



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Agenda - overview of climate and environment interventions
<b>Date:</b>	10 August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide members with an overview of the climate and environment interventions included within the Belfast Agenda ahead of the public consultation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: I. Note the climate and environment interventions included within the Belfast Agenda; II. A further update will be provided to Members following the public consultation.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Background</b> In the refreshed Belfast Agenda the environmental and climate considerations have been strengthened to reflect the feedback from the wide range of stakeholders that have been

consulted. At the city level this work has been overseen by the Resilience and Sustainability Board as part of the wider community planning partnership. In particular the carbon targets adopted by Council last year have now been embedded in the city's ambitions for 2035. Creating a sustainable nature-positive city is now one of the five main themes with three key priorities over the next four years:

1. Re-naturing the city and improving the food system
2. Creating a sustainable circular economy
3. Innovating to Net Zero

### 3.2 **Re-naturing the city and improving the food system**

Under this priority, there are three strategic intents:

- Increase carbon capture and sequestration across Belfast, while reducing flood risk, enhancing biodiversity and improving the health of residents across the city through the One Million Trees project;
- Develop a demonstrator site in Botanic Gardens to test nature-based solutions through the UPSURGE project to strengthen climate resilience;
- Promote the uptake of nature-based solutions across the city to support climate resilience by integrating climate adaptation into strategic plans and urban agendas, by building adaptive capacity to deliver nature-based solutions, by scoping a city-wide regeneration programme to replace impermeable surfaces with green infrastructure, contributing to biodiversity and civic amenity, and by identifying funding opportunities to scale up nature-based solutions

### 3.3 **Creating a sustainable circular economy**

Under this priority, there are six strategic intents:

1. Enable the city to decarbonise at scale using the Belfast Local Area Energy Plan to develop a pipeline of investable local energy projects arising from the Local Area Energy Plan and identifying and responding to emerging funding and financing opportunities;
2. Promote sustainable circular economy approaches through the Shared Island funded Circular Economy Feasibility and Business Case in partnership with Dublin City Council, the UP2030 project (which aims to embed net zero in urban planning) and by reducing the carbon / environmental impact of municipal waste;
3. Promote a Just Transition to Net Zero in Belfast by addressing the social risks of the transition (eg employment shifts, impact on supply chains etc.), identifying social opportunities and co-benefits of the transition and through meaningful dialogue, co-creation and participation in net zero planning through community planning structures and involvement of key community, business and other statutory partners;
4. Increase the use of Electric Vehicles in Belfast and improve access to charge points through the Belfast EV Strategy;
5. Reduce energy consumption (and bills) of housing and public /commercial buildings through the retrofit of buildings; and
6. Decarbonise the heat supply to buildings in the city via a Heat Network and local energy projects.

### 3.4 **Innovating to Net Zero**

Under this priority, there are five strategic intents:

1. Develop a Net Zero Park on Queens Island as a stand-out global hub and testbed for innovating and investing in advanced green solutions for energy, transport and manufacturing;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Develop a stable supply of green energy to the Net Zero Park and surrounding lands to support the industrial cluster by developing affordable sustainable energy supply, by creating a testbed for multiple green fuels, and by establishing a local hydrogen plant;</li> <li>3. Accelerate the transition to low carbon manufacturing by supporting industries to measure and manage their carbon footprints, by using smart design and digital twin assets to accelerate innovation, test new business models and enhance supply chain resilience;</li> <li>4. Support Green Multi-Modal Mobility by creating a living lab across Harbour estate to test new low carbon transport solutions, by supporting low carbon innovation in advanced air, maritime &amp; road transport, and by establishing partnerships with maritime districts</li> <li>5. Expand an existing cluster of net zero technology companies to create a burgeoning GreenTech sector in NI and help realise the objectives of the Green Growth Strategy.</li> </ol>								
3.5	<p>Climate and environmental considerations are also embedded throughout the other themes. For example, under housing led regeneration and the future city centre priorities. There is also a separate priority (under the Place theme) covering active and sustainable travel.</p>								
3.6	<p><b>Next Steps</b> The planned next steps to finalising the draft strategy document and action plans are as follows:</p>								
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 981 855 1160">Early August 2023</td> <td data-bbox="855 981 1476 1160">Refreshed Belfast Agenda strategy document and Action Plans launched for consultation. EQIA and RNA consultation also commence</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 1160 855 1328">July – October 2023</td> <td data-bbox="855 1160 1476 1328">Review of Belfast Agenda Governance arrangements, performance framework and co-design framework undertaken.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 1328 855 1462">10 October 2023</td> <td data-bbox="855 1328 1476 1462">Refreshed Belfast Agenda strategy document and action plan consultation ends</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 1462 855 1597">w/c 6 November 2023</td> <td data-bbox="855 1462 1476 1597">Refreshed Belfast Agenda formally launched (date to be confirmed)</td> </tr> </table>	Early August 2023	Refreshed Belfast Agenda strategy document and Action Plans launched for consultation. EQIA and RNA consultation also commence	July – October 2023	Review of Belfast Agenda Governance arrangements, performance framework and co-design framework undertaken.	10 October 2023	Refreshed Belfast Agenda strategy document and action plan consultation ends	w/c 6 November 2023	Refreshed Belfast Agenda formally launched (date to be confirmed)
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<b>4.0</b>	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>								
4.1	There are no financial implications.								
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</b>								
5.1	An EQIA and RNA have been undertaken and will be consulted on for a period of 12 weeks.								
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>								
6.1	None.								