

# Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**

19 August, 2020

## **MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy/copies of the report for the following item(s) to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 21st August, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

#### **2. Restricted Items**

- (e) Minutes of Meeting of Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 1 - 4)

#### **3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

- (a) Motion - Suicide Awareness Training (Pages 5 - 6)
- (b) Motion - Opening our Streets for Everyone (Pages 7 - 8)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Suicide Awareness Training
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	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"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on a Suicide Awareness Training, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> July, the following motion was proposed by Councillor M. Kelly and seconded by Councillor Long: <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>“This Council recognises the Covid-19 pandemic will exacerbate the current mental health crisis in our City.</i>”</p>

	<p><i>The Council previously agreed to work with others to make Belfast a Zero Suicide City to include challenging the taboos of mental health and suicide and ensuring that there is adequate training and resources for all the citizens so that Belfast can react positively to assist those in need.</i></p> <p><i>All of us need to be aware of the signs and understand the questions to ask someone we are worried about and what help they can get. Therefore, Council agrees:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. That Training in mental health and suicide intervention is crucial; therefore Council will investigate resourcing further SafeTALK and Mental Health First Aid training programmes for staff.</i></li> <li><i>2. To appoint mental health champions in each Council Department in to act as a point of contact for an employee who is experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress, helping the person get appropriate help, and also provide early intervention for someone who may be developing a mental health issue.</i></li> <li><i>3. As a practical first step, to encourage Councillors and staff to undertake a short, free online course in Suicide Awareness training (developed by Mersey Care Foundation Trust and widely used across the NI Health and Social Care Trusts) – this teaches people how to recognise the warning signs and safeguard someone who could be contemplating suicide, talking openly to them and then directing them to appropriate services.”</i></li> </ol>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Opening Out Streets for Everyone
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on a Opening Our Streets for Everyone, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> July, the following motion was proposed by Councillor McKeown and seconded by Councillor:  “

	<p><i>“The coronavirus pandemic has shown that there is a real appetite among the people of Belfast to walk and cycle more, which is benefitting their physical and mental wellbeing. This energy and enthusiasm needs to be supported so it can be sustained.</i></p> <p><i>While potentially transformative work is being undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure to install pop-up cycle lanes, pedestrianise streets and widen footpaths, there is a significant opportunity for Belfast City Council also to play its role in the recovery and the enhancement of our city by taking the car out of many of our streets.</i></p> <p><i>The Council therefore agrees that a programme of temporary road closures be rolled out across the city on specific days, such as at weekends, in consultation with local communities, disability organisations and businesses. This will help in the recovery – socially, economically and environmentally – by making room for people to get around in a socially-distanced way, affording local businesses extra space to operate more safely, and supporting the move towards reduced car use and a cleaner, greener, healthier city for all.</i></p> <p><i>To facilitate this in a managed way, the Area Working Groups will be reconvened remotely at the earliest opportunity to help identify potential sites in each part of the city. Any closures must not adversely impact residents, businesses, or people with a disability or accessibility issues. Closures must also take account of public and road safety.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>