

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

Friday 2th December, 2022

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Thursday, 8th December, 2022 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

**John Walsh
Chief Executive**

AGENDA:

1. **Routine matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Update on Belfast achieving an A listing from the Carbon Disclosure Project (Pages 1 - 4)**
3. **Update on the Local Area Energy Plan for Belfast (Pages 5 - 10)**
4. **Proposed district heating network for Belfast (Pages 11 - 16)**
5. **Innovate UK funding opportunity - UK Net zero living: Pioneer places fund (Pages 17 - 20)**
6. **Update on proposed climate literacy training for elected members (Pages 21 - 22)**



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| Subject: | Update on the Belfast Carbon Disclosure Project Submission 2022 |
| Date: | 8 December 2022 |
| Reporting Officer: | Richard McLernon |
| Contact Officers: | Richard McLernon Claire Shortt |

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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"/> |
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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | To update members on the recent award of A status to Belfast through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) cities reporting framework. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is requested to note the 2022 CDP award of A status to Belfast, which follows the 2021 CDP award of B status to Belfast and to support the annual submission by Belfast through this internationally recognised carbon and climate reporting framework. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| 3.1 | Background |
| 3.2 | In July 2021, the Council made the first annual submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI reporting platform, with an update provided to Council in October 2021. The |

submission was undertaken to support baselining of activity and emissions in Belfast, and to enable full participation by Belfast in global climate action campaigns such as the Race to Zero, which links to COP climate negotiations, the Cities Race to Resilience campaign, Cities Race to Zero campaign, the Global Covenant of Mayors, and the WWF One Planet City competition. All of these campaigns require members to have made a submission through a recognised reporting mechanism, of which CDP – ICLEI is the most well-known. The survey consisted of 59 questions in 2021 across the following categories:

- Governance and Data Management
- Climate Hazards and Vulnerability
- Adaptation
- City-wide Emissions
- Emissions Reduction
- Opportunities
- Energy
- Transport
- Food
- Waste
- Water Security

3.3 Furthermore, a city submission to CDP illustrates the level of ambition, activity and transparency each city adopts. Belfast has made its submission public in both submission years to ensure maximum openness and transparency around our plans. The Belfast submission in 2021 was the first time Belfast had participated in CDP, and we were congratulated on having achieved a B ranking at such an early stage. In 2022, our second submission has achieved an A ranking and CDP officials have made a point of appearing on local media to mark the rapid advancement of the city in their framework. Please see appendix 6.1 for CDP media coverage.

3.4 In 2022 Belfast was in a position to update on the adoption of city targets for achieving net zero which had been recommended in the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap (2020). As Members will be aware these commit the city to a 66% reduction of emissions on 2000 levels by 2025, an 80% reduction by 2030 and a 100% reduction by 2050. We were also able to point to adaptation targets including the planting of one million trees by 2035 and for the Living with Water Programme the delivery target of 2033, along with monitoring arrangements for both projects which we were able to provide evidence for within the submission.

3.5 Belfast was able to make a strong link between the climate risks such as flooding and heat set out in the Belfast Climate Risk Assessment and project delivery through initiatives including Belfast One Million Trees Project which addresses a range of targets including carbon capture, avoided water runoff, reduced levels of heat, improved biodiversity and improved health and wellbeing for residents of Belfast having planted 65,000 trees in 2 years of delivery, funding the first Belfast I-TREE ECO report (appendix 6.2) which provides an analysis of the benefits of the existing Belfast trees of Belfast, part funding the new Belfast Tree Strategy, funding new infrastructure including the development of a tree nursery at Grovelands, and funding The Conservation Volunteers to provide trees and Belfast Hills Partnership to provide volunteer support within Belfast.

3.6 Also linked to adaptation, we included information on the UPSURGE project which is designed around the use of nature-based solutions in Lower Botanic Gardens and satellite sites to analyse the impact on air quality, urban heat and carbon capture. We also included information relating to the Belfast Living with Water Programme, and the Belfast Tidal Defence Project. Furthermore, in relation to addressing the risk of heat we included details of the Belfast Heat Map and Heat Vulnerability Index developed by the Met Office, in partnership with BCC and Climate NI, and work undertaken by Belfast City Council with Climate NI to develop a draft Council Adaptation Plan.

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| 3.7 | One of the key areas of interest for CDP was to ensure community involvement in the development and delivery of the city's climate plans, and for the city to demonstrate how it addresses a Just Transition to Net Zero by the city. We were able to point to Belfast Climate Commission's inclusion of the pursuit of a Just Transition as one of the Commission's key aims and the establishment of a Community Climate Action Working Group and Youth Working Group to embed inclusive climate action. Importantly we were able to provide evidence including a report on Community Climate Action produced by QUB, and a report on Youth Perceptions of the Climate Crisis which was funded by Belfast City Council and saw 2000 young people give their views through the Yoursay platform, informing the programme of work undertaken by the Belfast Climate Commission Youth Working Group. |
| 3.8 | In addition, we included information on how Belfast has embedded climate in Belfast's Community Plan 'The Belfast Agenda' which is undergoing review at present. This important work links inclusive growth, anti-poverty and climate as cross cutting underpinning areas of work in the Belfast Agenda. Within the Community Planning structures we have established the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board which includes representation from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector nominated through the VCSE panel and again, evidence was provided to illustrate this. |
| 3.9 | As mentioned above, through Belfast Climate Commission Youth Working Group we undertook engagement with young people on the issue of climate and produced a report on the findings which will inform planning and policy. Belfast City Council and the Belfast Climate Commission supported the Youth Working Group to hold a Youth Summit during COP26 where they engaged with and challenged local politicians and leaders. Please see the link in appendix 6.3 for more information. |
| 3.10 | We were also able to point to the work of Belfast City Council Emergency Preparedness team in preparing for climate impacts and their work with local communities in developing structures and plans at the local level. |
| 3.11 | In relation to climate mitigation planning, we were able to refer to the Belfast Resilience Strategy and the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap which set out a number of initiatives and potential actions for the decarbonisation of the city. However, while some of these are in progress such as the work of Belfast Harbour, Belfast Stories, and the development of the Bolder Vision, this was an area where improvements can be made in terms of the development and implementation of costed projects that address city emissions. We were able to illustrate that work is ongoing in relation to project scoping and climate finance through the city's involvement in the 3CI City Climate Investment Commission city report (appendix 6.4) which launched at COP26 in 2021 and work on potential co-benefits through the Accelerating Net Zero report produced by UKRI with support from PWC and the University of Leeds (see appendix 6.5). |
| 4.0 | Financial & Resource Implications |
| 4.1 | There are no financial and resource implications. |
| 5.0 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications |
| 5.1 | Any good relations or equality implications will be identified as part of the Council's screening process. |
| 6.0 | Appendices |
| 6.1 | BBC – Belfast CDP result 2022 https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63656934 |
| 6.2 | Draft Belfast I-TREE ECO report https://www.treeconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Belfast-i-Tree-Eco-report.pdf |
| 6.3 | PCAN – Youth Climate Conference and Youth Climate Crisis Report (2021) https://www.belfastclimate.org.uk/climate-crisis-youth-survey |

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| 6.4 | 3CI Cities Climate Investment Report (2021) https://cpcatapult.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UKCCIC_Final_Report.pdf?utm_campaign=ukccic-&utm_source=website&utm_medium=download-final-report |
| 6.5 | UKRI Accelerating Net Zero report (2022) https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/IUK-090322-AcceleratingNetZeroDelivery-UnlockingBenefitsClimateActionUKCityRegions.pdf |

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| Subject: | Carbon Literacy Training for Committee Members |
| Date: | 8 December 2022 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Tully |
| Contact Officers: | Alison Diver |

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| Restricted Reports | |
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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on proposed Carbon Literacy Training and to ask for Member’s agreement on proposed dates for training. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Agree attendance on the proposed training dates of Thursday 12 January from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, and Saturday 14 January from 9am to 12.30pm. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| 3.1 | Carbon Literacy Training Reducing emissions relies on every person in an organisation being aware of the carbon impacts of their decisions and feeling empowered to take action as an individual, community and organisational basis. To cut our carbon emissions by the kind of reductions science |

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| | <p>demands, we will need to change culture alongside technology. Carbon Literacy training provides elected members and staff an awareness of the climate-related costs and impacts of their activities and the ability and motivation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sharing and showcasing best practice, knowledge, and expertise, is essential to make informed decisions to address the scale and urgency of the climate emergency and meet net zero targets.</p> <p>This course is appropriate for all councillors, whatever their political world view. By the end, elected members will understand the climate science that underpins the action the council is taking and be able to speak confidently and knowledgeably on the subject. Most importantly, they will understand how to talk about the climate crisis in a way that resonates with their voter base, and in a way that is authentic to their own political position.</p> <p>The training covers climate change, carbon footprints, how every person can do their bit, and how this topic relates to Elected Members and ratepayers. An Elected Members Toolkit provided during and after the training is designed to equip Councillors with the information they need to mobilise change within their constituency and to communicate climate change effectively to hard-to-reach groups.</p> <p>A full day is required to complete the training. This can be condensed slightly if completed remotely. It is proposed the training is delivered via MS Teams on Thursday 12 January from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, and on Saturday 14 January from 9am to 12.30pm. The training is interactive throughout and is followed by a short exercise to complete. Following successful completion of the training and exercise, a Carbon Literate Certificate is provided in a digital format. The training provider is Climate NI who are delivering the training as part of the Carbon Literacy Project.</p> <p>The Carbon Literacy Project's key aim is to provide education on carbon emissions to promote behavioural change, which is required alongside technological innovation if net zero targets are to be reached. 40,015+ individuals from over 3,812 organisations have completed Carbon Literacy Training to date, with organisations including Councils, housing trusts, NHS, museums, universities, and telecommunications.</p> <p>The current average carbon footprint of a UK citizen is 12.7 tonnes of CO₂e. There is an estimated realised carbon saving of 5-15% per person upon completion of the training. It is estimated that 157,240 tonnes of CO₂e have been saved as a direct result of key stakeholders completing the training and taking action. The project was recognised by the UN, at COP21 in Paris, where it was awarded as a TAP100, one of 100 worldwide Transformative Action Programs.</p> |
| 4.0 | Financial & Resource Implications |
| 4.1 | There is provision for Carbon Literacy Training within the Climate Unit budget. |
| 5.0 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications |
| 5.1 | None. |
| 6.0 | Appendices |
| 6.1 | None. |