

Public Document Pack

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

21st February, 2024

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copies of the reports for the following items to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 23rd February, 2024.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (m) Waste Management – Purpose Build Managed Student Accommodation
(Pages 1 - 4)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (c) Quarterly Update on Notices of Motion (Pages 5 - 16)

8. Operational Issues

- (e) Illumination Request (Pages 17 - 20)
- (j) Minutes of the Disability Working Group 30 January (Pages 21 - 28)

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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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Subject:	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
Date:	23 rd February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor & Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer Clare Hutchinson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 													
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>	Never		<input type="checkbox"/>
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Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of all Notices of Motion for which SP&R Committee is responsible for.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that SP&R Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the updates to all Notices of Motion that SP&R Committee is responsible for and • Agree to the closure of Notice of Motion 266, 269, 302, 320, 327, 331, 332, 336, 346 and 350 as referenced in Appendix 1 and paragraph 3.4 below.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 25th October 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:</p> <p>“That this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Date received 2. Notice of motion title 3. Submitted by which Councillor 4. Council meeting date 5. Committee motion is referred to 6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated 7. Month it will be reported back to committee 8. Other action to be taken.” <p>3.2 Following a review exercise, a new database containing all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance at Committee was created and quarterly reporting to Committee commenced in March 2021. Appendix 1 is the latest quarterly update showing all active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which SP&R Committee is responsible for.</p>
3.3	<p>Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance</p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices of Motion which contained an action(s) that has been completed; and • Notices of Motion have become Council policy.

3.4

SP&R Committee are asked to agree that the following 10 Notices of Motion are now closed:

Category 1 Recommended Closures:

- **Support for Striking Communication Workers Union (Ref 269)** – This NOM called on the Council to support the decision by communication workers to engage in strike action to lift pay. It asked the Council to write to senior management of Royal Mail, BT and Openreach encouraging them to present a fair, above inflation pay offer to workers and host an all-party meeting of Councillors, officers and representatives from CWU engaging in strike action. A response was received on 15th September 2023 and an all-party meeting is being arranged. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Department for Infrastructure – Standards of Repairs to Roads and Footpaths (Ref 320)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to DfI to raise the issue regarding the standard of repairs to roads and footpaths. A response has now been received and is being taken forward as part of ongoing engagement with the Department for Infrastructure. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Save West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness (Ref 331)** – This NOM called on the Council to explore all options to fund the West Well Being Suicide Prevention Centre, including using reserve funds, if necessary, to source up to £50,000 so the organisation could continue to deliver its full range of services for the remainder of 2023. Following discussion it was agreed that all requests for funding would be dealt with via the revised discretionary payments policy. Further information was provided to the organisation but no application has been made. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Future Management Structures of Lough Neagh (Ref 332)** – This NOM calls for the public acquisition of Lough Neagh from Lord Shaftesbury, an exploration of a right of nature for Lough Neagh and the future participation of communities in any future decision making. This call was passed at Committee. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed
- **National Famine Memorial Day (Ref 336)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to request that Belfast host, in 2024, the National Famine Memorial Day, which takes place every May. A response was received and reported to SP&R in January 2024. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Request for Update on Motion on Overdose Prevention Facility in Belfast (Ref 346)** – This Issue Raised in Advance called for a report to be submitted providing

an update on the above-mentioned motion, which had been passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st March, with specific reference to meetings held, legal advice sought and partners engaged with. An update was provided to SP&R in Jan 2024. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

- **Removal of the Maximum Value Cap on Domestic Rates (Ref 350)** – This NOM called for a fully restored Executive so that collective decisions could be made on important devolved matters. In addition, it asked that in light of consultation that will take place on this issue, the Council would also make this motion a collective submission to the consultation. The consultation response was agreed at SP&R in January 24 and ratified at Council in Feb 24 and has been submitted. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

Category 2 Recommended Closures:

- **GLL and Trade Unions (Ref 266)** – This NOM called on GLL to officially recognise trade unions in Belfast City Council leisure centres and for the Chief Executive of the Council to convene a meeting with the relevant trade unions to hear directly about the issues facing workers. The Chief Executive convened a meeting with the Trade Unions on 5th April 2023 and GLL now formally recognise the Trade Unions. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Winter Outdoor Preparedness Strategy (Ref 302)** – This NOM called on the Council to work with key stakeholders to develop a funded winter outdoor preparedness strategy and action plan for the city, to be operational by Quarter 3 of the 2023/2024 financial year. An update report on Winter Preparedness was presented to the People and Communities Committee in November 2023. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Corporate Communications – Language Policy (Ref 327)** – This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to issue a social media tweet in Irish marking the 130th anniversary of the founding of Conradh na Gaelige and grant approval, in advance of the Language Strategy Action Plan being approved, for social media tweets marking similar illuminations to be issued in both English and the minority language. The social media tweet was issued on 18 August 23 and the draft Language Policy Action Plan was issued for public consultation in Oct 2023 and contain actions about social media tweets in all languages. Therefore it is recommended that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.5

There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.

