CLIMATE & CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE



Subject:		Learning Festival – food hackathon					
Date:		13 June 2024					
Reporting Officer:		Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner					
Contact (Officer:	Claire Shortt, Climate team					
Restricted Reports							
Is this report restricted?						х	
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.							
Insert number							
 Information relating to any individual Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) Information in connection with any labour relations matter Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 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 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							
Call-in							
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?							
1.0 P	urpose of Repor	t/Summary of Main Issues					

2024.				
Recommendation				
To note the contents of the report and be presented with the findings of the challenge from the				
winning group.				
Main Report				
The Belfast Learning Festival is part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and				
ran this year from 22 nd to 27 th of April. As part of the festival, the climate team agreed to hold				
a hackathon that would explore the current food systems in the city. The aim was to help				
tackle real-world challenges using data driven solutions. The invite went out to students in				
the Belfast Met, University of Ulster (UU) and Queens University Belfast (QUB) and more				
than 40 students registered their interest.				
To help the students tackle 'the challenges of accessing healthy sustainable food in the				
city', the climate team arranged a number of workshops throughout the week that included a				
modelling session with Allstate data analysts, a demonstration of the latest census data, the				
QUB Geoportal and lessons on how to use the NISRA data platform.				
Allstate donated the prize of £300 worth of shopping vouchers to the winning team who				
came from the Ulster University. The team presented their findings to a panel that involved				
lecturers from QUB, statisticians and BCC officers. Their solution was a mobile farmers				
market that would bring farm fresh produce to locals regularly. Residents can log onto an				
app to find out what producers will be in their area and any given time and what produce				
they will be bringing with them. The team are currently studying digital technology and the				
app is something that they maybe able to develop in the future as part of their course.				
Financial and Resource Implications				
None at this point				
Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment				
None known				
Appendices - Documents Attached				
Mobile Farmer's Market App - By Neil				