

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>Shared Island Unit Climate Change & Biodiversity Consultation Response</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 the submission of the Council response to a Consultation Paper on climate and biodiversity forming part of a larger Shared Island Project in the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) for the Department of the Taoiseach.
- 1.2 A separate response was also submitted by the Climate Change Programme Manager on behalf of the North West Regional Development Group.
- 1.3 Responses were submitted on the 12th March 2021.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Climate Change and Biodiversity paper represents a synthesis of the current state of knowledge and prevailing policy approaches for climate and biodiversity, in Ireland and Northern Ireland, touching also on UK, EU and international policies.

Through the consultation the NESC will seek to incorporate the feedback from key stakeholders providing a basis for wider dialogue and engagement on the all-island dimensions of climate and biodiversity.

- 2.2 The paper focused on five key areas:
 - i. Climate Policy: Shared Focus on Increasing Ambition for 2030.
 - ii. Resilience in Cities: Sharing Good Practice.
 - iii. Valuing Nature: Biodiversity Accounting, Policy and Engagement.
 - iv. Renewable Energy, Dialogue and Practice.
 - v. Local Wealth Building, Resilience and a Just Transition in Rural Farming Communities.

- 2.3 It should be noted that in addition to the consultation response the Climate Programme Manager is also involved in ongoing discussions with the Shared Island Unit exploring opportunities to further climate action in the North West.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Officers produced a draft response which was circulated to Council's All Party Climate Emergency Working Group for consideration on 18th February 2021.
- 3.2 Officers liaised with Donegal County Council on the production of the North West Regional Development Group response.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 outlines the DCSDC response
- 3.4 Appendix 2 outlines the NWRDG response

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

- 4.1 There are no other financial, equality, legal, HR, improvement, rural needs or other implications associated with this item.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members take note to the responses submitted on behalf of DCSDC and NWRDG

Background Papers

Appendix 1 NESC Climate Change & Biodiversity Consultation Derry City and Strabane District Council Response

Appendix 2 NESC Climate Change & Biodiversity Consultation North West Regional Development Group Response