



Subject:	Consultation response to Northern Ireland's Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets the UKCCC's Advice Report
Date:	20 th October 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Claire Shortt, Monitoring Learning and Reporting Officer, Climate Team

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <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
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1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the consultation response to DAERA on emissions targets, carbon budgets and the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) Advice Report. The response has been submitted to DAERA as an officer response and will be confirmed as a Belfast City Council response after ratification at full Council on Wednesday 1 st November 2023.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Note the contents of the consultation ii) Agree submission of response to DAERA
3.0	Main report
	Emissions Targets, Carbon Budgets and the CCC Advice Report
3.1	A climate emergency was declared by the Northern Ireland Assembly in February 2020. In June 2022, the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent. This Act sets out Northern Ireland's framework for tackling climate change and reducing emissions, by setting (among other things) challenging targets to deliver net zero emissions ('net zero') in Northern Ireland by the year 2050. The Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is leading on the development of Northern Ireland's first 5-year climate action plan (CAP) as required under the Act. The CAP will contain the Northern Ireland departments' policies and proposals to meet the first 5-year carbon budget for the years 2023-27 (which is a limit on the amount of emissions Northern Ireland can emit) and it will set our longer-term pathway towards net zero by 2050.
3.2	The main aim of this consultation is to consult on the proposed 2030 and 2040 emissions targets for Northern Ireland and proposed carbon budgets for the periods 2023-2027, 2028-2032 and 2033-2037. DAERA are also using this opportunity to seek the public's views on the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) Advice Report.
3.3	The Belfast City Council response is in broad agreement with both the targets and budgets. In the absence of any other science-based targets, Council agrees with these NI level targets and budgets.
3.4	The response has also agreed with the current advice provided by the CCC which is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to keep the current 2030 emissions reduction target in the Act of at least a 48% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline and a 2040 emissions target of at least 77%; and • that the first carbon budget should be set at a level that has a 33% average annual reduction, the second with a 48% annual reduction and the third with a 62% annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline.

3.5	The Council has also highlighted some of the work that is ongoing in the city to reduce carbon emissions alongside the need for further analysis by sector at a sub-regional level as well as consideration for support for the high numbers of SME's in the city. It was also noted that strategies such as the Resilience Strategy, LDP, Belfast Agenda, Carbon Roadmap and the LEAP are helping Belfast to plan it's path to net zero.
3.6	Under the waste sector contribution to net zero, Council notes that NI has an underdeveloped Energy from Waste (EfW) infrastructure and this action needs to be carefully co-ordinated in line with the development of local EfW capacity.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.7	None
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications
3.8	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Belfast City Council Response https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget