

Environment Strategy Proposed Additions, Cllr Brian Smyth, GPNI for People and Communities Committee 14/1/20:

Q1/ Paragraph 1: **Regional planning** to be added to existing executive endorsed strategies

The Environment strategy should be renamed the 'Environmental Emergency Strategy to inform and communicate that we are in a crisis situation, but there are plans to address this and also because we have declared a climate emergency at this council.

The strategy and targets must be legally binding and we need new legislation to meet both. Need to be linked to human health, free from degrading pollutants and extraction, improved air quality etc.

With regards to the paragraph on 'As 2020 approaches': This is now a 10 year window, not 12.

**Covered to extent in the New Approach Deal see 3.2-3.3**

Q2/ In reference to 2050 targets, Belfast City Council is currently considering a target year for arriving at net-zero carbon targets, and believes this target should be more ambitious than the 2050 target set in law. Belfast City Council believes that Northern Ireland should have its own legally binding targets on long term emissions, and these should be evidence based.

Paragraph 7: To highlight that Belfast City Council passed a motion on more stringent air quality testing in June 2019.

**Covered in both New Approach Deal and in wording to amended Notice of Motion as referenced in paragraph 3.2 -3.3**

Q3/ We want a theme on environmental restoration and recovery and caution around framing of environmental prosperity. Also environmental governance needs to be addressed throughout multiple government departments.

**Committee to consider a view, although partially covered by New Approach Deal see 3.2-3.3**

Q4/ for environmental education to be built into the school curriculum to teach young people. Yet with the lack of time we have in relation to 2030 to also engage parents, families' etc.

To form a Northern Ireland citizen's assembly on our climate and ecological emergency and to learn from the one formed in the Republic of Ireland.

**Committee to take a view**

Q5/ There is an emphasis on economic prosperity instead of environmental prosperity. We don't think that economic benefit should outweigh environmental impact. There is also no reference to a 'just transition', which should be included in Environmental prosperity.

**Committee to take a View**

Q6/ In relation to energy efficiency, we need legally set binding targets.

We also need reference to a 'transition towards sustainable agriculture'.

**Committee to consider a view, although partially covered by New Approach Deal see 3.2-3.3**

Q7

Specific issues that should be included are air, water and marine quality.

DAERA Environmental crime team needs greater support and resource.

**Committee to consider a view, although partially covered by New Approach Deal see 3.2-3.3**

Q8/ Climate breakdown legislation and that the proposed outcome to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions does not go far enough and there must be net zero carbon emissions by 2035 as an interim target, in line with the motion passed by this council.

We also need an Independent Environmental Protection Agency that is properly funded, which has the ability to tackle environmental and waste crimes.

**Covered in the New Approach Deal and in wording to amended Notice of Motion as referenced in paragraph 3.2 -3.3**

Q9/ We need legally binding targets and a clear timetable

**Committee to take a View**

Q10/

Legislation for a NI Climate Act

The establishment of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency

**Above Covered in both New Approach Deal and in wording to amended Notice of Motion as referenced in paragraph 3.2 -3.3**

Targets to be legally binding

All Island cooperation, we are a single island ecosystem. Governance should be under a similar framework.

A Citizens Assembly which can engage the public on our climate and ecological breakdown.

Nature Recovery Networks: restore sites and legally protect those habitats under threats.

**Committee decision required**