

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

9th January, 2026

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, 15th January, 2026 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. **Restricted Items**
 - (a) UPSURGE EU Horizon Project Update (Pages 1 - 6)
3. **Carbon Disclosure Project 2025 Results (Pages 7 - 10)**
4. **Public Body Reporting - Mitigation Report (Pages 11 - 32)**
5. **Update on Public Body Reporting - Proposed Contents for Adaptation Report (Pages 33 - 36)**
6. **Funding Update: Pathways2Resilience Project (Pages 37 - 40)**

Agenda Item 2a

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

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Subject:	Carbon Disclosure Project 2025 results
Date:	15 th December 2026
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner
Contact Officers:	Claire Shortt – Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer

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 or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update members on the recent award of A- status to Belfast through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) cities reporting framework.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the 2025 CDP award of A- status to Belfast, which follows the 2022 to 2024 award of A status and the 2021 CDP award of B status to Belfast, and to support the annual submission by Belfast through this internationally recognised carbon and climate reporting framework.
3.0	Main report

	Background - Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)
3.1	In July 2021, the Council made the first annual submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). The submission was undertaken to support baselining of activity and emissions in Belfast, and to help gain and understanding of our environmental dependencies, risks, impacts and opportunities. The survey consisted of multiple questions across themes such as, waste, transport, energy, emissions, climate risk and vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation, planning and finance.
3.2	CDP is a global non-profit that runs the world's only independent environmental disclosure system for companies, capital markets, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. The CDP has been running for 25 years and there are now more than 1,000 cities disclosing through their platform globally. The four scoring bands were expanded this year to include 2 grades within each band (previously there was only one): Disclosure (D- or D); Awareness (C- or C); Management (B- or B); Leadership (A- or A).
3.3	Belfast has been recognised by CDP as one of top cities across the globe that is taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency, despite the pressures of a challenging global economic situation. The process has been designed to encourage and support cities to ramp up their climate action and ambition, CDP's Cities A List is based on environmental data disclosed by cities to CDP-ICLEI Track. A clear momentum in city climate disclosure and action is building – over 1,000 cities received a rating for their climate action from CDP in 2025.
3.4	A city submission to CDP illustrates the level of ambition, activity and transparency each city adopts. Belfast has made its submission public in all four submission years to ensure maximum openness and transparency around our plans. The Belfast submission in 2021 was the first time Belfast had participated in CDP, and we were congratulated on having achieved a B ranking at such an early stage. In 2022, our second submission achieved an A ranking and this ranking has been preserved in 2023, 2024 and now also in 2025.
3.5	Along with the projects mentioned in previous submissions such as the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap (2020), UPSURGE and the Belfast Tidal Defence Project, the Belfast Agenda, the Met Office Heat Maps, Retrofit Hub and the Local Development Plan, more recent projects such as the the councils Climate Action Plan along with the successful Local Area Energy Plan helped to secure our placement in the Leadership band. Projects such as the UP2030 NET Zero Neighbourhoods, Solar PV on Donegal Pass, establishment of the

	Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership, Segregation and the Environment – breaking down barriers report and the exploratory work on a city centre heat network also contributed to the most recent A- ranking.
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	There are no financial and resource implications.
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.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/cities-scores

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Subject:	Update on Public Body Reporting – Mitigation report
Date:	15 th January 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact Officers:	Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner

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 or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To share the information that was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in relation to the Mitigation Report required under the Climate Change Act, Public Body Reporting on the 31 st October 2025.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that: I. BCC is required to submit mitigation report to DAERA as part of the public body reporting requirements under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022;

	<p>II. the mitigation report including the amounts and sources of the council's greenhouse gas emissions and a statement of the council's proposals and policies for reducing those amounts was submitted on the DAERA platform on 31st October 2025 for the baseline year of data (2023/2024);</p> <p>III. the council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2023/2024 were 101,42.8 tCO₂e and 3565.4 tCO₂e respectively;</p> <p>IV. the council's proposals and policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions include the 13 short-term actions within the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that relate to mitigation along with a progress update for each action; and</p> <p>V. although the next mitigation report to DAERA is not due until 2029, mitigation reporting will be repeated internally on an annual basis to enable Council to track its emissions and its progress for reducing these emissions.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 requires DAERA to make new Regulations, which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies. The regulations came into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they are laid in the Assembly. The first report required under the regulations, is the mitigation report which was submitted on 31st October 2025.</p> <p>What was submitted?</p>
3.2	<p>As this was the first report, the baseline year of data (2023/2024) of the amounts and sources of the council's greenhouse gas emissions were calculated and uploaded. In future reports the 3 most recent financial years will be required.</p>
3.3	<p>The report also included a statement of the council's proposals and policies for reducing those amounts and otherwise for mitigating the effects of climate change in the exercise of its functions. On this occasion, this included the short-term actions within the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that relate to mitigation. Updates were included on each of the actions, tracking their target for delivery.</p> <p>Greenhouse gas figures</p>
3.4	<p>Estimates created inhouse matched those created using the DAERA portal and are listed below.</p>

