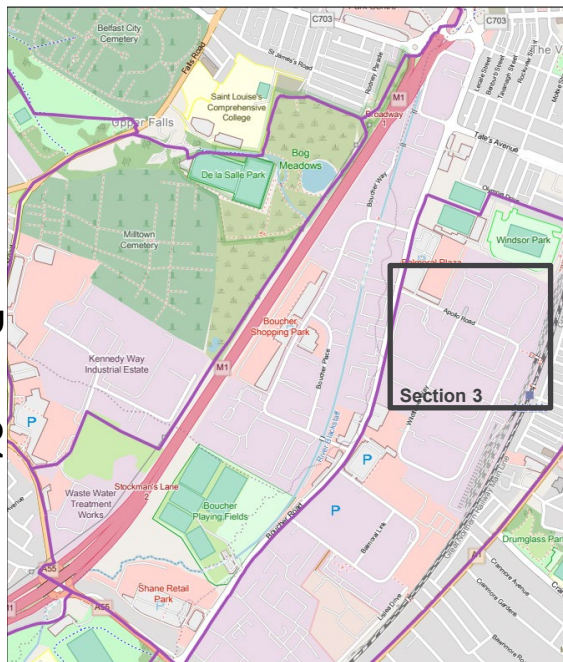
Figure 5-1: DBFL Option A proposal

Source: Royal Canal Urban Greenway Feasibility study

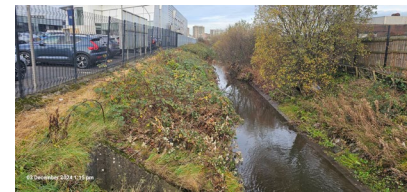


Connswater Greenway, Castlereagh Rd. Source: Sustrans

Section 3 – Adelaide Train Station Connection



Section 4



Section 5

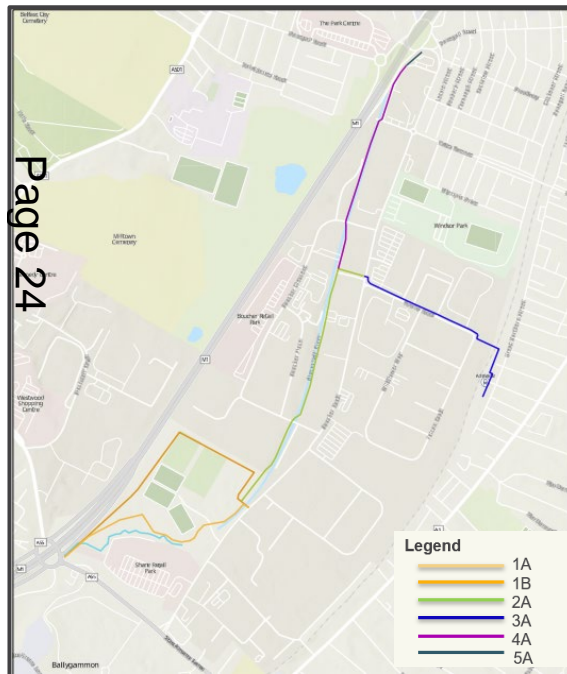


Full Greenway

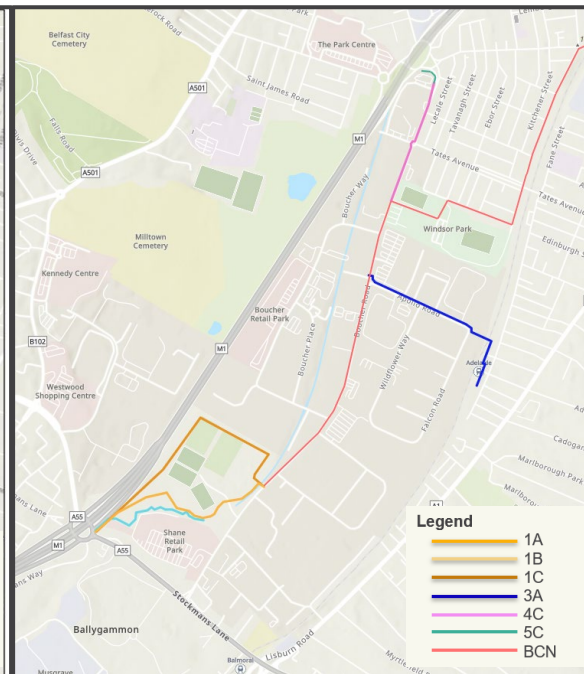
Partial Greenway

No Greenway

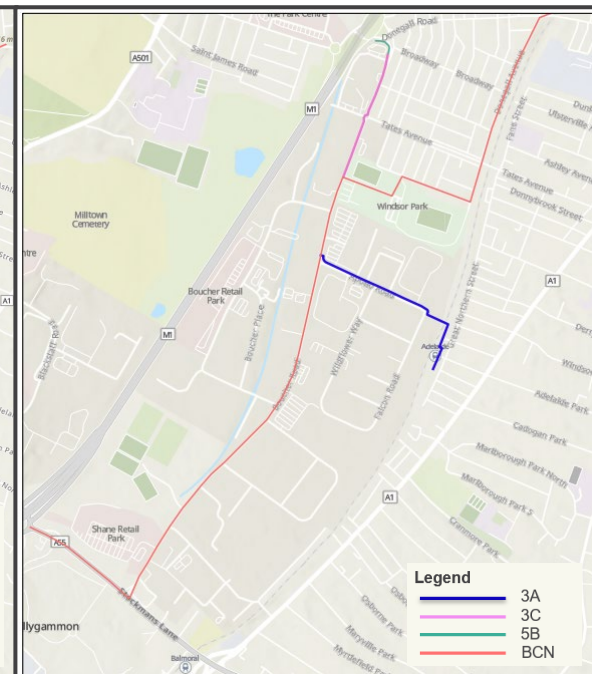
Option 1*



Option 2



Option 3



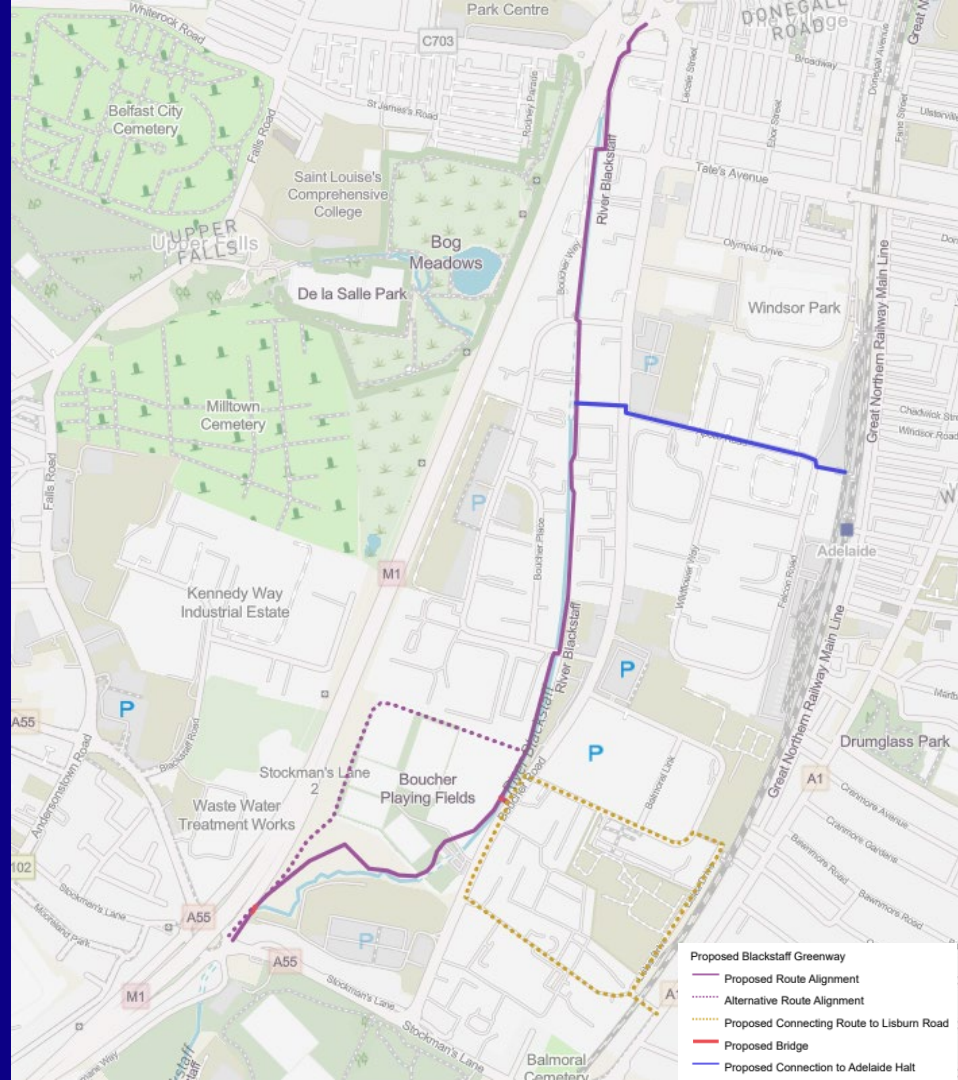
*Assessed as a shared path and a walking/wheeling only path

Multi-criteria Analysis

- Page 25
1. Safety
 2. Comfort
 3. Directedness
 4. Attractiveness
 5. Cohesion
 6. Accessibility
 7. Engineering difficulties
 8. Biodiversity Enhancement
 9. Land ownership issues
 10. River Regeneration
- LTN 1/20

Requirement	Option 1 (Cycling & Walking Shared Path): Stockman's Lane to Rise Sculpture along Blackstaff River	Option 1 (Walking/Wheeling only): Narrow/Walking Option	Option 2: Stockman's Lane to Rise Sculpture via Boucher Road Playing Field, the BCN and Section 4 & 5	Option 3: The BCN + Section 3, 4C & 5B	
	Full 3m wide walking, wheeling and cycling path	Where restricted, 2m walking & wheeling path			
Safety	There are 4 minor road crossings, 2 junctions (roundabouts at either end) and the crossing of a busy road to reach Apollo Road. With appropriate design the route will be safe. Maintenance of route required – branches and leaves can provide safety hazards.	There are 4 minor road crossings, 2 junctions (roundabouts at either end) and the crossing of a busy road to reach Apollo Road. With appropriate design the route will be safe. Maintenance of route required – branches and leaves can provide safety hazards.	With fully segregated cycle tracks this will be safe.	Full segregation of the cycle track will ensure safety but not to the same level as an off-road path.	
Comfort	Comfortable gradients. Granted a minimum width of 3m along the length of the route this is expected to be a comfortable shared path with limited potential conflict between users. 4 minor road crossings between Stockman's Lane Roundabout and Rise Sculpture could cause a lot of stopping and starting unless designed as crossings where people walking, wheeling and cycling have priority.	Comfortable gradients. Narrow path but comfortable for walking and wheeling only. When assessed against Cycling Level of Service (CLOS) this is not a comfortable path. 4 minor road crossings between Stockman's Lane Roundabout and Rise Sculpture could cause a lot of stopping and starting unless designed as crossings where people walking & wheeling have priority.	Comfortable gradients. Comfortable width will be provided in the park and cycle track will follow LTN 1/20 Standards. 4 controlled junctions along the route will cause major stopping and starting for cyclist. Other uncontrolled entrances to busy businesses will also cause stoppages. User required to navigate a roundabout at section 4.	Comfortable gradients. Cycle track will be of comfortable width for cyclists, following LTN 1/20. 7 Controlled junctions along the route will cause major stopping and starting for cyclist. Other uncontrolled entrances to busy businesses will also cause stoppages. User required to navigate a roundabout at section 4.	
Directness	While this is the shortest option at 2240m long. The 4 road crossings could increase the journey time if people walking, wheeling and cycling do not have priority. Deviation factor: 1.1	While this is the shortest option at 2440m. The 4 road crossings could increase the journey time if people walking, wheeling and cycling do not have priority. Not as direct as option 1A for a cyclist. Deviation factor: 1.1	Length 2360m The 6 road crossings could increase the journey time if people walking, wheeling and cycling do not have priority. Deviation factor: 1.2	Length 2635m The 6 road crossings could increase the journey time if people walking, wheeling and cycling do not have priority. Deviation factor: 1.3	
Attractiveness	Very attractive if it is appropriately designed, opening the River up to the public, providing a safe walking/wheeling and cycling route rich in wildlife and heritage.	Very attractive if it is appropriately designed, opening the River up to the public, providing a safe walking/wheeling route rich in wildlife and heritage.	Attractive within Playing Fields but on-road section not attractive.	On a busy main road in a car dominated area. Currently not a pleasant walk, wheel or cycle, and very substantial changes would be required to address this.	
Cohesion	Connects to West Belfast Greenway, Forth Meadow Greenway & Adelaide Train Station.	This does not provide a cohesive route for a cyclist but is connected and intuitive for a walker/wheeler.	Connects to West Belfast Greenway, Forth Meadow Greenway & Adelaide Train Station.	Connects to West Belfast Greenway, Forth Meadow Greenway, Olympia Leisure Centre & Adelaide Train Station.	

