



Subject:	Invitation to join COP26 UK Mayors Advisory Council
Date:	21 August 2020
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience

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
1.1	To seek committee approval for Belfast City Council to accept an invitation to join the COP26 UK Mayors Advisory Council, and agree that the Lord Mayor should represent Council on the Taskforce, with officer support from the Commissioner for Resilience.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve BCC membership of the Mayors Advisory Council, and that the Lord Mayor represents Council, with the Chair of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee to deputise if required.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Key points to note Glasgow will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) on 1 – 12 November 2021. The climate talks will be the

	biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted; bringing together over 30,000 delegates including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle
3.2	The COP26 President Designate and UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma, has written to invite the Lord Mayor, or appropriate nominee, to join the COP26 UK Mayors Advisory Council. The group will meet quarterly and will be focused on the COP campaigns, communications and events in the lead-up to, and at, COP26; including engagement with all communities and sectors across the UK as part of the goal to make this an 'All of Society' COP.
3.3	Fully committed to the principles of the UN, the COP26 will focus on promoting tangible action that brings to life the transformational change required to unleash the full potential of the Paris Agreement with key ambitions including: phase out coal power by 2025, pledge to net zero emissions by 2050 and speed up the transition to low emission vehicles.
3.4	The Secretary of State Alok Sharma held meetings in Belfast during the week of the 10 August, and during meetings with BCC and city partners (the Belfast Climate Commission) stressed the importance of city involvement in preparation for COP. He restated his encouragement that Belfast would play an active role in a UK Mayors Advisory Council.
	Finance & Resource Implications
3.5	Membership of the UK Mayors Advisory Council does not involve a financial contribution however, some travel within the UK may be required.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None arising from this paper.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None