

Prosperity Agreement

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
and Belfast Harbour.



25th May 2021



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Prosperity Agreement

25th May 2021

Between:

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Klondyke Building, Gasworks Business Park,
Lower Ormeau Road, Malone Lower Belfast,
BT7 2JA.

and

Belfast Harbour

Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Harbour Office, Corporation Square,
Belfast, BT1 3AL

In which:

The parties agree to put in place a framework based on the following joint aspirations to move their business further towards long-term prosperity through improved environmental outcomes:

1. Seeking opportunities to explore innovation and go beyond compliance to deliver environmental and economic benefits;
2. Working in collaboration with the supply chain, other stakeholders and the community to influence environmental outcomes and develop the circular economy; and
3. Working together to promote better regulation and secure good business practice



Minister
Department of Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs



Chairman
Belfast Harbour



Belfast
Harbour



Background information

What is a Prosperity Agreement?

Prosperity Agreements are voluntary agreements through which the NIEA and an organisation or a group of organisations can explore new creative ways of reducing environment impacts in ways that create prosperity and well-being.

This Prosperity Agreement is between the NIEA and Belfast Harbour. It aims to, through a stronger partnership between the parties, tackle environmental and economic problems facing Northern Ireland and capitalise on opportunities.

Key environment opportunities or challenges

The agreed joint aspirations encompass opportunities and challenges that both parties agree are key to developing a better way of working to improve business and environmental outcomes.

These are expressed as five commitments. The detailed list of outcomes against these commitments can be viewed in the full Prosperity Agreement in Annex 1.

These are expressed as five commitments:

1. Decarbonisation.
2. Sustainable Consumption and Production.
3. Biodiversity.
4. Clean Air and Water.
5. Stakeholder Engagement Commitment.

Overarching Commitment	Sub Commitments
1. Decarbonisation	<p>1) Develop an energy strategy toward achievement of a net zero carbon target for energy by 2030. Baseline and report performance and improvement activities annually against Science Based Targets.</p> <p>2) Increase contribution to renewable energy markets (decrease reliance on fossil fuels, expand use of renewable energy).</p> <p>3) Seek opportunities to reduce Scope 3 carbon emissions within the port estate.</p> <p>4) BHC will maximise opportunities to improve energy efficiency in premises.</p>
2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	<p>1) Explore opportunities for re-use/recycling options to achieve 'Zero' waste to landfill.</p> <p>2) Proactively engage with stakeholders to remove waste from the marine environment and highlight environmental, social and economic impacts.</p> <p>3) Work with DAERA Marine & Fisheries Division to implement an 'agile' dredging regime.</p>

3. Biodiversity

- 1) Establish current ecological value of land and water in and around the estate.
- 2) Belfast Harbour will work to enhance and protect biodiversity on their sites.
- 3) Belfast Harbour will support biodiversity projects/ partner with Environmental NGO's on delivery of initiatives.
- 4) Belfast Harbour and NIEA will facilitate biodiversity training, guidance, and knowledge sharing opportunities for Belfast Harbour employees, tenants and other stakeholders.

4. Clean Air & Water

- 1) Develop an Air Quality strategy for the Harbour.
- 2) Reduce emissions from BHC vehicles, vessels, plant and equipment.
- 3) Increase sustainable transport links in and around the estate.
- 4) Monitor water quality and identify sources of any detected pollution.
- 5) Explore opportunities to facilitate water based recreational activities.
- 6) Explore opportunities for water recovery, to reduce stress on NI water network.

5. Stakeholder Engagement Commitment

- 1) Education of and engagement with staff on sustainability issues and topics to encourage sustainable behaviour in their work capacity.
- 2) Explore opportunities to host sustainability related events on the estate.
- 3) Communicate and engage with stakeholders, in particular tenants and local residents on sustainability issues.
- 4) Promote this Prosperity Agreement and publish annual updates.
- 5) Host and hold progress meetings held as per governance details.
- 6) Launch Sustainable supplier platform to encourage environmental stewardship across value chain.
- 7) NIEA will leverage its organisational links with other government organisations to establish better, more regular and effective communication.
- 8) Build collaborations and partnerships to explore green funding opportunities and accelerate progress.

Belfast Harbour

Established in 1847, Belfast Harbour is the City's port authority, operating as the principal maritime gateway on the island of Ireland and handling over 70% of the region's seaborne imports and exports.

It is a key economic hub for logistics, trade, tradeable services and tourism, with 24 million tonnes of cargo and over half a million freight vehicles passing through the Port annually. Belfast Harbour is also the custodian of the 2,000-acre Harbour Estate, which is home to a vibrant mix of 760 businesses and 27,000 people, working across multiple sectors. As a Trust Port and one of the region's most significant infrastructure developers, all profits are re-invested for the long-term benefit of its customers and wider society.

Belfast Harbour has invested more £290m in port infrastructure and estate regeneration in the last decade, which as a Trust Port it entirely self-funded.

In September 2019 Belfast Harbour launched a Vision to 2035; 'A Port for Everyone', which sets out a detailed plan through to 2023 and a longer term strategy to 2035. The strategy is built on 5 themes:

1. World's Best Regional Port
2. Key Economic Hub
3. Smart Port
4. Green Port
5. Iconic Waterfront for the City

NIEA

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is an Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) operating within the context of the Department's overall vision, strategic objectives and policies. The Agency's primary purpose is to protect and enhance Northern Ireland's environment, and in doing so, deliver health and well-being benefits and support economic growth. NIEA leads in advising on, and in implementing, the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland. Divisions within NIEA undertake a range of activities that promote the Government's key themes of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change.

NIEA's objectives are aligned with DAERA's vision of "**Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape, valued by everyone".

There are 4 strategic outcomes underpinning DAERA's vision:

- 1) Sustainable Agri-food Fisheries, Forestry and Industrial Sectors;
- 2) A clean, healthy environment, benefitting people, nature and the economy;
- 3) A thriving rural economy, contributing to prosperity and wellbeing; and
- 4) A well led, high performing organisation focussed on outcomes.

NIEA's main focus is delivering on outcome 2.

Governance arrangements

Life of the Agreement

The parties have agreed that this Prosperity Agreement will operate for a period of 3 years from the date of this Agreement.

Party stakeholders

For the purpose of this Agreement, stakeholders include Belfast Harbour's Board Members and employees, port users and estate tenants, NIEA employees, and government agencies such as Invest NI, NGOs, and local community groups and organisations.

Management of the Agreement

The following framework for decision making and management of the agreement has been approved by the two signature parties.

Both parties are responsible for:

- Endorsing and directing implementation action.
- Reviewing implementation progress.
- Ensuring appropriate resourcing and support for resourcing.
- Interacting with their respective organisations and party stakeholders.
- Reporting and making recommendations on the progress of the agreement to both parties.
- A working group consisting of the NIEA Prosperity Agreement team and key contacts from Belfast Harbour will liaise on meeting the above areas of responsibility.
- This Agreement and progress reports will be made available to the public on the NIEA website. Both parties are accountable and responsible for the commitments made in this Agreement.

- Both parties reserve the right to withdraw from this Prosperity Agreement if they believe the Agreement is no longer effectively promoting the joint aspirations, or if significant compliance issues arise at Belfast Harbour. In the event that a withdrawal or termination looks likely, both parties agree to initiate discussions about why this might occur.

Review and reporting

Both parties will liaise on a regular basis for the first year to review progress on implementing commitments. The following years will operate on a bi-annual meeting schedule.

Both parties will assess progress against commitments and outcomes agreed annually. This review will also identify areas of focus for the following year and possible amendments to the Agreement. Progress and results will be reported to the Belfast Harbour and NIEA Board and made available through the NIEA website. At the end of this Agreement the working group will undertake a full review of the outcomes of the agreement.

This review will assess the success of the Prosperity Agreement and measure deliverables against those identified.

Contact Details

NIEA

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Belfast Harbour

Compliance Manager
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