



Subject:	Launch of Belfast Climate Commission
Date:	24 th January 2020
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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report provides an update on progress regarding the launch of the Belfast Climate Commission, a partnership between Belfast City Council and Queen's University Belfast as part of our membership of the ESRI-funded Place Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN).
2.0	Recommendations
2.0	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	In March 2019, members of SP&R approved Belfast City Council's membership of the ESRI-funded Place Based Climate Action Network. This decision enables us to work in partnership with Queen's University, and alongside a range of other cities to develop

	<p>strategies and approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation. It is a unique project, and Belfast has been chosen to be one of three cities (alongside Edinburgh and Leeds) to establish a Climate Commission.</p>
3.2	<p>Belfast City Council is working to tackle climate breakdown and create a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy, with well-paid employment, innovation and creativity at its core and a thriving social economy and healthy communities. While some progress has been made towards achieving city-wide carbon reduction targets, many carbon reduction and climate resilience opportunities remain unrealised at a citywide level.</p>
3.3	<p>In the face of a challenging national policy context, the limitations on what Belfast City Council can achieve on its own, the declarations of a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' by the UK and Irish parliaments, the value in bringing together key city partners to form a Commission to mirror the UK Committee on Climate Change was recognised and Belfast Climate Commission was formally launched on the 10th January 2020.</p>
3.4	<p>The Commission is based on the geographic area of Belfast City Council but also, where appropriate in its work, includes the 5 adjacent local authority areas of the Belfast Region City Deal (Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Mid and East Antrim, Newry Mourne and Down, Antrim and Newtownabbey).</p>
3.5	<p>The Commission aims to foster collaboration by bringing together public, private and civic sectors to promote, guide, monitor and review on-going climate and energy transitions. The Commission will also act as a forum for organisations and individuals to exchange ideas, research findings, information and best practice to help Belfast make positive choices on carbon reduction, energy transition and climate resilience.</p>
3.6	<p>The Commission will bring together different groups to develop a climate risk assessment and transition plan for the city/city region and for vulnerable communities and businesses within it. It will strengthen networks, build capacities, transfer good practice and explore ways of raising the investment needed while monitoring the progress of the city towards meeting its carbon reduction targets and recommend options to keep the city on track.</p>
3.7	<p>Belfast Climate Commission was formally established in November 2019 and its first phase runs until December 2020. Progress will then be reviewed and the second phase will run</p>

	<p>from January 2021 to December 2021. The key deliverables set for the Commission include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collation of existing carbon reduction targets and measures for organisations across the city using an agreed methodology. • Agreed strategic and shared priorities and opportunities for carbon reduction, low carbon energy transition and climate resilience across the city. • To support Belfast, and Belfast Region City Deal, based organisations' understanding of the importance of energy and low carbon initiatives to their business. The aim is to facilitate the start of a pipeline of investable low carbon projects which will be supported by work to address perceived barriers to the availability of cost effective finance. • Collaborations with other organisations to identify effective carbon reduction, low carbon energy transition and climate resilience measures, research and develop projects, and attract funding for project development and/or delivery. • An annual report monitoring project delivery and evaluating progress across the city towards the city's climate reduction target and advising on future measures and updating date on emissions. <p>3.8 The Belfast Climate Commission was jointly launched by the Lord Mayor and the Vice Chancellor of Queens University alongside the launch of the Draft Belfast Resilience Strategy for public consultation on 10th January 2020.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.9 None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.10 None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix One – Press Release for Belfast Climate Commission launch and opening of draft Resilience Strategy for public consultation.