



<b>Subject:</b>	'Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland: A Call for Evidence'- Response from Belfast City Council
<b>Date:</b>	20 March 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To consider for approval Belfast City Council's response to the 'Call for Evidence' from the Department for the Economy on a future Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland. The department is developing a new Energy Strategy to replace the existing Strategic Energy Framework. The publication of this Call for Evidence is part of an on-going public engagement process to inform and shape this strategy. The department aims to have a draft Strategy for presentation to the Minister for the Economy by the end of 2020. Belfast City Council officers have engaged proactively with the department on the development of a forthcoming strategy, and this work will continue beyond our submission to the call for evidence.
1.2	

	Members should note that a change to the date of the March meeting of the All-Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis has meant this document does not include the recommendations from the Working Group. A further paper, outlining the recommendations of the All Party Working Group meeting on the 18 <sup>th</sup> March may be circulated as a late paper, in advance of SP&R.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider Belfast City Council's response to the Call for Evidence, and to note that continued detailed engagement with the department on the development of the strategy will continue.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b>Key points to note</b>
3.1	A new Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland represents an important opportunity to decarbonise the region's economy and enable Northern Ireland to meet the objectives set by the UK government to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The pace of decarbonisation set by UK government will have a critical impact on Northern Ireland's economic strategy, its climate planning and fuel poverty levels among its most vulnerable households.
3.2	Belfast Agenda is the community plan for the city of Belfast, and it includes a core commitment to inclusive growth- improving the wider outcomes for people in Belfast by addressing the issues of poverty, economic inactivity, unemployment and underemployment. We have assessed the ambitions set out in the 'Call for Evidence' against the priorities and objectives in the Belfast Agenda.
3.3	Belfast City Council welcomes the core principle in the document to adopt a whole systems approach to energy policy, from energy source to end consumer, incorporating heat, power and transport.
3.4	The response below follows the structure set in the consultation paper. We have provided answers where Belfast City Council has a stated position, and not commented on areas where we do not feel it is possible or necessary to respond.
	<b>Finance &amp; Resource Implications</b>
3.5	None
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.6	None

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix One- Belfast City Council response to Department for the Economy Energy Strategy- Call for Evidence  Appendix Two- Department for the Economy 'Call for Evidence' document.