



Subject:	Net Zero Event
Date:	7 April 2022
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell
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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"/>
Some time 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
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the visit to Belfast by Mayor Andy Burnham, Mayor Steve Rotheram and Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland on 30th March 2022.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note
3.0	Main report
3.1	The aim of the visit was to establish a collaboration / partnership on delivering Net Zero between Belfast, Dublin, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City region ahead of a Decarbonisation Summit in England in June 2022.
3.1	The visit was framed around current efforts to decarbonise transport, heat and industry using innovations in hydrogen production, storage and use across the four cities to illustrate the challenges and opportunities arising from the transition, to show inter-linkages between

	<p>different industries (transport, water etc.) and how hydrogen fits with the wider energy system. Visiting delegations comprised Mayors and officers from the respective regions but also engaged key stakeholders locally including Forge Integrated Primary school in South Belfast, Translink, Wrightbus, Catagen, B9 Energy, NI Water, MJM Renewables, QUB and Belfast Met.) from Belfast during the one day visit.</p>
3.2	<p>The programme comprised a series of visits around the city in a hydrogen bus provided by Translink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tour started with a visit by the Mayors to Forge Integrated Primary school in South Belfast - an ECO School Ambassador - this provided an opportunity for pupils to present the school's eco-ethos, show their Wheelie Bin Workshop and ask Mayors what their Cities are doing to tackle climate change. • In tandem with the school visit, the officers took part in a collaboration session to build awareness of Net Zero activities in each of the four regions – this provided an opportunity for cities to learn from each other and discuss areas for further collaboration specifically related to decarbonising transport, heat and industry. • An innovation session was held at Catagen's Net Zero Technology Centre in Titanic Quarter where the delegations were provided lunch whilst CEO Dr Andrew Woods explained Catagen's activities and plans to advance technology around green hydrogen and how this might impact more widely on the production, storage, distribution, cost etc. The Mayors also had an opportunity to see and hear about developments in hydrogen from organisations active in this area and to pose questions to Translink (as a user of hydrogen buses), Wrightbus (as a manufacturer of hydrogen buses), Catagen (as an R&D centre for the development and deployment of green hydrogen technology), B9 Energy (as a producer of green hydrogen and electrolyzers), NI Water (as an early demonstrator of green hydrogen production), MJM Renewables (as a source of renewable energy to power hydrogen production), QUB and Belfast Met (as R&D and teaching centres for hydrogen innovation) and Artemis as innovator in hydrogen ferries. The session concluded with the Lord Mayor hosting a Q&A with the other Mayors where they reflected on what they've seen and heard and to related this back to what is going on in their cities. • The Mayors also visited Translink Milewater Zero Emission Service Centre. The site includes both the maintenance and fuelling facilities for Hydrogen buses as well as the charging facilities for 45 Battery Electric buses – supplied with renewably produced "Green" electricity. Chris Conway explained how a working refuelling depot operates and it was an opportunity for the Mayors to get Translink's (as a key off-taker) perspective on hydrogen and it's role in decarbonising pubic transport. A walk through the site was led by Paul Slaney, Head of Bus Fleet Engineering, finishing at the hydrogen fuel cell. Other members of the Translink team included: Ian Campbell - Director of Service Operations, William McCullagh - Head of Major Programmes, and Brian Elliot - Senior Programme Manager Zero Emission Bus Programme.
3.3	<p>A Statement of intent (below) was signed by the Mayors to work jointly to accelerate efforts towards Net Zero and signpost to a Decarbonisation summit in June.</p>

	<p><i>“Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester, with a collective population of over 5 million, will come together to form a cooperative partnership to develop practical approaches to accelerate the delivery of net-zero commitments in our cities and city regions.</i></p> <p><i>Climate change is the greatest challenge facing our nations and our planet. That is why, we have developed ambitious climate agendas to become more equitable, fairer, prosperous and greener cities. Each of us are committed to the protection of our people and our economies and we are firmly of the view that working together will give us the best chance of realising the benefits of transitioning to a low carbon economy.</i></p> <p><i>To achieve these goals, we are committed to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Sharing best practices, knowledge and experience;</i> <i>• Connecting organisations and facilitating R&D, business and investment collaborations; and</i> <i>• Coordinating joint participation at events (including the Net Zero Summit in June 2022) and hosting, where necessary, incoming delegations.”</i>
3.4	<p>The day concluded with a reception and dinner hosted by Belfast Chamber of Commerce in City Hall. The event included businesses and public sector figures active in the Net Zero journey. Elected members from all of the parties (except People Before Profit) were present at the event.</p> <p>The Lord Mayor thanked the Mayors and guests, announced the signing of the SOI and stressed the commitment of Belfast to working together highlighting the role of public / private sector collaboration in delivering Net Zero commitments in the 4 cities and city regions.</p> <p>At a Q&A at the end of the dinner, the City Mayors reflected on their visit and their plans to collaborate ahead of the decarbonisation Summit in June</p>
3.5	<p>The next steps are to hold a virtual workshop and agree areas for collaboration ahead of the decarbonisation Summit in June.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></p> <p>Any good relations or equality implications will be identified as part of the Council’s screening process.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>