

# Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

26th April, 2024

## **STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall on Tuesday, 30th April, 2024 at 5.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

## **AGENDA:**

### **1. Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

### **2. Motions**

- (a) Notice of Motion - Agricultural Fines for Pollution (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Plant Based Councils Initiative (Pages 5 - 8)





<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Agricultural Fines for Pollution</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30th April, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>													
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p><b>Insert number</b> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>													
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>After Committee Decision</b></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>After Council Decision</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Sometime in the future</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Never</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		<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"/>
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<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 the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 7th May in relation to Agricultural Fines for Pollution.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the motion and agree to either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(m) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will have delegated authority to adopt or reject Notices of Motion. The Lord Mayor will indicate at the Council meeting those Notices of Motion that have been considered by the Standards and Business Committee and whether such Notices of Motion were rejected or adopted. In either case, the proposer only may speak on the issue at Council.</i></p> <p>(n) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer all Notices of Motion directly to a standing committee when the matter to which the Notice of Motion refers falls within the remit of that committee. At Council, the Lord Mayor will indicate that the Notice of Motion was received and referred. There will be no speakers on such Notices of Motion at Council.</i></p> <p>(o) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer Notices of Motion for consideration by full Council when the Notice of Motion relates to a strategic or constitutional matter.</i></p> <p>(p) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will not have the power to amend the wording of any Notice of Motion that is being referred to the full Council for debate.</i></p> <p>(q) <i>Any amendments to Notice of Motions to be proposed at the Council are to be furnished at least one day in advance of going to the full Council and will be circulated to Party Group Leaders in advance of the Council meeting.</i></p> <p>(r) <i>In referring any matter to the full Council, the Standards and Business Committee may determine to restrict contributions to the debate in relation to any Notice of Motion to one per political party. At the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor will clearly indicate if the restriction applies.</i></p>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><b><u>Agricultural Fines for Pollution</u></b></p> <p>“This Council notes the ongoing issues with deteriorating water quality in our rivers and waterways across Northern Ireland as highlighted in the recent New State of Our Rivers Report by the Rivers Trust.</p>

	<p>Of the 450 river stretches looked at in Northern Ireland, 0% achieved good overall status, and 12% were given either poor or bad overall status. Only 31% achieved good ecological status, and just 2 stretches achieved high ecological status, and almost 70% failed to meet the requirements for good ecological status. This has impacted on the overall quality of Lough Neagh, which supplies over half the drinking water to Belfast, due to excess run-off from industrial agricultural processes.</p> <p>This Council recognises that we are in the midst of a freshwater crisis in Northern Ireland and are concerned that the capping of agriculture penalties for repeated negligent breaches at 15% in October 2022 is not a sufficient deterrent.</p> <p>As such, this Council calls on the DAERA Minister to reinstate the previous more stringent penalties to more accurately reflect the environmental harm caused.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Áine Groogan</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to support Agricultural Fines for Pollution through a number of actions - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Plant Based Councils Initiative</b>
<b>Date:</b>	30th April, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 7th May in relation to Plant Based Councils Initiative.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion will be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(m) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will have delegated authority to adopt or reject Notices of Motion. The Lord Mayor will indicate at the Council meeting those Notices of Motion that have been considered by the Standards and Business Committee and whether such Notices of Motion were rejected or adopted. In either case, the proposer only may speak on the issue at Council.</i></p> <p>(n) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer all Notices of Motion directly to a standing committee when the matter to which the Notice of Motion refers falls within the remit of that committee. At Council, the Lord Mayor will indicate that the Notice of Motion was received and referred. There will be no speakers on such Notices of Motion at Council.</i></p> <p>(o) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer Notices of Motion for consideration by full Council when the Notice of Motion relates to a strategic or constitutional matter.</i></p> <p>(p) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will not have the power to amend the wording of any Notice of Motion that is being referred to the full Council for debate.</i></p> <p>(q) <i>Any amendments to Notice of Motions to be proposed at the Council are to be furnished at least one day in advance of going to the full Council and will be circulated to Party Group Leaders in advance of the Council meeting.</i></p> <p>(r) <i>In referring any matter to the full Council, the Standards and Business Committee may determine to restrict contributions to the debate in relation to any Notice of Motion to one per political party. At the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor will clearly indicate if the restriction applies.</i></p>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><b><u>Plant Based Councils Initiative</u></b></p> <p>“Belfast City Council endorses the Plant Based Councils Initiative.</p> <p>The Council therefore:</p>



	<p>- Agrees to engage with the Plant Based Councils Initiative and to provide fully plant-based catering for all Council meetings where food is served, prioritising seasonal local produce to support local farmers, and ensure that there are plant-based food options available at all City Council run events, as well as prioritising plant-based menu options in Council run facilities.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Anthony Flynn</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Brian Smyth</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to support Plant Based Councils Initiative through a number of actions. Members will be aware that the provision of hospitality is through a number of catering contracts which may not currently provide for plant-based catering. Endorsing this pledge may also require additional expenditure for a number of departments which provide catering at Council events and facilities. As such, this Notice of Motion will be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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