



<b>Subject:</b>	Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 proposal
<b>Date:</b>	9 November 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director, City Regeneration & Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Callie Persic, Development Manager Richard McLernon, Climate Programme Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on Belfast City Council's involvement in an Urban Planning 2030 funding application under the Horizon Europe fund.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the progress of a Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030 bid to support development of a framework that integrates environmental sustainability and urban development aligned to the creation of a net zero neighbourhood as a pilot proposal and the offer of funding to further develop the project as outlined within this paper</li> <li>• Approve the participation of the Council as an Associate Member of the Urban Planning 2030 consortium as identified within this paper</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>Various services across the Council including the Climate Unit and City Regeneration &amp; Development Division are working together to ensure an integrated approach between urban planning, achieving net zero and aspects of resilience such as supporting play and environmental sustainability through engagement with key stakeholders including young people, families, and businesses.</p>
3.2	<p>A Bolder Vision for Belfast (ABV) puts liveability at its core including aims to create a sustainable, connected and vibrant city, and the creation of a people-focused environment with playful streets and spaces for children and families to live and thrive. In December 2020, Belfast launched the Belfast Resilience Strategy alongside the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap and with initiatives such as the Belfast One Million Trees programme these form key elements of the city’s ambitions to achieve carbon neutrality (80% reduction by 2030 and 100% by 2050). Officers have been working collaboratively to align play, climate neutrality, tree planting and green infrastructure by developing the award-winning Urban Childhood Framework and had tested these new approaches in the design and implementation of the Cathedral Gardens pop-up park and the new Grey to Green programme.</p>
3.3	<p>As a result of our membership in the Resilient Cities Network, Council was invited at short notice to participate in a Horizon Europe funding application from the UP2030 (Urban Planning 2030) fund. Horizon Europe is the EU’s key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion, which looks to tackle climate change, helps to achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU’s competitiveness and growth and is focused on supporting cities achieve net zero.</p>
3.4	<p>UP2030 aims to guide cities through the socio-technical transitions required to meet their climate neutrality ambitions. It will do so by enabling a quantum leap from a ‘business as</p>

usual project-by-project decarbonisation approach to a vision-driven, strategy-based approach that is anchored on sound projects and renewed policy development. The approach uses urban planning and design as a vehicle to create better connected, more compact, net-zero neighbourhoods that promote liveability and, through designing with intent, promote mitigation actions.

3.5 The Urban Planning 2030 consortium is made up of 46 partners (see Appendix 1) with a total budget of €11,956,686. Belfast was selected as one of the pilot cities, based primarily on the work via the Resilience Strategy and Bolder Vision, and has been nominated to receive €204,250 to support research, training and policy development related to the creation of a net zero district through enhanced tree planting, linking to the Resilience Strategy and Belfast One Million Trees; green infrastructure, linking to the Bolder Vision and Council's Grey to Green initiative in the city centre; and play, linking to the Urban Childhood Framework, and Belfast's membership of the Real Play Coalition (a global initiative led by the Lego Foundation, IKEA, ARUP, UNICEF and National Geographic).

3.6 Through the UP2030 funding, we will seek to create a framework that will be applied to regeneration projects that integrates tree planting, green infrastructure, play and co-design with young people and supports the integration of play and environmental sustainability into city design. To maintain alignment with the Bolder Vision interventions, it is proposed that the framework could be tested initially in the Linen Quarter district, which has the aspirations of becoming the first sustainable and net-zero business neighbourhood in Northern Ireland. Lessons learned from this pilot will then be used to identify opportunities in other neighbourhoods and bring forward the concept of net-zero neighbourhoods across the city and the intention is to work across council departments and with city stakeholders to elevate and embed the learning and approaches.

3.7 A declaration of honour has been undertaken in order to remain within the bid process and Officers are working with the consortium's administrative partner, Fraunhofer to move the UK applicants from the status of being a Partner to that of an Associate given that the UK is no longer within the EU. This will mean that funding will be underwritten by the UK government rather than the EU and advice has been sought and confirmed with Legal Services in relation to this designation. It is anticipated that the final Letter of Offer from SEUPB will be signed in December with a project kick-off meeting of partners likely to take place in early 2023, with a delivery period of three years. It is expected that BCC will team up with another partner, who is linked to the consortium, on the delivery of this project. An

	<p>initial conversation has been held with one of the Consortium advisor partners, Mapping for Change, around the possibility of cooperating with them in order to bring the project forward. Further reports will be brought to this Committee as the project progress.</p>
<b>3.8</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The Horizon Europe UP2030 Project is 100% funded. No additional funding is required from Council however a small team drawn from the Climate Unit and City Regeneration and Development will work together to oversee development and support implementation and ensure it closely aligns to previously agreed corporate priorities and programmes of work including the Resilience Strategy and Bolder Vision. The funding is for revenue and does not include any capital costs at this stage.</p>
<b>3.9</b>	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Officers are currently developing the Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Screening and will incorporate within the emerging proposals.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Horizon Europe UP2030 project consortium partners</p>