



Subject:	City Co-operation on Achieving Net Zero
Date:	25th March, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Strategic Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	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
1.1	To inform the Committee that discussions have taken place between the Lord Mayor of Belfast, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Metro Mayor of the Liverpool Region and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, with the aim of increasing cooperation in tackling the climate crisis and achieving net zero.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft statement of intent, which will announce an increase in city-to-city officer engagement initially focused around the topic of net zero.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that Belfast participated in a number of sessions during COP26 in Glasgow, with a city delegation attending the UN Climate Change Conference.
3.2	In addition to the global negotiations a number of city-to-city events took place, calling for increased collaboration around topics such as climate finance, energy and achieving a just transition.
3.3	The Council, represented by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Kate Nicholl, played a leading role in many of these engagements and, as a result, there have been follow up discussions with a number of cities including Greater Manchester, Liverpool, and Dublin among others, to explore opportunities to work together on common causes.
3.4	A delegation including the Mayors of Greater Manchester, Liverpool Region and Dublin will meet in Belfast on 30th March where we will showcase the good work being done in Belfast focused on hydrogen.
3.5	The programme will include a school visit, engagement with local businesses, and a workshop where officers from each city will discuss their programme of work and opportunities for collaboration.
3.6	<p>It is proposed that a statement of intent be agreed and made public on 30th March, the content of which is set out below:</p> <p><i>Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester, with a collective population of over 5 million, will come together to form a cooperative partnership to develop practical approaches to accelerate the delivery of net-zero commitments in our cities.</i></p> <p><i>Climate change is the greatest challenge facing our nations and our planet. That is why, we have developed ambitious climate agendas to become more equitable, fairer, prosperous and greener cities. Each of us are committed to the protection of our cities, our economies and our people and we are firmly of the view that working together will give us the best chance of realising the benefits of transitioning to a low carbon economy.</i></p> <p><i>To achieve these goals, our cities are committed to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sharing best practices, knowledge and experience;</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Connecting organisations and facilitating R&D, business and investment collaborations; and</i> • <i>Coordinating joint participation at events (including the Net Zero Summit in June 2022 and the Green Summit in October 2022) and hosting, where necessary, incoming delegations.</i> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.7 There are no financial or resource implications at present.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.8 There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None