3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – SP&R Committee

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Notice of Motion – Live Database

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Agreed actions (agreed decisions from committee/ Council)	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	Status Update
7	notice of Motion	09/04/2018	Childcare Strategy	Cllr O'Hara	Referred to SP&R	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	A child care strategy that is for Belfast alone would not be operational and outside the remit of the Council. The Education Minister recently confirmed (7th Sep 2022) the continued commitment to developing an integrated Early Learning and Childcare Strategy for NI with March 2023 as the anticipated date for the draft of the strategy and costed action plan which will be subject to NI Executive consideration. Council officers will engage with Depts and seek to input into this process and advocate the need to accelerate the finalisation and implementation of the regional strategy. It was agreed at SP&R October 23 that this NOM would remain open, to allow for a further report to be submitted. Council officers will continue to work with partner organisations and relevant groups through community planning to help inform any future childcare strategy which may emerge and it is the intention to bring back a report at a later stage
23	Notice of Motion	01/07/2019	Removal of Banners and Paramilitary Flags in Belfast	Cllr Beattie	Debated and passed	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Consultation delayed due to Covid-19. Since the decision by SP & R in 2019, the FICT report commissioned by The Executive was published which covers similar issues. Extensive consultation was undertaken between 2016 – 19 on this and the contents of this report have the agreement of the 5 main political parties represented on the Commission Report to be brought to CMT and potentially Party Group Leaders for discussion on way forward.
25	Issue Raised in Advance	23/08/2019	Abortion Imagery	Cllr Groogan		SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Work is ongoing on the development of new city amenities byelaws which would try to address a number of issues in relation to good governance in the city centre including the display of promotional literature or material without a permit from the Council. The Council have undertaken initial engagement with the Department for Communities and obtained legal advice on the draft byelaws. On 26 June 2023 the SP&R Committee agreed that the draft Bye Laws be issued for formal public consultation commencing in September 2023. At the Oct 23 Cttee it was agreed that this would remain open awaiting outcome of planned consultation. Consultation commenced on 27 November 2023 and will run to 4 March 2024.
35	Notice of Motion	02/12/2019	Pridestrian Animation	Cllr Garrett	Referred to SP&R	SP&R		J Greer	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Following recommendations from the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) that colourful crossings should not be used; officers are continuing to engage with partner to investigate alternative options. Officers have engaged with external partners and developed a proposal for a piece of temporary public art. A proposal for members will be brought for to CG&R in early 2024.
49	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Market Gardens and Urban Farming	Cllr de Faointe	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate Team are have established a Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership, which is currently developing an action plan which will consider the potential for market gardens and urban farming in the city. The UPSURGE and UP2030 projects are also looking at the use of green space and nature based solutions, and will include community growing elements.
50	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Belfast Zoo	Cllr Maskey	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Greer	Place & Economy	Ongoing	The “Kingdom of the Barbary lion” purpose-built Lion habitat opened in August and has the biggest glass lion viewer in Europe. Despite challenging weather this year, initiatives such as zoo explorers, BCC summer scheme, Boo at the zoo and the inaugural Santa experiences have all received positive participant feedback. Refurbishment works continue at the vacant Hazelwood House, Bellevue Steps and Floral Hall continue to be reviewed. Works have completed to replace the roofs or 2 animal houses. The Council’s Assets Team continue to work on a detailed action plan with timelines and potential funding opportunities.
51	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Growth Deal	Cllr Beattie	Straight to Committee	SP&R		R Cregan	Finance & Resources	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.