Highest Scoring Route



The way forward...

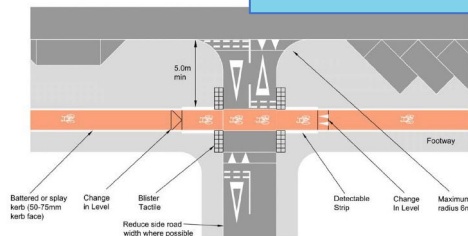
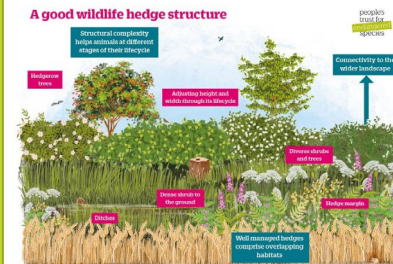
Cross-sectoral Delivery

Greenway Route - Strand 1

- Shared walking, wheeling and cycling path
- 5 Route sections
- Potential alignment/substitute to BCN

Nature Recovery – Strand 2

- Riverbed flood alleviation
- Biodiversity enhancement and extension of the bog meadows
- Water filtration and contamination treatment



Engagement – Strand 3

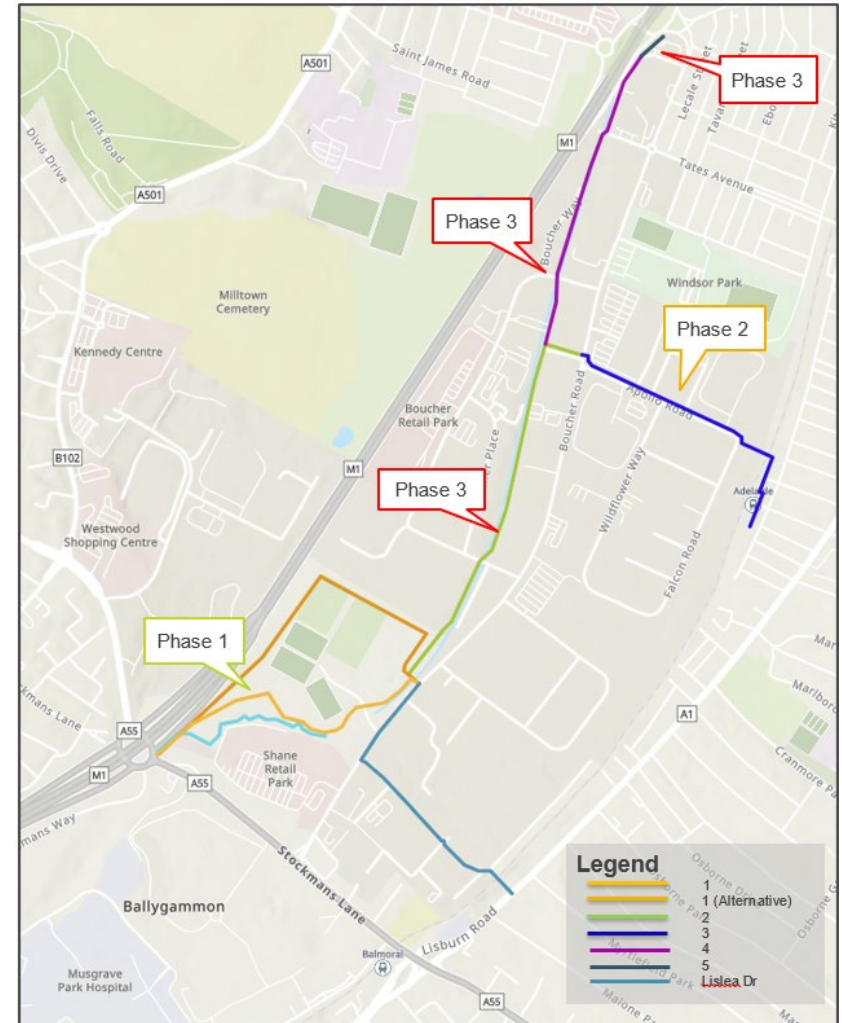
- Strengthening of natural and built heritage
- Greenway/Blueway accessibility enhancement
- Well-being and life quality improvement for businesses and people



Phased out delivery

Average time per phase

Feasibility	Feasibility Study	Time required
Concept Design	*Land negotiations	2-3 months
	Community Engagement	2 months pre-design, 2 weeks post design, 2 when planning application submitted
	Outline design drawings	1 month
	Topographical survey	1 month
	Pre-application planning meeting & advice from BCC	2 months
	PEA	1 month
	Ecological Surveys	4 months
Planning & Ecology	Application Development	2 months pre-design, 2 weeks post design, 2 when planning application submitted
	Application submission & determination	3 months
	Licence application (if required e.g. dormouse)	1 month
Technical Design (RIBA Stage 4)	Technical Design	1 month
	Planning (condition discharge)	2 months
	Tender & Mobilisation	1 month
*Construction (RIBA Stage 5)	Construction	2 months



Cost estimates

Route Section	Item description	Unit	Cost per unit	Quantity	Low total cost	Notes
