



Subject:	Request to join QUB Climate Commission
Date:	22 March 2019
Reporting Officer:	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
Contact Officer:	Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager

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	Belfast City Council has received a request from Queen’s University Belfast to join a ‘Climate Commission’ for Belfast, which will work closely with Edinburgh and Leeds, and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. It is proposed that the Commissioner for Resilience join the Commission, working alongside the Council’s Sustainable Development Manager, Clare McKeown.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- That Belfast City Council accepts the invitation from Queen’s University Belfast to join the ESRC-funded ‘Climate Commission’ for Belfast.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the Commissioner for Resilience, Grainia Long, joins the Commission as part of her broader work to develop a resilience strategy for Belfast. - The work will also inform our broader sustainable development goals as lead by the Council's Sustainable Development Manager, and will help to inform how we meet our obligations under the UK Climate Change Act.
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 The UK Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, Claire Perry, launched an initiative in January to create a network of new and extended city climate commissions in Edinburgh, Belfast and Leeds. The project aims to help the UK meet the requirements of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and the UK Climate Change Act by building local capacities and stimulating the flow of green finance into cities across the UK.</p> <p>3.2 Known as Place-based Climate Action Network (P-CAN), the project will help the local delivery of the UK's climate change objectives by supporting action in UK cities through a partnership made up of the private, public and third sectors.</p> <p>3.3 The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is investing £3.5 million in P-CAN over the course of five years. It will be hosted by the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Leeds, the University of Edinburgh and Queen's University, Belfast. It will seek to increase engagement between university researchers and the public, private and third sectors in building environmental resilience in the context of a changing climate.</p> <p>3.4 Belfast City Council has been asked to join the Climate Commission for Belfast, which seeks to accelerate and sustain the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society through the creation of local climate commissions, following the Leeds model developed in 2017, as well as other broader measures focused on increasing investment in low-carbon, climate-resilient development.</p> <p>3.5 Given our membership of the 100 Resilient Cities programme, and our work to develop a resilience strategy for Belfast, which will seek to build our environmental resilience as a city, the Commission is a timely opportunity to work with other cities and key strategic partners in this area.</p>

3.6	Our participation will involve contributing to discussion with public and private sector partners on improving Belfast’s environmental resilience, contributing ideas on optimum ways to build a climate resilient society and practical ways deliver transition to a low-carbon city.
3.7	The Lord Mayor previously wrote a letter of support for the application from QUB to join the programme. Should the committee agree to this proposal, the Lord Mayor will be asked to participate in the launch of the Commission on the 9 April, in Belfast.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.8	No financial implications. The main resource implication is the time spent by the Commissioner for Resilience.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.9	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None