

<p><b>Title of Report:</b></p> <p>Green Infrastructure and Climate Change Conference</p>	<p><b>Officer presenting</b></p> <p>Director of Environment &amp; Regeneration</p> <p><b>Author:</b></p> <p>Biodiversity Officer</p>
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## 1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To advise Members of the forthcoming Green Infrastructure and Climate Change conference at the Guildhall on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This will be the first such conference organised by a Council on this matter

## 2 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall approving the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan in May 2017 (ER97/17) and the associated Green Infrastructure Framework (ER114/18) (a roadmap for the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan to 2032). Also, Council approved the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan as part of the EU funded CLIMATE Project (from January 2018 – May 2020).

## 3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Green Infrastructure (GI) is an interconnected network of multi-functional natural and semi-natural areas, which provide multiple environmental, economic and social benefits. It is mostly comprised of countryside, parks, natural habitats, allotments & green links (river corridors, pedestrian & cycle routes).
- 3.2 Council have developed a draft GI Plan 2019-2032, working in partnership with a range of stakeholders. This will be the first GI Plan developed by a local authority in Northern Ireland. The conference will demonstrate GI projects from outside Northern Ireland, to provide knowledge sharing and best practice of adopting a GI approach. Guest speakers will include the Lead Officer for the Greater London Authority's GI Plan and two EU funded GI projects in England and the Republic of Ireland.
- 3.3 Members will be aware of the global issue of climate change and the local effects that are being increasingly experienced. Council is currently leading the way across Northern Ireland, with the development of the first local authority Climate Adaptation Plan, which is due for completion in November 2019.

3.4 A dedicated working group of Council officers has been established to take forward the development of the plan. The conference will provide the opportunity to showcase the work Council is doing in relation to climate adaptation, energy efficiency and raise awareness of the threat of climate change both globally and in the context of Northern Ireland. Speakers include expert climate scientists from University College Cork, practitioners in the field of climate adaptation and mitigation from Scotland, Ireland and Nova Scotia.

3.5 Invites will be issued to Members of Committees by the Park Management Section.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Rural Needs and other Implications**

4.1 No financial, equality, legal, HR or other implications arise.

#### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 Members' are asked to note the content of this report.

#### **Background Papers**

**ER97/17 & ER114/18**