Greenway Route	New traffic free path (standard construction)	m	£291	1,447	£421,077	Costs are dependent on surface finish and path width. Cost are also dependent on any engineering complexities such as need for no-dig construction techniques or minor retaining features.
	New traffic free path (flood zone construction)	m	£394	329	£129,593.10	Section through Boucher Road Playing Field is in a high flood risk zone. Building based on this will reduce long term maintenance cost.
	New traffic free path (boardwalk above riverbank)	m	£2,500	265	£662,500.00	In some space constrained sections where landowner negotiations do not result in space provided, the path may need to be built as a path on a structure above the riverbank.
	Urban Quietway	m	£200	277	£55,400.00	Along Glenmachan Place until the route reaches McDonalds
	Footway or shared use path with kerb realignment	m	£1,500	110	£165,000.00	Footway improvements on Glenmachan Place
	Toucan crossing	no	£130,000	2	£260,000.00	Toucan crossings are proposed due to traffic conditions present.
	New bridge: River Blackstaff (large, span >5m)	m	£18,043			
	Ancillary items (fencing, drainage, signs, seating)	rate	10%			
	Smaller scale junction re-model	no	£300,000			
	Cycle track/shared use path with kerb realignment	m	£1,500			
Branch to Adelaide Halt	Parallel zebra crossing	no	£60,000			
	Raised table side road crossing	no	£12,000			
	Bridge to station and Great Northern Street					
	Ancillary items (fencing, drainage, signs, seating)	rate	10%			
	Works total				£3,522,596.11	

The way forward

→ Identify funding

Greenway/ AT Route - Strand 1

- DfI Greenway Development Funding
- Developer Contributions

Nature Recovery – Strand 2

- DAERA Nature Recovery Challenge Fund

Engagement – Strand 3

- Belfast City Council or DfC provision for community engagement
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Corporate Social Responsibility

Other Partnership opportunities:

- Horizon Europe under Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility. (CIVITAS)
- Shared Island Funding - find a similarly constrained example in the Republic of Ireland & share learnings throughout design development
- Partner with local universities for environmental research or student-led design contributions

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

→ Tackling Climate Change throughout the project Strands

Greenway/ AT Route - Strand 1

- Connected residential areas to green and blue infrastructure via active travel

Nature Recovery – Strand 2

- Expansion on the bog meadows in Boucher Playing Field
- Rain gardens in industrial/ business parks
- Million Tree Strategy: opportunities to plant more trees in the connection link, e.g. Border of Boucher Playing Field and Boucher Road; along section 4 culverted area.

Engagement – Strand 3

- Promote behavioural change
- Engage businesses and communities in the design process of SuDS and new public facilities along the Blackstaff river.
- Engage with business to develop their Climate Resilience Plans/ Business resilience and long-term operational sustainability.

We work for and with communities,
helping them come to life by walking,
wheeling and cycling.

We campaign to create healthier places
and happier lives for everyone.

Join us on our journey.

aine.mcbeth@sustrans.org.uk

www.sustrans.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 326550 (England and Wales) SC039263 (Scotland)
VAT Registration No. 416740656.



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Subject:	Shared Island Civic Society Fund
Date:	12 June 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Mark Mulholland, External Funding Co-ordinator

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

x

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 current open funding call under the Shared Island Civic Society Fund being managed by the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs (DfA), and potential advice sessions of Belfast organisations for future funding opportunities.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the update provided in relation to the current round of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund and the commitment of future founding rounds until 2027; that an online information session has been organised for local organisations on Thursday 12 June 2025 on the requirements of the current funding call, details of this session has been shared with all elected members and relevant officers to share across their local networks; and that following engagement between officers and DfA officials, plans are being developed to run a future in-person session in late summer with Belfast organisations as to potential opportunities for successful applications under future rounds of this fund.
3.0	Main Report
	Shared Island Civic Society Fund
3.1	The Shared Island Civic Society Fund is an initiative to promote practical North South cooperation and engagement across a range of sectors and themes, consistent with the objectives and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement.
3.2	The Shared Island initiative is a whole-of-government priority which aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement to enhance cooperation, connection, and mutual understanding on the island and engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future.
3.3	The Civic Society Fund is intended to provide project funding to complement work supported through the Reconciliation Fund and other Government resources; and to promote practical North South cooperation between civic society actors, deepening such relationships on an all-island basis.

3.4	<p>A total of €6 million will be available from 2025 to 2027, it is anticipated that a total of up to €2 million will be made available in this round to support successful projects. The maximum grant awarded to any project is €50,000. The average grant awarded in previous rounds was just under €30,000. Applications will be strengthened by the inclusion of funding contributions from the participating partner organisations.</p>
3.4	<p>The Fund will prioritise applications relating to, but not limited to, the following areas, including applications from regional or national representative bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and environment. • Women • Youth • Migrants • Social Enterprise, charity and voluntary sector.
3.5	<p>All applications must have a clear North South dimension and only applications from civic society organisations based in the South engaging in new project/programme work with a partner(s) in the North or civic society organisations in the North engaging in new project/programme work with a partner(s) in the South will be considered. East/West dimensions and partners to such projects will also be welcomed.</p>
3.6	<p>The following areas are not eligible for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standalone activities that are not part of a wider project/programme. • Operational costs, such as core salaries and overheads • Capital costs.
3.7	<p>The deadline for applications is 27 June 2025, guidance notes and the application form are available from the Department of Foreign Affairs website.</p>
3.8	<p>Considering the tight timeframes for this current funding round. The Council has requested that DfA hold an online information session, taking place on Thursday 12 June, to provide information to prospective applicant organisations based in Belfast. As there will also be future rounds under this Fund the Council will work with DfA officials to facilitate an in-person session to provide guidance and support for local organisations on project requirements and tips for future opportunities.</p>

	<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



Subject:	District Electoral Area Profiles – LAEP Dataset
Date:	12 th June 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact Officer:	Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Reporting and Learning Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <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 	
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/> </div> </div>	

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	To present the District Electoral Area Profiles, created using the modelled data outputs from the Local Area Energy Plan.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the contents of the profiles II. Consider suggestions for changes/improvements to the profiles
2.2	Background <p>One of the main outputs of the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) was a detailed dataset that highlights key characteristics of homes across Belfast relating to energy efficiency. Council data analysts have expanded this dataset to link more indicators relating to household characteristics (tenure, acorn categories and descriptions).</p>
2.3	Purpose of the Profiles <p>The profiles allow users to explore different indicators in areas across the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current EPC • Potential EPC • Tenure • Main fuel type • Property type • Insulation type • Window type • Acorn categories and descriptions
2.4	The main geographical focus of the profiles is District Electoral Area, however the variables listed above can be broken down further into Datazones and Super Datazones. These are smaller areas of around 300 households in a Datazone, and approximately 800 households in a Super Datazone. Both of these geographies were designed to analyse data for the 2021 Census. It is also possible to amalgamate the data up into quadrants, North, South, East and West.
2.5	Data linkages <p>The LAEP dataset has also been linked with the Acorn Database. This database is created using postcode data and common characteristics within areas and can be used to help understand the different needs of communities in different areas.</p>
2.4	Further opportunities <p>Council data analysts have created a retrofit index that amalgamates different variables into one index that will help indicate areas in most need of retrofit. There are also other opportunities to link general population demographics to the profiles to that are currently being explored.</p>
2.5	Next Steps <p>We would like to know if the profiles are useful to members and what other information should be included. The main purpose of these profiles is to use the LAEP data in a timely manner before it becomes outdated.</p> <p>The profiles will be accessible through the climate data platform test site on interlink.</p>

3.1	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None currently needed.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>N/A</p>

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Subject:	Climate Change and Sustainability Training for Staff and Elected Members.
Date:	12 th June 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact Officers:	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"/>
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an outline of an Elected Member climate change training programme is being developed for NI councils.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note that the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations process is likely to require capacity building for Elected Members and staff across the organisation to support them as they scrutinise and report on the climate impacts of the Council's activities, policies and assets;

