



Subject:	Update on the Belfast Carbon Disclosure Project Submission 2022
Date:	8 December 2022
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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	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.

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

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