	<p>Scope 1</p> <p>Direct GHG emissions totals</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th><th>Total</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total scope 1 emissions (tCO₂e)</td><td>10142.768637</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total outside of scopes emissions (tCO₂e)</td><td>2472.792203</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Title	Total	Total scope 1 emissions (tCO₂e)	10142.768637	Total outside of scopes emissions (tCO₂e)	2472.792203
Title	Total						
Total scope 1 emissions (tCO₂e)	10142.768637						
Total outside of scopes emissions (tCO₂e)	2472.792203						
	<p>Scope 2</p> <p>4.2 - Scope 2: Energy indirect GHG emissions - Scope 2 accounts for GHG emissions from the generation of purchased energy consumed by the organisation.</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Energy indirect GHG emissions totals</th></tr> <tr> <th>Title</th><th>Total</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Scope 2 Emissions (Location-based) (tCO₂e)</td><td>3565.429366</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Energy indirect GHG emissions totals		Title	Total	Total Scope 2 Emissions (Location-based) (tCO₂e)	3565.429366
Energy indirect GHG emissions totals							
Title	Total						
Total Scope 2 Emissions (Location-based) (tCO₂e)	3565.429366						
	<p>Proposals and policies for reduction</p>						
3.5	<p>The short-term mitigation actions were submitted to DAERA as our proposals and policies for carbon reduction. The short-term mitigation actions are listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and launch an accessible climate data platform to track progress on delivering climate adaptation and mitigation actions (1.7) 2. Develop a sustainable/ low carbon procurement policy and supplier guidance documents to support a transition to an inclusive, net zero and resilient future (1.12) 3. Develop a sustainable food policy for the Council that addresses waste, sourcing, packaging, emissions measurement and an events protocol (1.14) 4. Complete a second phase of building energy audits - (Andersonstown LC, Lisnasharragh LC, Templemore Av LC, Brook LC) and the Waterfront Hall (3.4) 5. Develop the integration of whole life carbon assessments as standard practice in the Capital Programme (3.8) 6. Launch a phased metering and retrofitting programme across BCC's top energy users based on the findings of the building level audits of Adelaide, Cecil Ward, City Hall and Duncrue (3.11) 7. Scope out a strategy to increase renewable and low-carbon energy use through corporate power purchase agreements (3.15) 8. Review the Business Travel Policy and develop the Sustainable Staff Travel Plan to encourage modal shift, active travel and more fuel-efficient driving for Council staff (4.1) 						

	<p>9. Through sustainable procurement, aim to use local suppliers to the Council to reduce miles travelled within the confines of procurement legislation and Local Govt Act restrictions (4.4)</p> <p>10. Conduct a commercial assessment of Council land suitable for installing low emission vehicle (LEV) charging points (4.9)</p> <p>11. Commence work on repurposing staff parking spaces for cycle racks and integrate appropriate facilities to support active travel e.g. shower and changing facilities (4.10)</p> <p>12. Continue to progress the proposal for a single use plastics policy for the Council (5.4)</p> <p>13. Develop a mechanism to track and report on internal Council generated waste (5.7).</p>
3.6	<p>There was an additional section that asked about linkage of current action to other existing policies. For example, it was highlighted that an internal sustainable food policy (1.14), will link to current work produced by the Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership.</p> <p>Next steps</p>
3.7	<p>The next report due to be submitted to DAERA is the adaptation report on 31st March 2026. Further updates will be brought to committee outlining the contents of this report. The Climate Team will continue this mitigation reporting cycle on an annual basis, including figures for our greenhouse gas emissions along with progress made towards actions within the CAP.</p>
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	There are no financial and resource implications in relation to this update.
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.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 - <u>The list of 40 public bodies that are required to report under the Act.</u></p> <p>Appendix 2 – <u>Climate change Act 2022 (section 42)</u></p> <p>Appendix 3 - Full report as submitted</p>

DAERA Mitigation Report – FINAL UPLOADED

Climate change governance structures

2.1 (a)

Does the organisation currently have any climate change mitigation governance structures in place?

Yes

2.1 (b)

How is climate change mitigation governed within the organisation?

Belfast declared a climate emergency declaration in October 2019 and has adopted carbon reduction targets of 66% reduction by 2025, 80% reduction by 2030 and 100% reduction by 2050 for the city as a whole. The Our Planet Board oversees a programme of work which aims to create a sustainable, nature-positive city, through: Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change; Creating a sustainable circular economy; and Innovating to net zero.

The Council has recently published its Climate Action Plan (CAP) that passed through all the relevant structures in council, receiving support from all departments and directors, Corporate Management team, Climate and City Resilience Committee and full Council.

The CAP is structured across the key climate action themes covering Tools for Transition, Energy and Buildings, Transport, Waste Management and Adaptation. Under each of these themes, a specific goal was set in addition to more specific objectives. These goals combined, aim to support the achievement of a net zero and resilient Council. Delivering on each of these goals will yield additional benefits outside of outcomes for climate mitigation and resilience, for community development and environmental sustainability.

Tools for the transition - Ensuring the appropriate building blocks are in place to support climate action is essential to deliver the CAP. Tools for Transition is a sector-agnostic cross-cutting theme that covers areas such as education and upskilling, data as well as development of policies, strategies and guidelines.

Adaptation to extreme weather - The adaptation theme aims to ensure BCC is future proofed and resilient to the impacts of severe weather resulting from our changing climate.

Energy and buildings - aims to decarbonise and improve the energy use efficiency across the BCC estate.

Transport - aims to decarbonise BCC's fleet and reduce emissions associated with employee commuting and business travel.

Waste management - aims to reduce waste generated by BCC and its associated emissions and to transition the Council to a circular economy.

The Climate Programme Board (CPB) has been established and is made up of officers who collect data relating to the actions within the CAP, the climate commissioner and directors from across the organisation. The CPB also governs the £1million climate fund that has been used to support projects that ultimately aim to strengthen resilience against the changing climate and reduce emissions in the city.

Belfast has a Climate Commissioner with a team around her. The monitoring, learning and Reporting officer looks after the data and monitors the actions within the Climate Action Plan to track progress

2.1 (c)

Provide a summary of how the organisation monitors, reports on and manages its climate change mitigation decision-making at a senior staff level e.g. the responsibilities for the organisation's senior managers, departmental heads, etc.

The Climate Programme Board will provide oversight of the delivery and updating of the Climate Action Plan ensuring that the actions are delivered in line with agreed timelines, challenges to its delivery are identified and mitigated and that CAP targets are being met. Heads of Departments will be responsible for securing resources for the implementation of their respective actions and for reporting progress via the Climate Data Platform with regular updates to the Climate Programme Board.

The Climate Programme Board will review progress on a quarterly basis with six-monthly progress reports provided to the Corporate Management Team and the Climate and City Resilience Committee. An annual report will be prepared by the Climate Team by August each year ahead of the submission dates for mandatory public body reporting in October 2025 (Mitigation Report) and March 2026 (Adaptation Report) respectively. The Climate Team will monitor and review progress through the Climate Data Platform and provide advisory support to departments where required.

2.1 (d) Upload governance structure

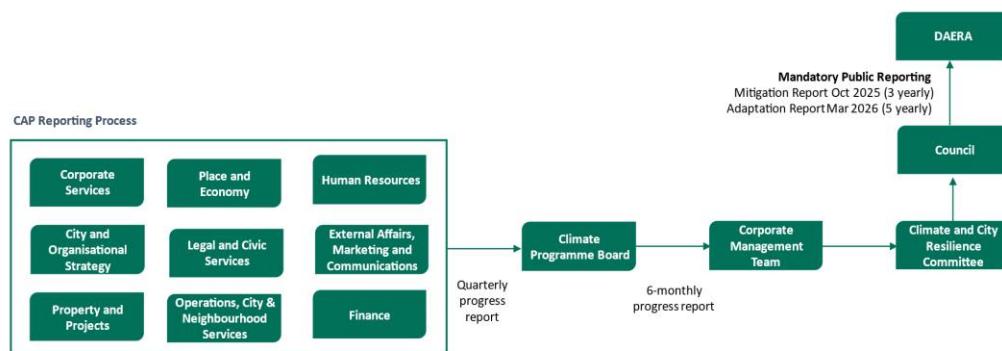
2.2 (a) Yes – taken from page 20 of the Climate Action Plan

Governance structure

The council already has a robust internal governance framework to oversee its climate programme with the Climate Programme Board providing scrutiny for the overall programme of work

The Climate Programme Board will provide oversight of the delivery and updating of the Climate Action Plan ensuring that actions are delivered in line with agreed timelines, challenges to its delivery are identified and mitigated and that CAP targets are being met. Heads of Departments will be responsible for securing resources for the implementation of their respective actions and for reporting progress via the Climate Data Platform with regular updates to the Climate Programme Board.

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1

2.2 (b) Upload all Climate Action Plan

Objective title: Enter title

Objective description:

Tools for Transition

Ensuring BCC is equipped with the tools and mechanisms to successfully enable it to become a net zero, resilient council

Page 22 Climate Action Plan

Adaptation

Ensuring BCC is future proofed and resilient to flood and heat related risk

Page 26 Climate Action Plan

Transport

Achievement of net zero and sustainable Council-related transport

Page 37 Climate Action Plan

Waste Management

Enabling the Council and its operations to support the transition to a more circular economy

Page 41 Climate Action Plan

Energy and Buildings

Achievement of a low-carbon and sustainable energy system and Council estate

Page 33 Climate Action Plan

Our Planet - Creating a sustainable, nature-positive city

We are committed to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss head on to ensure that Belfast can be a place where people and nature thrive together, a place where we can reduce waste and single-use plastics, harness green energy and plant more trees.

To deliver a sustainable city, we will work with our residents and industries to reduce their carbon footprints. Belfast has a great opportunity to lead the way in providing global green solutions by leveraging our unique market access and international networks to become a hub for low carbon design and manufacturing. We will therefore support our industries to thrive on all the opportunities in the green economy whilst creating a much cleaner environment.

Corporate Plan – Our Planet section - <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/corporate-plan-2025-2028/contents>

Our Planet - Re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change

We will support and shape a city that is learning and building on its existing strengths to become a green, transformed, and healthy city, promoting the uptake of nature-based solutions across the city to support climate. Delivery with city partner organisations of the Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan (2021–2026), will continue in improving air quality for Belfast.

We value our natural ecosystems and will nurture and expand these further in areas most needed such as our inner city, to protect and support urban communities to thrive.

We will deliver our Tree Strategy to help manage and improve the tree-scape in the city, to provide a resilient and diverse urban forest for future generations. The strategy sets out a commitment to delivering key priorities and actions over the next ten years.

Corporate Plan – Our Planet section - <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/corporate-plan-2025-2028/contents>

Creating a sustainable circular economy

There is a real opportunity for Belfast to become a leading-edge city in driving forward a sustainable circular economy that minimises waste and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources.

This offers a potential route to reducing waste, reversing environmental harm and increasing the sustainability of products and supply chains.

Over the next three years, we will transform our throwaway economy into one where waste is reduced, resources are circulated, and nature is regenerated. Leaving no one behind, we will maximise the social opportunities of the transition and reduce the risks so that everyone benefits.

We will deliver local solutions to sustainable, healthy, and affordable food for our citizens. Bring together the right people to tackle the barriers that are preventing the uptake of energy efficiency measures in buildings across the city and develop a heat network project for the city centre to create jobs and prosperity.

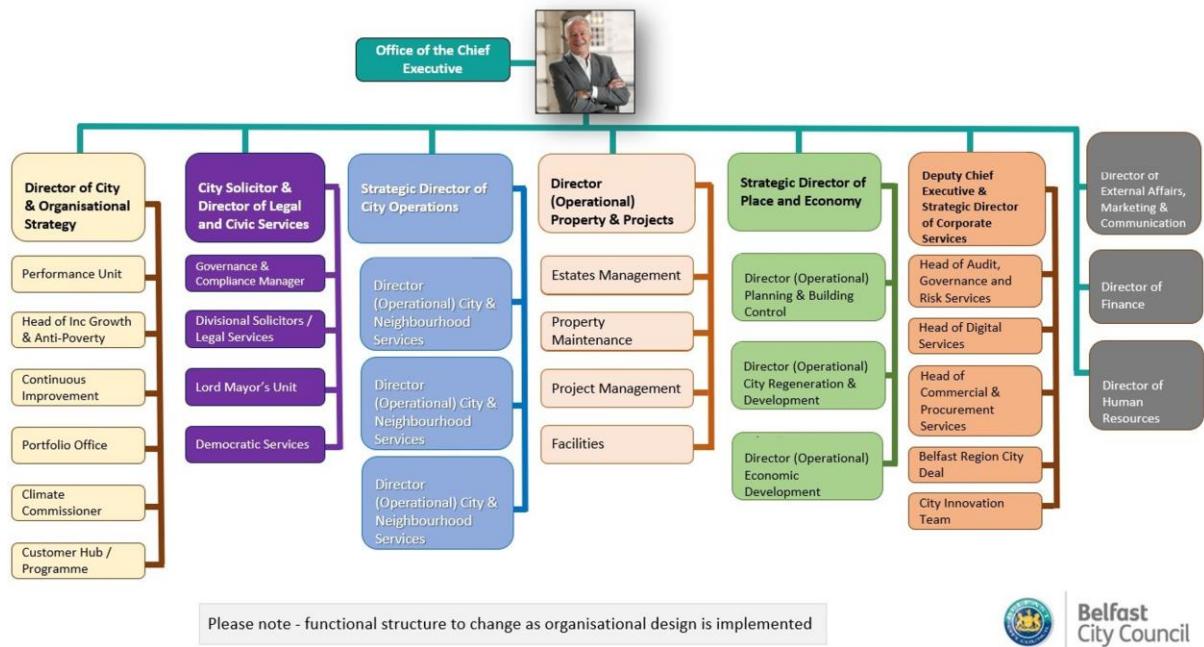
Corporate Plan – Our Planet section - <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/corporate-plan-2025-2028/contents>

PART 3 – SETTING A REPORTING BOUNDARY

How is the reporting boundary defined?

3.1 (a) Operational

3.1 (b) Upload diagram – of organisational structure



Belfast
City Council

PART 4 – EMISSIONS STATEMENT

Part 4 - Emissions statement

4.1 - Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions - Total

Scope 1 accounts for direct GHG emissions that occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the organisation. Direct GHG emissions totals

Title

Total scope 1 emissions (tCO₂e) 10142.768637

Total outside of scopes emissions (tCO₂e) 2472.792203

4.1 Scope 1 (use 4.1 (a) DESNZ conversion factors) 1017609.960000 litres

Bioenergy - Biofuel - Biodiesel HVO		2024/2025
Activity data	1017609.960000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	0.035580 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	36.206563	
Outside of scopes (tCO₂e)	2472.792203	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Data comes from the fuel return collated by the fleet team.	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	Non known.	
5423.0 litres		
Fuels - Liquid fuels - Gas oil		2024/2025
Activity data	5423.000000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	2.755410 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	14.942589	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Collected from the fleet manager.	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	None known	

53963552.0 kWh

Fuels - Gaseous fuels - Natural gas		2024/2025
Activity data	53963552.000000 kWh (Gross CV)	
Emission conversion factor	0.182900 kg CO ₂ e/kWh (Gross CV)	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	9869.933661	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Collected from the Energy Management System and provided by the Energy Manager.	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	None known.	

65621.41 litres

Fuels - Liquid fuels - Diesel (100% mineral diesel)		2024/2025
Activity data	65621.410000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	2.661550 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	174.654664	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Collected from the Fleet Manager.	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	None known.	

17671 litres

Fuels - Liquid fuels - Diesel (100% mineral diesel)		2024/2025
Activity data	17671.000000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	2.661550 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	47.032251	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Non-vehicle fuel - collected from CNS	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	None known	

4.2 Scope 2 (use 4.1 (a) DESNZ conversion factors)

Energy indirect GHG emissions totals

Title	Total
Total Scope 2 Emissions (Location-based) (tCO ₂ e)	3565.429366

Energy indirect GHG emissions added

UK Electricity - Electricity generated - Electricity: UK		2024/2025
Is this purchased green electricity	No	
Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	3565.429366	
Emission conversion factor	0.207050	
Activity data	17220137.000000	
Units (activity data)	kWh	
Units (emission conversion factor)	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	From energy management system provided by the energy manager.	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	None known.	

4.3 Scope 3

Not added

4.4 Data gaps 2024/25: we didn't include f-gases (air con units etc)

4.5 Renewable Energy

4.5 (b) Renewable energy? Girdwood and the Innovation Centre have solar PV -Data on the consumption will be added in future reports.

4.6 Heat Networks

The Council is currently exploring the potential of a district heat network in the city centre as one of the five key projects proposed in the cities Local Area Energy Plan - <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/News/Belfast-City-Council-launches-Northern-Ireland-s-f>

£300k has been secured to develop further delivery pathways for LAEP projects in the City - building on the outputs of the Pathfinders project which ended in July 2025. The project will be led by BCC in partnership with the Energy Systems Catapult, the System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI), and Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE). The project will be completed by 31st March 2026.

PART 5 – TARGETS

5.1 (a) Yes

5.2 (b)

Belfast City has a target to reach net-zero by 2050

The target is a city-wide target that covers all of Belfast. Our elected members declared a climate emergency in October 2019 and agreed to the targets outlined in the Net Zero Carbon Roadmap for Belfast.

5.1 (c)

The Climate Action Plan outlines 71 actions that span the whole organisation and will not only reduce emissions, but will make the city more resilient to climate change. Each of the actions has a list of indicators under the Monitoring and Reporting Framework that allows the organisation to track progress and monitor success.

Whilst Council has also committed to the city wide target the ability to achieve this rests with the city as a whole and will be effected by resources including funding, staff (expertise and capacity) and buy-in from strategic decision makers in Council and across the city. Also, at a city level, the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) provides a detailed plan of investments (solar, district heating, retrofit) to achieve the targets in the Net Zero Roadmap.

5.2 Action Plan

Climate Data Platform

Develop and launch an accessible climate data platform to track progress on delivering climate adaptation and mitigation actions (1.7)

Action started and ongoing

Council has a data platform that can be accessed by all staff and elected members.

Sustainable Procurement Policy

Develop a sustainable/ low carbon procurement policy and supplier guidance documents to support a transition to an inclusive, net zero and resilient future (1.12)

Action started and ongoing

All procurement policy and supplier guidance documents updated to align with the net zero transition and circular economy. Procurement policy and supplier documents updated to with the net zero transition, including a focus on the circular economy. Reduced scope 3 emissions associated with purchased goods and services.

Draft of New Sustainable Procurement Policy progressing with 1st draft to finalised in October 2025.

Sustainable Food Policy

Develop a sustainable food policy for the Council that addresses waste, sourcing, packaging, emissions measurement and an events protocol (1.14)

Action started and ongoing

Policy is implemented

There is a food procurement event planned for winter 2025 with Belfast Food Partnership to further explore this action.

Building Energy Audits

Complete a second phase of building energy audits - (Andersonstown LC, Lisnasharragh LC, Templemore Av LC, Brook LC) and the Waterfront Hall (3.4)

Completed building-level audits for all buildings

Second phase of building energy audits in progress and due to be completed January - March 2026

Whole Life Carbon Assessments

Develop the integration of whole life carbon assessments as standard practice in the Capital Programme (3.8)

Inclusion of Whole Life Carbon Assessments as standard practice in the Capital Programme

Metering and Retrofitting Programme

Launch a phased metering and retrofitting programme across BCC's top energy users based on the findings of the building level audits of Adelaide, Cecil Ward, City Hall and Duncrue (3.11)

Number of meters installed and number of buildings retrofitted by retrofit type

Cecil Ward metering and comms and software integration to be completed in full by 31 March 2026. City Hall metering installed by 31 March 2026, with software and comms to be completed next Financial Year. M&E design for 9 Adelaide and Duncrue to be completed by 31 March 2026

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

Scope out a strategy to increase renewable and low-carbon energy use through corporate power purchase agreements (3.15)

Number of renewable energy systems across council buildings and number of low carbon energy systems used across council

Interim mechanism of PPA to supply wind generated electricity to BCC. Strategy required to be developed further.

Sustainable Staff Travel

Review the Business Travel Policy and develop the Sustainable Staff Travel Plan to encourage modal shift, active travel and more fuel-efficient driving for Council staff (4.1)

Number of education campaigns run, number of people reached by campaigns, number of people changing their travel habits (pre- and post campaign) and scope 3 emissions, CO₂e

A cross departmental Sustainable Travel Working Group has been established (as of Sept 2025) and is progressing the development of a Sustainable Travel Plan for Council

Local Suppliers

Through sustainable procurement, aim to use local suppliers to the Council to reduce miles travelled within the confines of procurement legislation and Local Govt Act restrictions (4.4)

Updated procurement policy

Currently being explored through the Sustainable Procurement Policy.