	<p>II. Note that the Council's membership of Sustainable NI provides access to a new comprehensive sustainability and climate change training programme for Elected Members and staff, with preferential rates of up to 50% discount;</p> <p>III. Note that a training course has been developed for Elected Members that will help them to understand climate change, how that aligns with the Council's work and how they can influence and take action;</p> <p>IV. Note that Sustainable NI has offered to design and deliver a climate and sustainability training course tailored to the needs of the Corporate Management Team and other senior managers; and</p> <p>V. Give approval to arrange these courses for Elected Members and CMT.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Belfast City Council has committed to ambitious action to address climate change across all areas of Council work and relies on the support and engagement of all staff and Elected Members.</p> <p>The Council has recently been tasked with reporting on climate change adaptation and mitigation as mandated by the new Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations, with an initial deadline of 31st of October 2025 for the first comprehensive report on climate mitigation efforts. This process is likely to require capacity building for Elected Members and staff across the organisation to support them as they scrutinise and report on the climate impacts of the Council's activities, policies and assets.</p>
3.2	<p>Climate Change and Sustainability Training Programme</p> <p>Belfast City Council is a partner in the NI Sustainable Development Forum. Sustainable NI (SNI) facilitates the group as well as providing councils with education, advocacy and support services. In response to requests from NI councils, SNI has developed a series of sustainability and climate change training programmes tailored to the needs of NI councils including training strands tailored specifically to the needs of Elected Members and senior managers. Course development and delivery can involve Council staff and could be delivered in person on Council premises.</p> <p>Similar training programmes have been rolled out across councils in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) and Great Britain. The RoI scheme in particular is regarded as an exemplar, with training co-ordinators advocating that programmes focus initially on Elected Members and senior managers. Delivery of training courses is likely to commence in September 2025 and courses will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Training for Elected Members • Climate Change and Sustainability for Senior Managers • Sustainability and Net Zero Introduction • Sustainable Capital Projects • Sustainable Procurement • Sustainability Reporting in the Supply Chain • Screening Decisions for Sustainability
3.3	<p>Climate Change Training for Elected Members</p> <p>This will equip NI councillors with the skills and information that they need to mobilise change within their constituency and to communicate climate change effectively to hard-to-reach groups. The course is typically run over a full-day or as two half-days. An initial two hour condensed course is proposed. By the end of the training, councillors will be able to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the basic science of climate change and how climate change will affect us both globally and locally; • Explain why local authorities are vital to tackling climate change; • Explain how local authorities can tackle climate change (through direct control, procurement, place-shaping, showcasing, partnerships and community engagement) • Explain the risks of flooding and temperature rise and the role of nature and biodiversity in building resilience; • Articulate the risks and opportunities associated with the energy transition and explain the wider benefits of action to their communities (eg health, jobs traffic congestion, supporting local businesses etc); • Communicate, engage and consult with local communities on the climate agenda; and • Consider the overall costs and benefits (including co-benefits) of action to cut carbon.
3.4	<p>Climate Change and Sustainability Training for Senior Managers</p> <p>Sustainable NI has also offered to design and deliver a climate and sustainability training course tailored to the needs of the Corporate Management Team and other senior managers. The course would be delivered on Belfast City Council premises, with an expected duration of around 2 hours and would be based on a training needs analysis which would be carried out in advance.</p>
3.5	<p>Central and Local Government Climate Change Working Group</p> <p>A Local & Central Government Working Group has been established by DAERA and SOLACE to strengthen local and central government collaboration to address the climate and ecological crisis. The Working Group recently agreed to explore expanding the provision of online, self-directed Climate Smart Level 1 (2.5 hours) and 2 (3 hours) training to local government over the next 18 months. So far, this training has been completed by 1,000 central government staff, has been well received and can be delivered for approximately £9,000 pa with a CPD certificate included. The training is delivered through an e-learning platform. If this goes ahead, it would build initial awareness, understanding and capacity across BCC staff at scale. Likely costs would be c£750 per Council per year to have access to 2 courses each month. Further updates will follow through the regular SOLACE meetings.</p>
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
4.1	The cost for up to 15 Elected Members attending the training is covered within Belfast City Council's subscription as a partner to SNI for 2025/26. If additional places are required the cost would be £150 per delegate (a 50% reduction on the regular charge £295) and would be funded via existing City and Organisational Strategy budget.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
5.1	None identified. Engagement with Equality & Rural Needs team is ongoing across the Programme.
6.0	Appendices - none

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