



Subject:	Notice of Motion re: Belfast Energy Transition Strategy
Date:	24 th November, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services 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 consider a notice of motion in relation to a Belfast Energy Transition Strategy which, in accordance with standing orders, was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st November.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the information which has been provided; and• defer consideration of the matter until the Commissioner for Resilience has been

	appointed.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Council on 1st November, the following notice of motion, which was proposed by Councillor Milne and seconded by Councillor Heading, was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:</p> <p><i>“This Council acknowledges the damage and disruption caused by Storm Ophelia, which additionally directly caused the death of three people. The insurance costs alone associated with Storm Ophelia are estimated to reach ten million pounds, and the economic and social consequences of school and business closures are as yet unquantified.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst the science is not yet clear on whether Storm Ophelia is directly attributable to climate change, the majority of scientists agree that irregular weather patterns will become more frequent and more disruptive and that adverse weather events, as characterised by storm Ophelia, will become more commonplace as climate change progresses.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst noting the devastating impact of climate change on the local people and economy and the pivotal role that carbon plays in global climate change, this Council, therefore, agrees to review and expedite previously-agreed plans for a Belfast Energy Transition Strategy.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>The original motion which is referred to above and is set out below had been considered by the Committee at its meeting on 20th November, 2015:</p> <p><i>“This Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• recognises the serious challenges presented by climate change but also the significant economic benefits which are created through the development of an energy efficient economy;</i> <i>• believes that the council must take a lead in planning for an energy</i>

transition and for energy transition to be a central aspect of the Belfast Agenda and all corporate planning documents;

- *agrees to become fossil fuel free by 2050 and to set an interim target date for the city to become carbon neutral; and*
- *agrees to implement an energy transition action plan which includes a timeline of actions to be taken and policies to be implemented by the council to support renewable energy generation and energy demand reduction in Belfast.”*

3.3 The Committee agreed that a report be submitted that might determine potential action in relation to the motion.

3.4 Subsequently, a report was considered by the Committee on 18th December, 2015 at which it was agreed to a feasibility study on the development and delivery of a City Energy Strategy, including resource implications, by Autumn 2016, in time for the next budget round, which would include a review of any external funding available.

3.5 The Committee also noted and endorsed the current approach to the management of energy and CO₂ pending the development of any energy strategy.

3.6 A further report was submitted on 22nd April, 2016 seeking the Committee’s approval to commence a feasibility study in respect of the management of energy and CO₂ within the Council and to endorse the proposed terms of reference for the study.

3.7 However, the Committee had agreed to defer the report. This was on the basis of the Council’s application to the Rockefeller Foundation’s “100 Resilient” Cities programme which was for a significant amount of funding and how a successful application would subsequently influence how the Council would undertake and develop an energy strategy. However, this would only be on small aspect of the role and it is considered that significant further resources would be needed to take the findings of a scoping study forward. These are not currently available and would need to be built in to a future rate setting process.

3.8 The Council is currently in the process of recruiting a Commissioner for Resilience and, given the Committee’s previous decision, it might be appropriate to defer consideration of

	<p>the matter until that officer has been appointed, at which point the Committee can revisit the matter.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.10	<p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>None</p>