



Subject:	Motion - Climate Emergency
Date:	23rd August, 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to a Climate Emergency which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 4th March.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: i. note the establishment and first meeting of the All-Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis; and ii. refer this motion to the Working Group and ask it to bring a paper on action on the climate emergency back to this Committee in due course. The paper should be timely, and should align with timescales for consultation on the city's Resilience Strategy.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the meeting of the Council on 4th March, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Heading:</p> <p><i>“This Council congratulates the Extinction Rebellion movement and other activists who have recently protested in Belfast and across the world in order to highlight the threat of catastrophic climate change. The Council recognises this as one of the greatest threats facing citizens in Belfast, and believes that urgent action must be taken in Belfast and globally in order to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. Accordingly, the Council agrees to immediately declare a “Climate Emergency”.</i></p> <p><i>The Council also urges other local Councils to follow suit, and calls on both British and Irish governments to also declare a climate emergency. Such a call aims to see Belfast move away from fossil fuels and fully toward renewable energy sources. This initiative would see the Council doing everything it can to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions, including, for example, ensuring that all new buildings are ecologically friendly, that the retrofitting of homes is a priority, and that public transport is expanded. The Council agrees to immediately establish a multi-agency team across the city, which should include various governmental departments, political parties and other relevant agencies, to ensure that tackling the causes of climate change is an immediate priority.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13 (f), the motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. Members will note that, since then, the Council has undertaken several actions in relation to climate resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have partnered with Queen’s University Belfast on the establishment of a Climate Commission for the city; - We have established an All-Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis; - We have commissioned a Mini-Stern to give us an economic analysis on carbon reduction; and - Engagement and research continues on the development of a Resilience Strategy, which will come to the Committee in September for approval.

3.3.	<p>Taking account of the actions outlined above, it is recommended that this motion on a Climate Emergency be referred to the Working Group for consideration. It should bring a paper on action on the climate emergency back to this committee in due course. The paper should be timely, and should align with timescales for consultation on the city's Resilience Strategy.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.4	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.5	<p>None</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>None</p>