74	issue Raised in Advance	19/06/2020	Disabled People and Older People	Cllr McMullan		SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	The draft Age Friendly plan 22-26 is scheduled to be presented to SP&R in September 22 before going out to public consultation in October 22. The plan outlines actions that will contribute to relevant aims in the Belfast Agenda, accessibility is explicitly mentioned in the report with proposed actions to address this issue. The emerging priorities include Infrastructure – helping people ‘get out and about’ and Social inclusion, promoting connections both themes will promote increased accessibility. Work will continue with the Council’s internal Reference Group on Older People and officers have secured funding for a Council Age Friendly Co-ordinator, the recruitment process for this post will commence in the Autumn. It is therefore proposed that this Motion is now closed. 10.01.23 Part one of this motion in relation to older people and inclusivity is now recommended for closure due to the above update. However there are further actions and updates to be gained in relation to accessibility and inclusivity with regards to disabled people and in a wider sense. Therefore this motion has been left as on-going until these further updates have been obtained.
131	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	Sealing of the Records of Mother and Baby Homes	Cllr Michael Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters sent. Awaiting response from Irish Gov. Exec response received.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response from Irish Gov still outstanding - 06/09/21
138	Notice of Motion	07/12/2020	World Environment Day	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Report to come back to SP&R Committee	J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate Team is developing a calendar of key dates with Corporate Communications, ensuring appropriate messaging is developed in advance. The Communication Plan will be delivered through the BCC Climate Action Plan.
167	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	Violence against Women and Girls	Cllr Mulholland	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Council to write to NI Executive re Strategy. Council to work with groups like Womens Aid. Council to ensure it has an up to date Anti Harrassment Policy in place	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available
171	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	10 Per Cent Pay Increase for Council Workers	Councillor Matt Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The NJC pay award for 2022-23, was agreed and finalised November 2022 in accordance with the NJC’s Constitution. There is no provision for local pay deals to be reached unless a council has chosen to opt out of the national bargaining machinery. Management have met with Trade Union representatives from each locally recognised Trade Union, and Council agreed to award 2 x COL payments of £750 gross to all staff except for Chief Officers. Following extensive discussions, management and the Trade Unions have agreed an interim pay and grading structure effective from 1 Sep 2022 for NJC and Craft employees. The interim structure includes the removal of the first SCP in each grade, except for PO12 and the addition of 1 SCP to the top of each grade, except for PO12. All employees will progress by 1 increment with effect from 1 September 2022 with the exception of those employees at the top of PO12. From 1 April 2023, normal processes for incremental progression will apply. Work continues to develop an updated Pay and Grading Structure in line with the rate setting process for FY 2024/25. It is anticipated that an update will be brought to SP&R on the P&G structure and assimilation ahead of finalising the rate.
176	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Mater Hospital Services	Cllr Ferguson	Debated at Council	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	This motion related to provision of services during the pandemic - this was resolved with services returning to normal from November 2022. 12.03.23 This motion recommendation for closure was rejected at Feb SP&R and therefore remains on-going
187	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	Local Government Pension Scheme – Responsible Investment Strategy	Cllr Murphy	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to NILGOSC	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letter sent 2/7/21. Meeting with NILGOSC requested by S P and R 20/8/21 - to be arranged
189	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	PEACE IV to PEACE PLUS Programmes	Cllr Kyle	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to TEO and SEUPB	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letters sent 2/7/21. Response received from SEUPB 20/7/21 - TEO yet to respond
195	Notice of Motion	01/07/2021	Chat Bench and Tackling Loneliness	Cllr Howard	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	[No change from previous update]. To be progressed as resources become available. The NoM is wider than just physical projects.
197	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	The Rights of Nature	Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate team will review the motion while developing the Belfast Climate Plan, updating members accordingly.
199	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	Four-Day Working Week	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Management to bring a report to February 24 committee regarding proposals for a 4 day working week pilot.
203	Notice of Motion	04/10/2021	Electric Charging Points	Ald Dorrian	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to Minister for Infrastructure Members to receive a report from officers	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Responses from Ministers being considered by officers

209	Notice of Motion	04/10/2021	Environmentally Sustainable Event Spaces	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	[No change from previous update]. To be progressed as resources become available.
225	Issue Raised in Advance	17/12/2021	City Centre Built Heritage	Cllr Murphy	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		C Reynolds	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Work is ongoing.
228	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	10/01/2022	Playing Pitches in Belfast	Cllr Brooks	Straight to Committee	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
235	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	22/02/2022	Energy Price Crises	Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully/ Debbie Caldwell	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate Team are currently developing an EV Strategy for Belfast which will consider community needs and opportunities. The Belfast Local Area Energy Plan is under development, due to complete in March 2024, this will consider opportunities for community energy initiatives. In parallel discussions are ongoing with projects such as Edenderry District Energy initiative, to explore opportunities to support community ambitions.
243	Notice of Motion	14/03/2022	Cost of Living	Cllr. Garrett	Debated at Special Council	SP&R	Present proposal to create a citywide hardship fund	J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	An All-Party Members' Cost of Living Working Group had been established and helped shape the co-design of a £1million+ Hardship Fund for 2023/2024. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has agreed the broad framework for the hardship fund which includes significant funding to help alleviate the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis on those most in need across the city including Children and Young People (including those with special needs), families and individuals in emergency need, aging population and newcomer communities. A new 'Cost-of-Living Support Guide' has also been developed and disseminated across the city, including 100 public and community buildings, to raise awareness and sign-post people to other sources of help and support. Further reports will be brought to Committee as relevant.
257	Issue Raised in Advance	17/06/2022	City Cemetery - Bi-lingual Signage	Cllr Beattie	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	The new City Cemetery visitor centre is open and operational. Dual language signage on the visitor centre is complete.
264	Issue Raised in Advance	19/08/2022	Electric Vehicle Charging Points Strategy	Cllr Long	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate Team has developed a Belfast EV Strategy which is currently being circulated to the Internal EV Group for comment. It is scheduled for completion and to be brought for approval in early 2024. On approval, a Belfast City EV Working Group including relevant external partners will be established to help implement the strategy. BCC is a partner in the FASTER project, which saw 9 EV chargers installed at 7 BCC leisure centres, becoming operational at the start of December. A bid has been developed for the ORCS Fund 2023/24 for EV charging infrastructure at 15 BCC public facing car parks.
266	Notice of Motion	23/08/2022	GLL and Trade Unions	Cllr Ferguson	Agreed at Committee	SP&R	CX to convene meeting	J Walsh	Chief Executives	Recommend Close	The Chief Executive convened a meeting with the Trade Unions on 5th April 2023 and GLL now formally recognise the Trade Unions.
269	Notice of Motion	23/08/2022	Support for Striking Communication Workers Union	Cllr Michael Collins	Agreed at Committee	SP&R	Write to BT/Openreach/Royal Mail & arrange an all party delegation with CWU reps.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Wrote to BT etc. and arranging APD - Response received on behalf of BT and Open Reach 15/9
280	Issue Raised in Advance	21/10/2022	Fuel Poverty Hardship Fund	Cllr Flynn	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
283	Issue Raised in Advance	18/11/2022	Memorial to Baroness May Blood	Cllr Murray	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	[No change from previous update]. Discussed at the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group. To be considered as part of the City Hall statues project under the Capital Programme.
284	Issue Raised in Advance	18/11/2022	Use of the Ceremony Room, City Hall	Cllr Michelle Kelly	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	[No change from previous update]. A report on the potential reinstatement of the Ceremony Room to be submitted to a future Committee meeting.

297	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	05/01/2023	Comber Greenway	Cllr Flynn	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	Project has significant resource and financial implications. Officers are starting the process of reengaging with DfI on the Comber Greenway.
298	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	05/01/2023	School Street Schemes	Cllr de Faote	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Council to write to Department for Infrastructure requesting it to bring forward a School Streets pilot project in Belfast	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
300	issue Raised in Advance	20/01/2023	Levelling Up Fund	Cllr McLaughlin	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	A report was submitted to SP&R Committee in October 2023 providing an update on ongoing discussions with DLUHC in relation to the announcement on the open call for Levelling Up Round 3 and the fact that this was not call for applications which does not apply to Northern Ireland at this time given the current absence of a working Executive and Assembly. The Council has written to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities expressing concern on the approach adopted. In anticipation of a Levelling Up Round 3 being brought forward, work continues to develop a pipeline of potential candidate projects which can be worked up to a stage of maturity for submission to any future funding call.
302	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/01/2023	Winter Outdoor Preparedness Strategy	Cllr McMullan	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	An update report on Winter Preparedness was presented to People and Communities Committee in November 2023.
305	Notice of Motion	24/01/2023	Support for striking Health Workers	Cllr Matt Collins	Agreed at Committee	SP&R	The Council resolves to write to the Department for Health and the Secretary of State, in the absence of a Minister for Health, to urge them to source and provide a fair, above inflation pay rise for health workers.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Adopted at Standards and Business Committee. Progress to be reported to SP&R
306	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	21/02/2023	Maternity Leave Provision for Mothers of Babies defined as Premature	Cllr Spratt	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Research and benchmarking complete, proposals have been developed and will be consulted on with management and trade unions in accordance with the IR Framework.
308	Notice of Motion	21/02/2023	Overdose Prevention Facility in Belfast	Cllr O'Hara	Debated at Council	SP&R	That this Council facilitates an open call to organisations who wish to be involved in the setting up of such a facility to work together to draft a proposal on what this service would include, centred on providing overdose prevention facilities and wrap around support services for those in need, and to write to the relevant agencies to urge them to provide multi-year funding for the Complex Lives strategy	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Adopted at Council and progress to be reported to SP&R initially. At SP&R on 24th November the Committee agreed that, at the request of Councillor Smyth, that a report be submitted at its next monthly meeting with specific reference made to meetings held, legal advice sought and partners engaged with - see no. 346 for reference.

319	Notice of Motion	27/06/2023	CPR Training and Circuit	Cllr Black	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Calls for all defibrillators to be registered on the circuit and accessible 24/7 to public, future funding for defibs requires them to be registered on circuit and that mandatory training is provided for councillors and staff	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
320	Notice of Motion	27/06/2023	Department for Infrastructure - Standards of Repairs to Roads and Footpaths	Cllr Long	Adopted	SP&R	The Council will write to DfI to raise the issue regarding the standard of repairs to roads and footpaths	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Correspondence issued to DfI Perm Sec - 11.07.23. Recommend close on the basis that a response has now been received and is being taken forward as part of ongoing engagement with DfI.
325	Issue Raised in Advance	18/08/2023	Request for Artwork to Celebrate the Oscar Winning Film 'An Irish Goodbye'	Cllr Black	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R	A report be submitted to a future meeting on the provision of artwork somewhere in the City to mark the success of the above-mentioned film.	J Greer	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Officers are considering how to meet this request from within existing programmes and budgets. A report will be brought to SP&R committee for consideration.
326	Issue Raised in Advance	18/08/2023	Data Protection	Cllr Beattie	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R	Report to be brought back setting parameters around internal investigation into media reports re injunctions in 2017	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
327	Issue Raised in Advance	18/08/2023	Corporate Communications - Language Policy	Cllr Ronan McLaughlin	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R	Granted approval for Council to issue immediately tweet in Irish marking the 130th anniversary of the founding of Conradh na Gaeilge (July 2023) and for future tweets to issue in minority language and English	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Social media tweet issued on 18 August. The draft Language Policy Action Plan issued for public consultation in Oct 2023 contain actions about social media tweets in all languages.
330	Notice of Motion	29/08/2023	Clean Indoor Air Motion	Cllr Maghie	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Council, amongst other things, to prioritise clean indoor air in Belfast City Hall and other Council-owned and occupied premises. Referred SP&R Committee which	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
331	Notice of Motion	29/08/2023	Save West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness	Cllr Collins	Straight to Committee	SP&R		T Wallace	Finance & Resources	Recommend Close	Following discussion at Party Leaders and SP&R, and on the basis there were no funds available for reallocation, it was agreed that all requests for funding would be dealt with via the discretionary payments policy, which is currently being reviewed and revised. This was due to a specified reserve being available for this purpose. Following discussion at SP&R on 24th November, criteria to be revised slightly and a scoring matrix developed and brought back to SP&R in December. This will allow organisations to apply for funding in January
332	Notice of Motion	29/08/2023	Future Management Structures of Lough Neagh	Cllr Smyth	Debated at Council	SP&R	Council calls for public acquisition of Lough Neagh from Lord Shaftesbury, exploration of a right of nature and the future participation of communities in any future decision making	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Call was passed at Committee. Recommend close unless there are further actions for Council to take.
336	Notice of Motion	26/09/2023	National Famine Memorial Day	Cllr Whyte	Agreed at Committee	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Response received and reported to SP&R in January 2024
337	Notice of Motion	26/09/2023	Right to Food Campaign	Cllr Doherty	Agreed at Council	SP&R	Council will write to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education calling for the urgent restoration of the School Holiday Food Grant Scheme, and to request that the Department protect and prioritise the needs of the most disadvantaged children and young people when making decisions regarding the allocation of its resources.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response presented to S P and R 24/11/23 - Referred to Social Policy Working Group

341	Notice of Motion	24/10/2023	Childcare Provision	Cllr Maghie	Straight to Committee	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Report to be brought back to S P and R
342	Notice of Motion	24/10/2023	Mental Health Accessibility Audit	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Report to be brought back to S P and R
344	Notice of Motion	24/10/2023	Rugby World Cup	Cllr Lyons	Straight to Committee	SP&R	The motion calls upon the Council to hold a civic reception for the Irish Rugby World Cup team . Due to cost implications the	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Motion adopted at S P and R 24/11/23
346	Issue Raised in Advance	24/11/2023	Request for Update on Motion on Overdose Prevention Facility in Belfast	Cllr Smyth	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R	At SP&R on 24th November the Committee agreed that, at the request of Councillor Smyth, that a report be submitted at its next monthly meeting with specific reference made to meetings held, legal advice sought and partners engaged with	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	See original NOM ref 308 for reference. Update provided to SP&R in January 2024
350	Notice of Motion	28/11/2023	Removal of the Maximum Capital Value Cap on Domestic Rates	Cllr McDowell	Straight to Committee	SP&R		T Wallace	Finance & Resources	Recommend Close	The draft consultation response will take account of this recommendation. The consultation respponse was agreed at SP&R in Jan 24 and ratified at Council in Feb
351	Notice of Motion	28/11/2023	Right to Grow on Council owned land	Cllr Bell	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	
355	Issue Raised in Advance	15/12/2023	Trademarket Belfast - Future Location	Cllr Murray	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	letter sent to Linen Quarter Bid re Trademarket Belfast's request to take over the short-term lease of a portion of land on Bankmore Square
356	Notice of Motion	04/01/2024	Memorial Wall - Covid-19	Cllr McDonough-Brown	Straight to Committee	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
359	Issue Raised in Advance	19/01/2024	Request for BCC to act as a Sponsor for a Community Asset Transfer for West Belfast Partnership Board	Cllr Black	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
Total				57						57	



Subject:	Request for Illumination of City Hall to mark the birthday of President of Ireland, Michael Higgins on 18 April 2024.
Date:	23 February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a request received from a member of the public for illumination of City Hall for to mark the birthday of President of Ireland, Michael Higgins on 18 April 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the request in line with the illumination criteria and make recommendation to approve or decline this request and rationale for decision.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall LED illumination system are managed by the Function Management team who review requests in line with criteria approved by members. <i>Criteria in Appendix One.</i>

3.2	This request has been received by a member of public who noted City Hall is illuminated for HM King Charles' birthday. In recent years Members have approved previous illuminations received from members of the public that do not meet the criteria approved by Members (4 in 2021, 1 in 2022 and 1 in 2023).								
3.3	<table border="1" data-bbox="274 405 1385 613"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="274 405 459 443">Date</th> <th data-bbox="459 405 722 443">Cause</th> <th data-bbox="722 405 1137 443">Meet Criteria</th> <th data-bbox="1137 405 1385 443">Colours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="274 443 459 613">18 April 2024</td> <td data-bbox="459 443 722 613">President of Ireland's Birthday <i>From Member of public</i></td> <td data-bbox="722 443 1137 613">No</td> <td data-bbox="1137 443 1385 613">Not stated in request but presuming Green, White and Orange</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Cause	Meet Criteria	Colours	18 April 2024	President of Ireland's Birthday <i>From Member of public</i>	No	Not stated in request but presuming Green, White and Orange
Date	Cause	Meet Criteria	Colours						
18 April 2024	President of Ireland's Birthday <i>From Member of public</i>	No	Not stated in request but presuming Green, White and Orange						
3.4	<p data-bbox="274 667 722 701"><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="274 719 1487 954">Committee should be minded that as each additional scene beyond the approved Illuminate calendar must be programmed by a trained member of staff, there is additional overtime staffing costs to programme the scheme and then present on the evening of each illumination to ensure the LED colour system is correct. Its estimated £10,000 per annum in staffing costs for additional illuminations approved.</p> <p data-bbox="274 1021 1137 1055"><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>								
3.5	None identified at this time.								
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached								
	Appendix 1 - Current Illumination governance								

Current Illuminate Governance Arrangements

The current governance scheme for the illumination system as approved by Committee in September 2016. Illumination will take place as follows

- a) on the 10 agreed annual days, plus any council-run events, plus charities nominated by the council's three civic dignitaries.
- b) where a charitable, community or other non profit-making organisation based in or having a strong connection to Belfast is celebrating a significant anniversary;
- c) where a sporting team or organisation with a connection to Belfast has achieved a significant accolade;
- d) where an event not organised by Belfast City Council but which can legitimately be regarded as being of significant benefit to the city from a promotional or tourism perspective is taking place;
- e) no applications in respect of medical or other support groups will be accepted, and nor will requests to observe UN-recognised days where this is the sole reason for the request (i.e. where there is no local, Belfast-specific component)
- f) no applications can be approved or facilitated during the festive lighting programme at City Hall annually a date mid-November until 7 January
- g) in other specific circumstances where approved by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

NB: in relation to requests falling under (b), (c) and (d) above the Committee has currently delegated authority to the Director of Property & Projects (now Director of Legal and Civic Services) in these circumstances.

Internal member's requests

Members are reminded that where a request is made by an individual civic dignitary or elected member or officer to mark a specific event or occurrence (*e.g. natural disaster, terrorist atrocity, one-off sporting achievement, birth/death of notable person etc*) the request should be made to the Chief Executive (or his/her nominee) who will see if the request meets the criteria and can be facilitated and then will liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request will be facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, may be presented to the full Committee for a decision if time permits.

Where a request is facilitated either under delegated authority or by decision of the Committee this can be done on a '**once-in-three-years**' basis to prevent annual requests for the same dates being made repeatedly.

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Disability Working Group

Tuesday, 30th January, 2024

DISABILITY WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor McMullan (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland; and
Councillors McAteer and Smyth.

Also attended: Councillor R. Brooks.

In attendance: Mrs. N. Largey, City Solicitor;
Mr. R. Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer;
Ms. J. Beck, Sign Language Interpreter;
Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer;
Ms. W. Kane, Tourism Development Officer; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Doherty.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th October, 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Changing Places Policy Update

The Language Officer provided the Working Group with an update on the Motion that called for the introduction of a Changing Places Toilet Policy.

He reported that the draft policy had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 24th November, 2023 and that a public consultation had commenced on 26th January, 2024.

He stated that a survey had been published on the Your Say website and that the public consultation would end on 22nd April, 2024 and a report would be brought to the Working Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, that would outline the findings from the public consultation.

The Working Group noted the update.

Disability Advisory Panel Update

The Language Officer provided an overview of the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Disability Advisory Panel meeting with members of this Working Group.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

At the last Members Disability Working Group meeting on 10th October 2023, it was agreed that the members of this Working Group would meet the Disability Advisory Panel at their next meeting on 4th December 2023.

It was also agreed that this would be an arrangement of two meetings per year with the Disability Advisory Panel.

4.0 Disability Advisory Panel meeting on 4th December 2024

4.1 Update

The Members of this Working Group were introduced to the Disability Advisory Panel. Content was provided by Sarah Williams, Governance & Compliance Manager on the functions of the Members Disability Working Group and explained that the Working Group would like to meet Disability Advisory Panel twice per annum,

Members of the Disability Working Group stated the most important part of these meetings is the reassurance that Belfast City Council understands the daily struggles faced and know what is being said, hearing solutions for themselves.

Councillor Ross McMullan, the Chair of the Disability Working Group provided context on how the elected members working group works.

One of the Disability Advisory Panel members explained an ongoing issue with the fuse in the disabled toilet located in City Hall. The issue was raised at the last meeting and noticed the same issue is occurring. Councillor Ruth Brooks and Sarah Williams agreed to raise again with the maintenance team.

Councillor Ruth Brooks questioned at the meeting about what the easiest way was to contact Belfast City Council if a Council facility is faulty. The Disability Advisory Panel responded positively. They collectively agreed that Michael Johnston, the Language Officer was excellent in responding to queries via email as well as emailing the Equality inbox.

Furthermore, Councillor Ruth Brooks suggested drafting a proposal to rate issues that they face in Belfast. The Disability Advisory Panel would outline where they want to be and what they want to see. This could be discussed during a mapping out session.

4.2 Next steps:

The Disability Advisory Panel will meet on 13th March 2024 to carry out a mapping out exercise, rating issues that they have and outlining what they would like to see delivered by the Council.

The findings of the mapping out exercise will be shared with the Disability Members Working Group and further discussions to be held at an arranged meeting in June 2024 between the Disability Advisory Panel and the Members Disability Working Group.

5.0 Financial & Resource Implications

N/A

6.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications

N/A.”

The Working Group noted the report.

Disability Learning and Development Update

The Language Officer explained that, during the drafting of the new Disability Action Plan 2022-25, discussions had been held with the Equality and Diversity Network and it had been agreed that the Council’s Equality and Diversity Unit, Human Resources, Customer Hub and Facilities Management would be responsible for the implementation of introducing a number of communication tools for people with learning disabilities at customer centres within the Council that included becoming an Autism NI Impact Champion and a Jam Card Partner.

He stated that sign language courses would be rolled out to identified Council staff and that an Autism NI Impact Champion training programme had been delivered to staff

from City Hall, Malone House and Belfast Castle and that each venue had drafted a three-year action plan to become an Autism NI Impact Award Champion.

He reported that each venue had established a working group to monitor progress and implementation of the action plans. He added that arrangements had been made with the NOW Group to deliver JAM Card training to front line staff at City Hall, Belfast Castle and Malone House to create a team of JAM Card Champions to support colleagues with their understanding and address any barriers for people with disabilities of communication barriers.

The Working Group noted the update.

Accessible Tourism Programme

The Tourism Development Officer outlined the following report to the Working Group:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to update members on the Belfast Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Programme 2023 to 2024. Members are encouraged to promote the programme to tourism and hospitality businesses and build momentum to support the objectives of the programme.

2.0 Main report

Strategic context

The Belfast Agenda’s vision is of ‘A city that people dream to visit.’ Make Yourself at Home, the city’s tourism strategy, aims to extend ‘Belfast’s reputation as a welcoming city to ensure inclusivity of all potential visitors,’ recognising accessible and inclusive tourism as a gap and opportunity that should be co-designed with the tourism sector and disability representatives.

Disabled tourism is a significant opportunity for the city. The purple pound is an untapped market worth £249 billion to the UK economy. As a market, disabled people tend to be loyal and make decisions based on word of mouth and reputation, which means good experiences are more likely to attract disabled tourists to stay longer, do more, come back and recommend Belfast to a friend.

Furthermore, the benefits of having tourism infrastructure befitting disabled tourists are cross-cutting, supporting a wide range of Belfast Agenda priorities, from an inclusive economy to health inequalities. Ramps, lifts, toilets, and seating can help buggies, prams and families enjoy our festivals, events, and leisure facilities. Disabled tourists bring the purple pound in to the city, boosting the economy and creating jobs.

First phase of the inclusive tourism programme

In 2022/23, Belfast City Council engaged with Visit Belfast and Open Arts to deliver an inclusive tourism programme that aimed to help businesses make minor changes in the way they communicate with disabled customers. It included research and consultation, online and in-room training and a living library. The end-phase report recommended that the programme should continue to be disability-led, foregrounding lived experience, and there should be:

- Increased marketing and promotion
- Further training through existing networks (such as the Festivals Forum and Food Network)
- Training relevant to different disabilities (in particular Autism, hearing loss and visual impairment) and contexts (such as travel and transport)
- Civic initiatives such as a city access guide or promotional campaign targeting disabled visitors

Belfast City Council identified five objectives to achieve through the accessible and inclusive tourism programme.

1. Motivate tourism businesses to improve accessibility through education and training
2. Improve and develop tourism products to meet the requirements of people with disabilities
3. Ensure staff employed in the tourism sector are access aware and have the key skills and knowledge to meet the requirements of people with disabilities
4. Provide quality information on facilities and services that people with disabilities can easily access to make informed choices
5. Increase consumer awareness of the accessibility of Belfast and its tourism experiences

Contributing to these objectives, it developed a programme that would include several supporting projects:

1. An accessible tourism seminar
2. Online training and toolkits
3. Living Library training workshops
4. Promotional best practice educational video
5. Authentic and real accessible itineraries based on recommendations from local disabled people

Approach to phase 2

Based on research and findings during phase 1, Council will bring together best practice from the tourism sector with lived experience of disabled people to design and deliver a programme that engages and inspires through real and

authentic experiences, practical, cost-effective ideas, and open, honest discussions.

Our training will be not only codesigned but delivered by a team of disabled people. Having disabled people deliver the training is a fundamental part of working towards a positive change in attitude by non-disabled participants. The lived experience team will also benefit from training and support to develop their skills and product (such as the tourist itineraries). This will have a legacy for phase 3 and beyond, helping to create accessible tourism influencers and ambassadors.

The programme focuses on soft barriers (such as the mindset of staff) which businesses have more power to change (rather than physical barriers such as on-street disabled parking) with a particular focus on different types of disability where particular need or interest was indicated during phase 1 and different subsectors where particular need or emerging champions were identified during phase 1 (such as travel and transport and night-time economy).

Engaging a minimum of 80 relevant businesses, the inclusive tourism programme will leave all participants – tourism business and disabled people with increased skills and confidence to continue to promote Belfast as an accessible and welcoming city.

The project plan in appendix 1 presents the programme for phase 2. This will be further developed through research and consultation in partnership with the Accessible Tourism advisory Group. This group established by Belfast City Council has representation from Tourism NI, Visit Belfast, Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance/Titanic Belfast.

Below is a summary of the programme:

- 1. Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Seminar with a line-up of inspirational speakers**
- 2. Six on-line training videos for the tourism industry**
- 3. One best practice video for the tourism industry to learn from peers**
- 4. Three Living Library events for the tourism industry**
- 5. Three new tourism video itineraries to inform visitors and inspire them to explore Belfast**

For further information also included is the invitation to attend the first Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Seminar *Embrace the Inclusive Spirit*.

The Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Programme has received generous support from Tourism NI and our partner venue Titanic Belfast.

3.0 Financial & Resource Implications

The Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Programme is funded via Tourism and Events Development budget. Tourism NI are supporting the programme with Titanic Belfast venue partner and in-kind funding from Visit Belfast.

4.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications

The cultural strategy, A City Imagining is subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNA). A specific screening has been carried out on this associated tourism plan and was included as part of the consultation exercise.”

Following discussion, the City Solicitor agreed that she would link in with the Belfast 2024 Team with regard to accessibility at future events and bring a report back to the Working Group.

The Working Group noted the report.

Chairperson

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