

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>Covenant of Mayors</p> <p>Peer to Peer Learning Programme & Signatory Application</p>	<p>Officer Presenting:</p> <p>Director of Environment & Regeneration</p> <p>Author:</p> <p>Climate Programme Manager</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To advise Members on a joint submission with Donegal County Council to join the Covenant of Mayors Peer to Peer Learning Programme. This compliments existing collaborative climate action initiatives and the emerging North West Climate Action Plan.
- 1.2 To seek Members approval to progress the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Europe signatory initiative. This supports the Climate Emergency Declaration of July 2019 and subsequent pledge approved by Council in July 2020 committing to a shift to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 while also ensuring that the Derry City and Strabane District Council area is as far as practically possible is prepared for and resilient to the effects of climate change.

2 Background

2.1 The Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy in Europe Peer Learning Programme has been designed to cater to the different needs of regions and local authorities. The Programme delivers tailored programmes targeting those at various stages of the climate adaptation and mitigation journey. These programmes will ensure participants undertake stimulating exchanges including activities such as:

- Exchanging ideas on how to adapt to climate change through nature-based solutions
- Learning how to co-create a climate pact with citizens and business or to develop a climate neutrality strategy
- Getting tailored feedback and advice on long-term energy planning
- Each of the programmes will ensure a tailored exchange between participants.
- Successful applicants will be offered a place on the programme that most accurately responds to their needs and challenges as described in their application.

2.2 A decision on the Peer to Peer Learning Programme application will be made in May 2021 with the first introductory meeting for all in June 2021. The exchange will last approximately 6 months.

2.3 The Covenant of Mayors signatory initiative supports local authorities by providing recognition, resources and networking opportunities necessary to deliver energy and climate commitments.

2.1 Benefits of becoming a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors initiative include:

- Enhanced cooperation and support from national and subnational authorities
- High international recognition and visibility for the local authority's climate and energy action
- Opportunity to contribute to shaping the EU's climate and energy policy
- Credible commitments through progress, review and monitoring
- Better financial opportunities for local climate and energy projects
- Innovative ways to network, exchange experiences and build capacity through regular events, twinnings, webinars or online discussions
- Practical support, guidance material and tools
- Quick access to 'excellence know-how' and inspiring case studies
- Facilitated self-assessment and peer-to-peer exchange through common monitoring and reporting template
- Flexible reference framework for action, adaptable to local needs

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Application to the Covenant of Mayors Peer Learning Programme was approved at the meeting of the North West Regional Development Group on Friday 12th March 2021. The application was submitted on 19th March 2021. (See appendix A – application)
- 3.2 Officers liaised with Donegal County Council on the submission of the application to the Peer Learning Programme.
- 3.3 Participation in the 2021-2022 Peer Learning Programme is under the condition that participating signatories take the necessary steps before their first programme activity to commit to the Covenant of Mayors 2030 target including becoming a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors initiative by June 2021.
- 3.4 The Covenant of Mayors signatory process involves 3 steps:
 - Step 1 Secure Council approval to become a signatory and agree to the principles in the Commitment Document (See appendix B)
 - Step 2 Mandate the Mayor to sign the Covenant Adhesion form (See appendix C)
 - Step 3 Complete the application online and upload completed adhesion form
- 3.5 Following successful completion of the signatory process Council commits to the following:
 1. Carry out a Baseline Emissions Inventory and a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment;
 2. Submit a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan within two years following the above date of the municipal council decision;
 3. Report progress at least every second year following the submission of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes.
- 3.6 Members should note that Council has already completed the following:
 - Climate Change Risk & Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation Plan
 - Regional Energy Strategy and Carbon Management PlanProgress is also under way to deliver the following:

- Baseline emissions inventory,
- Climate Action Plan

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 Subject to successful selection to the Peer Learning Programme a travel and accommodation budget will be provided, however it is anticipated that the majority of activities will be delivered virtually.
- 4.2 To fulfil the commitments required as a Covenant of Mayors signatory Council has the capacity to deliver the Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plan, however additional funding support may be required to complete the Baseline Emissions Inventory. Officers are currently exploring options to complete this with other agencies.
- 4.3 The emerging Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plan will be subjected to appropriate equality and rural needs assessment.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 That Members take note of the application to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Peer to Peer Learning Programme.
- 5.2 Members approve that Council become a signatory and agree to the principles in the Commitment Document mandating the Mayor to sign the Covenant Adhesion form.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Peer Learning Programme Application March 2021

Appendix 2 CoM Commitment Document

Appendix 3 CoM Adhesion Document