



Subject:	Solar PV Potential – Phase Two Department of Economy Collaboration
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner

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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To inform the Committee of an opportunity for the Council to continue jointly working with DfE on a project that will quantify the solar PV potential of a pilot area in the city and request approval to use £15,000 of the Council’s Climate budget to participate in the project.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to support and fund phase two of the project and to work with the DfE on next steps.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	The Climate Team recently undertook a project within the Shared Island Fund to examine the potential of solar PV on council buildings. Alongside this work, the Department for the Economy (DfE) commissioned the same consultant, Gordon Ingram Associates (GIA), to scope the solar PV potential of 56 buildings (both domestic and non-domestic) across the city as part of an NI wide project including 11 owned by the council. The DfE project was funded

	as part of a DfE 10X Economy Open Call for research proposals in December 2022. This work with GIA is being procured in phases.
3.2	Phase two of this research work is due to begin before the end of the month and there is an opportunity to include additional elements of the research that would be of benefit to the council. Specifically, this includes applying a unique Solar Opportunity tool to cover two areas (wards) of Belfast City. This would scale the approach from individual buildings to a larger pilot area including all the buildings in a target area.
3.3	The total cost of the project is £75,000, however, the majority of this will be covered by DfE as it intends to replicate this process across other areas. There are elements of the project that are of no direct use to the Department such as a web based interactive solar map of the pilot area, which would be of benefit to the council. The maximum cost to the council for collaboration is estimated to be £15,000.
3.4	This project would enable the solar PV potential of the pilot area to be quantified and visualised on a web page which if successful could be scaled to the whole city.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.5	The Council is being asked to contribute £15,000 to support this project. This amount has been allocated from within the existing City and Organisational Strategy departmental budget.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications
3.6	There are no direct equality and good relations implications.
	None.
4.0	Document Attached
	10X Economy Open Call for research proposals