

# Climate and City Resilience Committee

Thursday, 9th June, 2022

## MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

### HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);  
Alderman Sandford; and  
Councillors Gormley, Maghie, McKeown,  
McLaughlin, Murray, Newton, Spratt and Thompson.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Mrs. C Reynolds, Director City Regeneration;  
Mrs. D. Caldwell, Climate Commissioner;  
Mr. R. McLernon, Climate Programme Manager - City;  
Mr. R. Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer;  
Mr. J. McKearney, Project Support Assistant;  
Ms. W. Langham, Programme Director, Belfast Stories;  
Mr. R. Treacy, Energy and CO2 Manager;  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for an inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors de Faoite, McCabe and Smyth.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 12th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st June.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Presentation from Lisa-Dee Collery of the Shared Island Unit**

The Committee welcomed Ms. Lisa-Dee Collery and Mr. Eoighan Duffy to the meeting. They then received a presentation from Ms. Collery in relation to the Shared Island initiative. She advised the Members that the shared island initiative had three strands of work, namely, building the shared island, dialogue and engagement and research.

She went on to provide an overview of the Shared Island Fund Budget 2021-€500m capital fund from 2021-25, ring-fenced for collaborative North/South projects, that would implement PfG commitments and objectives of the Shared Island.

The National Development Plan had been reviewed in October 2021, along with the key criteria for allocations from the Shared Island Fund. The Committee noted the allocations to date and that the Shared Island Fund would enable progress with delivery of Programme for Government commitments.

The Revised National Development Plan had been launched by the Government in October 2021. That included a significant Shared Island dimension setting new investment objectives across virtually all sectors. It committed €3.5bn for collaborative cross-border investment over the next decade and the Shared Island Fund had doubled to €1bn to 2030.

The Government committed to work through all-island partnerships for a more connected, sustainable and prosperous island. It outlined plans for a more connected island through connectivity of infrastructure, systems and people: encompassing transport, tourism and recreation, public services as well as culture, arts and heritage.

She went on to inform the Committee of the plans for a more sustainable island. A well-coordinated North/South approach was fundamental to effective policy and public investment actions on climate and environment. Co-ordinated investment for a regionally balanced and prosperous island, including a national development plan total all-island investment commitment of more than €3.5billion. This would be delivered through an Extended Shared Island Fund (€1bn); Government's annual funding for North/South cooperation (€1,4bn); Project Ireland 2040 funds and the PEACE PLUS programme (€1bn+) - delivered with the EU, UK and NI Executive.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the presentation.

It was agreed that Council officers would come back with a report looking at any potential collaboration with local authorities across the island to look at avenues of funding through the Shared Island unit.

#### **Update on Belfast Stories, including Geothermal Feasibility Study**

The Committee received a presentation from the Belfast Stories Programme Director giving an update on Belfast Stories, including the Geothermal Feasibility study. She advised the Committee that Belfast Stories aspired to be a sustainable, net zero carbon exemplar for the city and region, at the forefront of environmentally sensitive design, minimising energy consumption and maximising the potential for enhancing biodiversity, on-site energy generation and sustainable transport. The design process which underpins the development therefore required early consideration of the elements relating to best practice that would support this ambition.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and the content of the presentation, the update on the net zero ambitions for Belfast Stories. It also noted the findings from the shallow geothermal feasibility study.

### **Belfast Net Carbon Roadmap**

The Committee received a report providing an overview of the Belfast Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap, which had been commissioned for Belfast through the Place Based Climate Action Network (PCAN) which had also been circulated to Members for information.

The Committee adopted the recommended emissions reduction targets for Belfast, as set out in the Belfast Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap.

### **Recap on Suggestions for Future Meetings**

The Policy, Compliance and Research Officer the Committee with a verbal update on the items which were likely to be brought forward to future meetings.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson