



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	The Committee is asked to note: <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