



Subject:	Response to Consultation on Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland
Date:	25th March, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
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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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to make the Committee aware of the consultation on Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland and to seek its approval of the Council's draft response.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the draft response and approve its submission, subject to any comments or amendment provided.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Members are advised that 'Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland' was published in January for consultation, with the closing date for responses being 20th April, 2022. A copy of the draft strategy can be accessed here .

3.2 3.3 3.4	<p>Within the draft strategy, the vision for infrastructure is that 'it will enable everyone to lead a healthy, productive and fulfilling life, and that it will support sustainable economic development and protect our environment'.</p> <p>The strategy sets out how the Executive will achieve this vision. It provides a clear framework for planning and prioritising infrastructure investment, defining the outcomes required of that investment and setting out the mechanisms, including greater collaboration that will ensure its efficient and effective delivery.</p> <p>The draft also sets out the five key investment objectives which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. decarbonise our economy and society;2. strengthen and protect our essential services;3. build a strong, connected and competitive region;4. enhance our communities and places; and5. maximise the benefits from new technology and innovation.
3.5 3.6	<p>Officers have collated a draft response to the consultation, which is attached to this report. Within the response specific comments have been made, relating to key areas including the lack of waste infrastructure, mitigating and adapting to global climate change and the historic underinvestment. The response also highlights the issues around dealing with wastewater and the need for investment in wastewater infrastructure and how the current underinvestment is impacting on the development of housing and other businesses within the city.</p> <p>Throughout the response reference has been made to key documents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Belfast Agenda;• Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy;• A Bolder Vision;• Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission: 'Reset for Growth' Report;• High Street Task Force; and• Council responses to the draft Green Growth Strategy and the Draft Environment Strategy.

3.7	Members are also reminded that the Council submitted a response to a call for evidence (February 2021) that was used in the development of the draft strategy. Officers have cross referenced this response with the submission previously made and have added relevant points to the draft consultation response.
3.8	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
3.10	An equality screening and rural needs assessment have been undertaken on the draft strategy and this is available on the ISNI website.
4.0	Document Attached
	Draft Council response