LEV Charging

Conduct a commercial assessment of Council land suitable for installing low emission vehicle (LEV) charging points (4.9)

Assessment completed and number of charging points installed

The Low Emissions Vehicles Working Group has been established and an initial Land Assets Assessment has been completed.

Active Travel Facilities

Commence work on repurposing staff parking spaces for cycle racks and integrate appropriate facilities to support active travel e.g. shower and changing facilities (4.10)

Number of spaces repurposed for cycle parking, number of facilities improved and number of facilities created to facilitate active travel

Single Use Plastics

Continue to progress the proposal for a single use plastics policy for the Council (5.4)

Number of SUP items ordered (per year)

Task and Finish group has been established and is progressing this action.

Waste

Develop a mechanism to track and report on internal Council generated waste (5.7)

Mechanism in place and weights of internal waste

Methodologies have been explored and sampling will commence at various sites in winter 2025.

5.3 Co-ordination of Actions

Complete once actions uploaded.

For each of the organisation's actions (provided under question 5.2(a)), select the appropriate option on the desirability to co-ordinate the action with corresponding proposals / policies / actions in other parts of the United Kingdom, in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere. ('elsewhere' can include Northern Ireland)

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action

Yes desirable and coordinated

Yes desirable but coordinated or coordination is under development

Name of the other organisation(s) the action is co-ordinated with

Geographical location of corresponding proposal / policy / action or other co-ordinating organisation(s)

Detail how the organisation's action is co-ordinated

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')

Climate data platform

Yes desirable but coordinated or coordination is under development

This is an internal data system that will be coordinated across all departments. Future plans involves making the system more widely available and support from NISRA will be sought at that point.

Sustainable Procurement Policy

Department of Finance

N. Ireland

The policy will align with the N. Ireland Public Procurement Policy.

Sustainable Food Policy

Belfast Food Partnership, Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership

Learnings and experiences of the Food Partnerships will be used to develop the organisational food policy.

Building Energy Audits

Belfast Our Planet Board, Community Planning Partnership

Belfast. N. Ireland

Results from the initial audits have been presented to internal and external groups, so that learnings can be shared and lessons learnt, allowing a synergy of innovation, co-benefits and a broader impact.

Whole Life Carbon Assessments

Yes desirable but coordinated or coordination is under development

A draft WLCA checklist has been developed and this will be trialled internally before further external coordination.

Metering and Retrofitting Programme

The Belfast Retrofit hub brings together FMB NI, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), business leaders, key organisations, and the Council to catalyse retrofit activity across the public and private housing sectors in Belfast. Learnings from this hub will help the retrofitting process of the Council.

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

Department for the Economy

N. Ireland, Belfast

Belfast City Council have undertaken an assessment of its high energy consuming buildings to explore the potential for PV. This was done in partnership with DfE.

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/potential-solar-photovoltaic-pv-belfast-area-phase-2>

Sustainable Staff Travel

Queens University Belfast

Belfast

Queens University Belfast have shared learnings from their recent work on a staff and student sustainable travel policy.

Local Suppliers

Yes desirable but coordinated or coordination is under development

This work will link to the Sustainable Procurement Policy and will therefore align with the Department of Finances Procurement policies.

LEV Charging

Department for Communities, Department of Finance, Better GLL

N. Ireland, Belfast

Assessments have been completed and the LEV Working Group will coordinate with DfC, DoF and GLL for the next phase of works.

Active Travel Facilities

Yes desirable but coordinated or coordination is under development

Learnings from other organisations will be considered during this process.

Single Use Plastics

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

N. Ireland

In 2022, Council signed up to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB)'s 'Plastic Promise' which forms part of the Live Here Love Here civic pride programme. The 'Plastic Promise'

signalled a commitment to reduce the consumption of plastics and end the use of 'throwaway' SUPs.

Waste

N. Ireland Councils, Queens University Belfast, University of Ulster, Sustainable NI

Councils across N. Ireland and universities in Belfast have shared their methodologies to ensure Council are using a comparable method

PART 6: EMISSION REDUCTION CASE STUDIES

6.1 (a) Yes

6.1 (b) Upload case studies (PDF).

LAEP

Belfast City Council launched its first Local Area Energy Plan – the first to be developed in Northern Ireland. Recognised as the leading method for translating net zero targets into action, the LAEP marks a milestone moment in the city's transition towards a resilient, low-carbon economy for everyone.

Developed using cutting-edge whole-system modelling and extensive stakeholder engagement, the comprehensive road map capitalises on the city's unique geographical characteristics and assets. Sitting on top of Sherwood Sandstone, the city has huge geothermal potential while an abundance of rooftops can generate solar energy.

Led by local government and developed collaboratively with key stakeholders, the Belfast LAEP presents a pipeline of priority projects including a district heat network, large scale retrofit of buildings, transition of oil households to low carbon heating and deployment of solar panels.

As a primer to collaboration and a catalyst for future investment across the sector and beyond, the transformational LAEP sits alongside other net zero investments such as Translink's net zero bus fleet, Northern Ireland Housing Executive's retrofit programme and the Energising Belfast project. With electricity and gas network operators gearing up to decarbonise at scale, the plan charts a path to net zero that is affordable, and if properly resourced, will create new opportunities for jobs and businesses.

climate@belfastcity.gov.uk

Council Energy Audits

Belfast City Council has completed a desktop study of existing energy data and an in-depth audit of the buildings fabric, mechanical and electrical plant including heating plant, space heating, domestic hot water, electrical power and lighting, air conditioning, ventilation, catering facilities, building energy management system, renewables and water. This extensive project has provided recommendations on each of these key areas and identified projects with energy and CO₂e payback and route a path to Net Zero.

climate@belfastcity.gov.uk

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)

Over 200 of Council's fleet vehicles previously powered by diesel, are now running on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). Elected members approved the fuel switch in December last 2022, following a HVO trial on a selection of vehicles during the summer of 2022. The transitioning of vehicles began in January 2023. HVO is a low carbon, zero sulphur fuel and is manufactured from waste renewable materials such as rapeseed and sunflower oil. HVO fuel eliminates up to 90% of CO₂ emissions when compared to fossil diesel and significantly reduces nitrogen oxide (NO_x), particulate matter (PM) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions.

climate@belfastcity.gov.uk

Single Use Plastics Policy

In 2022, Council signed up to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB)'s 'Plastic Promise' which forms part of the Live Here Love Here civic pride programme. The 'Plastic Promise' signalled a commitment to reduce the consumption of plastics and end the use of 'throwaway' SUPs.

Reducing SUP across the organisation links directly to the Belfast Agenda, the Climate Action Plan, and Council's Social Value Procurement Policy. The Council knows that a reduction in plastics across operations will reduce waste to landfill, reduce carbon emissions, demonstrate civic leadership, and potentially provide costs savings. Officers have successfully worked together to quantify SUPs used by Council, identify best practice of SUP from other organisations, identify opportunities to reduce SUP usage and considered the cost and carbon impacts from opportunities. This has resulted in an SUP Policy and Action Plan that is currently being rolled out across the organisation.

climate@belfastcity.gov.uk

PART 7: VALIDATION

7.1 (a) Yes

7.1 (b) Third party validation (utility companies, internal review).

7.1 (c) Council's utilities data is verified by the service provider (energy, electricity).

Council's Scope 1 and 2 data is verified internally between the Energy Manager, Fleet Manager and Climate Commissioner.

7.1 (d) Council would welcome advice from DAERA on how to ensure the validation process is robust and consistent across all 40 public bodies. Will there be the opportunity for all bodies to move to one verification process in the future?

7.2 – Authorisation for submitting the report

Emission figures have been checked by data analysts and data providers. The actions and emissions figures have been presented to the Climate and City Resilience Committee in September 2025. The Climate Action Plan has been approved internally through the Climate Programme Board, Corporate Management Team and the Climate and City Resilience Committee.

A download will be taken from the DAERA portal and returned to the Climate and City Resilience Committee in December 2025 for further approval.

Uploaded – Sept Committee paper

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Subject:	Update on Public Body Reporting – proposed contents for Adaptation report
Date:	15 January 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact Officers:	Mura Quigley, Adaptation and Resilience Advisor Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer

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 or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To inform Members of the requirements for the Council's Climate Adaptation Report that must be submitted to DAERA by 31 st March 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. that the Council is required to submit an adaptation report 31st March 2026 covering a 4 year period from 1st Jan 2026;

	<p>II. that the contents of the report must outline the current and predicted climate change impacts in relation to the Council's functions i.e. a climate change impact assessment along with the Council's adaptation targets and priority actions;</p> <p>III. that the priority actions must be based on the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes 2 and 3, the Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and any additional adaptation work taking place across Council;</p> <p>IV. the three CAP actions to be included in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update the BCC Climate Risk Assessment in line with the new mandatory Public Body Reporting requirements (under the Climate Change Act); • apply SUDs policy and guidance (SUDs Manual C753) as standard practice in the Capital Programme; • start to deliver the Tree Establishment Strategy and continue the One Million Trees Programme; <p>V. the adaptation report submitted to DAERA will be brought back to a future Committee.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>In June 2024, Members were informed of the Public Body Reporting Requirements under the NI Climate Act 2022. Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 requires DAERA to make new Regulations, which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies. The regulations came into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they are laid in the Assembly. The first report required under the regulations, is the mitigation report which was submitted to DAERA in October 2025. The Council must now produce and submit an adaptation report for submission by 31st March 2026.</p> <p>What will be required?</p>
3.2	<p>The first adaptation report must relate to the period of 4 years beginning with 1st January 2026 and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to the organisation's functions; and • the proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions, along with implementation timescales.

3.3	<p>The second and subsequent reports are required every 5 years and will include an assessment of the progress the body has made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change adaptation reports.</p>
3.4	<p>The adaptation report includes information under six headings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part 1: Profile – information about the organisation. ▪ Part 2: Governance – what governance structures exist in Council to manage adaptation, strategies and plans that integrate adaptation planning and what objectives relate to it. ▪ Part 3 – Impacts: the Council’s climate risk assessment including the methodology and findings. ▪ Part 4 – Actions: the Council’s adaptation targets and priority actions and how this relates to the NICCAP. ▪ Part 5 – Case Studies: inclusion of up to 5 case studies that illustrate best practice being undertaken by Council. ▪ Part 6 – Validation and Authorisation: validated findings (i.e. through peer review or external experts) and authorisation of the plan with the relevant decision makers within the organisation.
3.5	<p>The Impacts section will set out the various climate risks and opportunities work completed by the Council to date including work with Climate Northern Ireland in 2020 and the Council’s Climate Risk Assessment in 2023.</p>
3.6	<p>The Actions will be drawn from the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes 2 and 3, the Councils Climate Action Plan (outlined below) adopted in April 2025 and any additional adaptation work which is taking place across Council and is currently being mapped through the Talx2 work.</p>
3.7	<p>Four CAP adaptation actions will be included in the report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the BCC Climate Risk Assessment in line with the new mandatory Public Body Reporting requirements (under the Climate Change Act) (2.2)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Apply SUDs policy and guidance (SUDS Manual C753) as standard practice in the Capital Programme (2.3) 3. Start to deliver the Tree Establishment Strategy and continue the One Million Trees Programme (2.19) 4. Develop a sustainable food policy for the Council that addresses waste, sourcing, packaging, emissions measurement and an events protocol (1.14).
3.8	In addition, selected actions from NICCAP 2 and NICCAP 3 (which has not yet been finalised) will be included in the report to DAERA. The final version of the report, as submitted to DAERA, will be presented at a future meeting of this committee.
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	There are no financial and resource implications.
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.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The list of 40 public bodies that are required to report under the Act.</u> 2. <u>Climate change Act 2022 (section 42)</u>



Subject:	Funding update: Pathways2Resilience project
Date:	15 January 2026
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Mura Quigley, Adaptation and Resilience Advisor Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner

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 or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To inform Members of the successful funding award and inclusion of Belfast in the Horizon Pathways2Resilience Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. that funding of €198,612 has been secured from Climate KIC which is part of the EU Horizon Pathways2Resilience Programme to engage with the capacity development programme and develop a Climate Resilience Baseline report, a Climate Resilience Strategy, a Climate Resilience Action Plan, and a Climate Resilience Investment Plan; II. the project starts in January 2026 and ends in June 2027;

	III. that BCC will enter into an agreement with Northern Ireland Environment Link (Climate NI) to work in partnership to deliver the project.
3.0	Main report
	Background
3.1	Under a changing climate, Belfast will experience hotter drier summers and warmer wetter winters, with more extreme weather and rising sea levels. There will be an increase in average winter precipitation and in the frequency of heavy rainfall events. This, coupled with sea level rise represents a significant climate risk. Large proportions of Belfast City Centre are between 1 and 2 m below extreme tide level, with 6,000 properties currently considered at significant coastal flood risk.
3.2	Climate projections indicate that sea levels around Northern Ireland are expected to rise by up to 0.94m by the end of the century. As well as coastal flooding, Belfast is exposed to surface water flooding due to its location within the River Lagan catchment area. There are also projected changes in storminess, and whilst extreme cold events are projected to become less frequent in the future, they pose a significant risk to Belfast. The 'Big Freeze' of 2010 and the 'Beast from the East' in 2018 highlight that cold/snow events remain a possibility despite the overall warming trend. This highlights the need for a climate adaptation and resilience plan for the City.
	The Pathways2 Resilience (P2R) programme
3.3	In the April 2024, Climate and City Resilience Committee members noted that the Climate team was progressing a proposal with Climate NI to join the Pathways2 Resilience (P2R) programme and apply for funding to deliver a climate adaptation and resilience plan for Belfast.
3.4	The Council and Climate NI have been successful in their joint bid for funding and have been awarded €198,612 of funding along with a capacity building program of support to design and implement a transformative climate adaptation and resilience plan for Belfast. The programme will run from January 2026 to June 2027.
3.5	The P2R programme is a five-year project funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and implemented by a consortium of 14 organisations, coordinated by Climate KIC. As part of its work, P2R will support at least 100 regions/communities within Europe with a total of €21M, over the course of two calls, to co-design visions of a climate resilient future and corresponding transformative adaptation pathways and innovation agendas that ensure long-term impact. By following this process,

	regions develop ambitious Climate Resilience Strategies and Action Plans, supplemented by sturdy Investment Plans.
3.6	<p>The funding will be used for the recruitment of temporary project staff (Project Coordinator in BCC and a Policy and Research Officer in NIEL) to build both organisations' capacity to deliver on resilience and adaptation work in the city, take part in training and capacity building, and help progress four key areas of the city's climate adaptation and resilience work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Climate Resilience Baseline report (due in month 10) - A Climate Resilience Strategy (due in month 18) - A Climate Resilience Action Plan (due in month 18) - A Climate Resilience Investment Plan (due in month 18)
3.7	<p>Participation in the programme will strengthen and help bring together previous research, evidence and work on climate resilience in the city, support annual climate adaptation reporting to the Council and 5 yearly reporting to DAERA under the Public Body Reporting Requirement. It will also help support the delivery of the Belfast Agenda 2024-2028 ongoing Our Planet initiatives.</p>
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	External funding of €198,612 has been secured to fund two temporary project roles in BCC and NIEL and support engagement, training and capacity building for 18 months.
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.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	None

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