



Subject:	Net Zero neighbourhood: A community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives – Partnership Agreement
Date:	10 th February 2026
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard , Operational Director City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer, Open Space & Streetscene

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	To inform members of the committee that Belfast City Council has been invited to enter a partnership agreement with Eastside Greenways and Queens University, to deliver the Lottery Funded 'Net Zero Neighbourhood: A Community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives. As part of the project, Belfast City Council will be allocated £130k over five years for data collection.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the Lottery Funding and its deliverables, and to agree that officers sign the partnership agreement. (See draft at Appendix A).
3.0	Main report

3.1	<p>Background and Context</p> <p>3.2 Eastside Greenways, in partnership with Belfast City Council and Queens University, has been successful in an application to the National Lottery: Climate Action Fund, to be delivered over five years. The total project is going to cost £1,603,328.62, with total national lottery funding contribution £1,348,423.03. The £254,905.59 match funding will be provided through Eastside Greenways endowment funding agreement with Belfast City Council. The table one below summarises the delivery plan.</p> <p>3.3 Table One: Project Deliverables Summary:</p>														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="282 624 949 691">Deliverables</th><th data-bbox="949 624 1441 691">Due date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 691 949 916">Carry out a selection of ecological surveys of the Greenway which will help inform community conversations and new, more sustainable ways of maintaining public spaces</td><td data-bbox="949 691 1441 916">End of year 1</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 916 949 1051">Alongside other partners develop citizens science programme</td><td data-bbox="949 916 1441 1051">Throughout programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1051 949 1215">Webinar series will be a method of sharing learning to a wider group e.g academics and NGO's across Ireland, NI and rest of UK</td><td data-bbox="949 1051 1441 1215">Throughout programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1215 949 1282">Delivery of test initiatives</td><td data-bbox="949 1215 1441 1282">Throughout programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1282 949 1349">Collation and completion of reports</td><td data-bbox="949 1282 1441 1349">Annually</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1349 949 1500">Support Research Impact and Communications Officer, working closely with team.</td><td data-bbox="949 1349 1441 1500">Throughout programme</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Deliverables	Due date	Carry out a selection of ecological surveys of the Greenway which will help inform community conversations and new, more sustainable ways of maintaining public spaces	End of year 1	Alongside other partners develop citizens science programme	Throughout programme	Webinar series will be a method of sharing learning to a wider group e.g academics and NGO's across Ireland, NI and rest of UK	Throughout programme	Delivery of test initiatives	Throughout programme	Collation and completion of reports	Annually	Support Research Impact and Communications Officer, working closely with team.	Throughout programme
Deliverables	Due date														
Carry out a selection of ecological surveys of the Greenway which will help inform community conversations and new, more sustainable ways of maintaining public spaces	End of year 1														
Alongside other partners develop citizens science programme	Throughout programme														
Webinar series will be a method of sharing learning to a wider group e.g academics and NGO's across Ireland, NI and rest of UK	Throughout programme														
Delivery of test initiatives	Throughout programme														
Collation and completion of reports	Annually														
Support Research Impact and Communications Officer, working closely with team.	Throughout programme														
3.4	<p>The main project objective is to develop a landscape scale Nature Recovery Network increasing habitat extent, condition and connectivity for nature and people. Conservation Management Plans will be developed for key sites and habitat, enhancement plans for a suite of sites across Belfast. The project aligns with the Councils wider Biodiversity and Climate Action Programmes, and will support our ongoing work to bolster and update the Councils site ecological data, as well as complementing the Councils externally funded projects (DAERA: Making Space for</p>														

	<p>Nature and the Heritage Lottery funded: Breaking through Barriers to connect people, in partnership with Ulster Wildlife).</p> <p>3.5 This funding will support EastSide Greenways to engage communities in climate action projects, using a 16km urban green and blue space cycle and walkway through the heart of East Belfast. The vision is that people living in areas of disadvantage are empowered to connect to the conversation about climate change at a local level, and shape how climate action could improve their community and the lives of the people in it.</p> <p>3.6 Community partners include East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA), The Larder, and East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance (EBAPA) made up of 21 organisations including Sure Start, East Belfast Mission, In This Together, The Trussell Trust and Barnardo's.</p> <p>Finance and Resource implications</p> <p>3.7 Belfast City Council will be awarded £130,000 revenue funding as part of the project. The signed partnership agreement is a pre-condition of the lottery funding.</p> <p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>3.8 There are no equality or good relations / rural needs implications as part of this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices –
	Appendix A - Daft Partnership Agreement