



Subject:	Motion: Climate Change Act – Response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Date:	23 rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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"/>
Sometime 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
	To consider the response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to a motion on a Climate Change Act.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to consider the response and take such action there on as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

	<p>The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, passed the following motion:</p> <p>“This Council welcomes the environmental commitments in the New Decade New Approach Deal. This council is deeply concerned that the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs did not support an Assembly Motion to develop a Climate Change Act for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>This Council notes that Northern Ireland has fallen behind other parts of the UK in progressing reduction of emissions. A Climate Change Act can help us realise the ambition of the Belfast Agenda to create an environmentally sustainable City. This Council calls on the Minister to immediately prioritise the development of a Climate Change Act with legally binding and ambitious sectoral emission-reduction targets and a just transition to protect jobs through upskilling in less carbon intensive sectors.”</p> <p>A response has now been received from the Minister (copy attached).</p> <p>In his response, Minister Poots has indicated that I he has written to the independent expert UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) for advice on what would be Northern Ireland’s equitable contribution to the UK’s net zero emissions target, to ensure our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets are credible and evidence-based.</p> <p>He states further that, unfortunately, the CCC are not in a position to respond to his request until after they have provided advice on the UK’s sixth carbon budget, which will be published in December 2020.</p> <p>In the interim, his officials have provided him with proposals on an options appraisal for a Climate Change Bill in Northern Ireland. The Minister will consider those options along with the advice provided from the CCC and will present his findings to the Northern Ireland Executive to agree a way forward.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Copy of response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs