

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

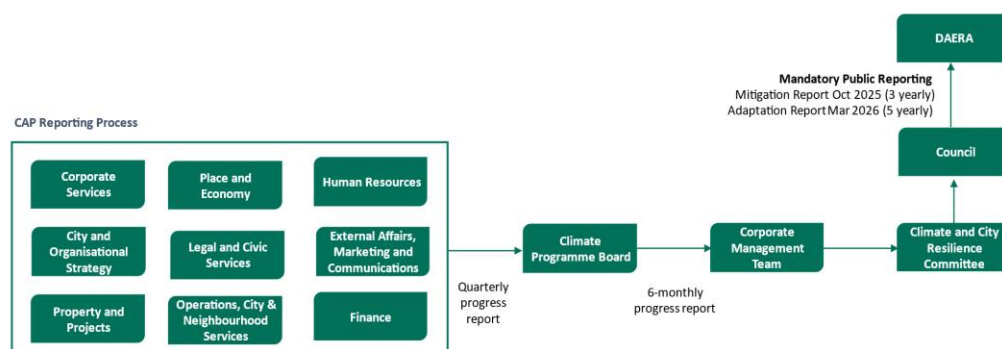
2.2 (a) Yes – taken from page 20 of the Climate Action Plan

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

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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.

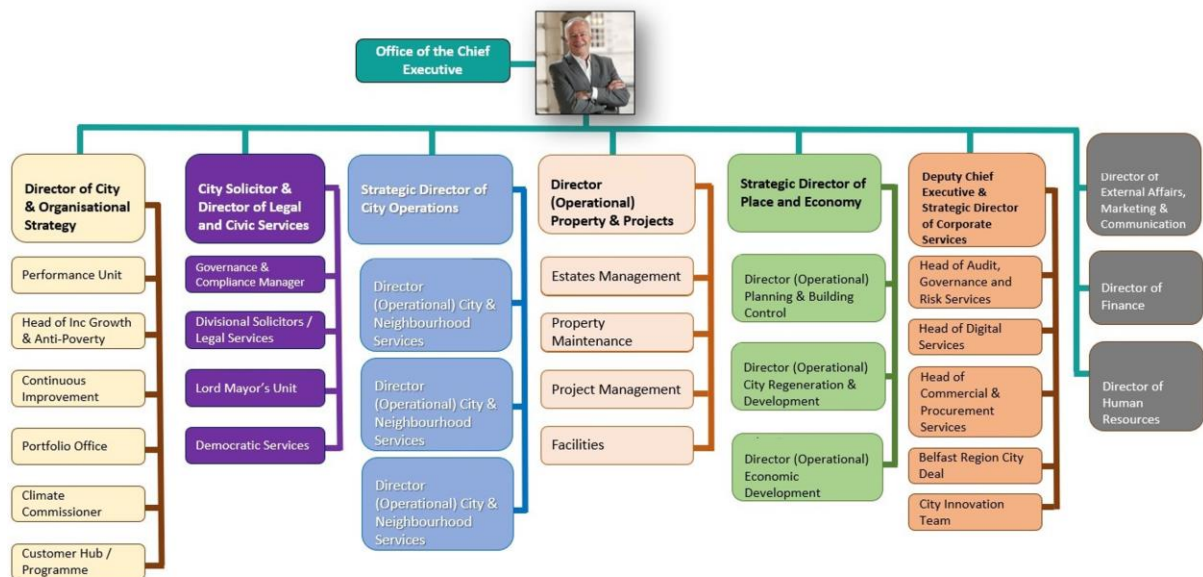
Corporate Plan – Our Planet section - <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/corporate-plan-2025-2028/contents>

PART 3 – SETTING A REPORTING BOUNDARY

How is the reporting boundary defined?

3.1 (a) Operational

3.1 (b) Upload diagram – of organisational structure



Please note - functional structure to change as organisational design is implemented



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 (tCO ₂ e)	10142.768637
Total outside of scopes emissions (tCO ₂ e)	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 (tCO ₂ e)	36.206563	
Outside of scopes (tCO ₂ e)	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 (tCO ₂ e)	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 (tCO ₂ e)	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 (tCO ₂ e)	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 (tCO ₂ e)	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 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

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 transition 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 (NOx), 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