

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



Belfast
City Council

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall on Thursday, 23rd May, 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 - High Costs of Childcare (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Ireland's Ancient East (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Going for Growth Strategy (Pages 9 - 12)

3. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Official Announcements (Councillor R. McLaughlin to raise)

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – High Costs of Childcare
Date:	23rd May, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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 type="checkbox"/></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="border: 1px solid black; width: 5%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		After Council Decision		Sometime in the future		Never	
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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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 3rd June in relation to high costs of childcare.
2.0	Recommendation
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.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
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><u>High Costs of Childcare</u></p> <p>“Belfast City Council:</p> <p>Expresses grave concern at the high costs of childcare which force parents, especially mothers, out of the workforce and into poverty; Recognises the financial challenges facing providers forcing many to close as a result; affirms that early</p>

	<p>education and childcare is a critical lever to reduce disadvantage; regrets that the Executive has not published a Childcare Strategy within its first 100 days of taking office; recognises the need for urgent financial interventions for parents including lifting the rate of tax-free childcare and removing the £2000 cap.</p> <p>Resolves to write to the Minister of Education to demand an ambitious package of immediate interventions to deliver urgent financial support for parents; Further resolves to urge the Minister of Education to work with his Executive colleagues to ensure the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy caps costs for parents so no family is paying more than they can afford and fees are at least halved by 2030; further calls for a new funding scheme to be implemented to guarantee sustainability for providers and increased pay and qualifications for workers; and supports a new independent body to oversee the development and implementation of the Strategy and regulation of the funding scheme.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Paul Doherty</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Séamas de Faoite</p>
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to write to the Minister of Education with a number of proposals regarding the cost of childcare provision. The Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Ireland’s Ancient East
Date:	23rd May, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
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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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 3rd June in relation to Ireland's Ancient East.
2.0	Recommendation
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.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
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><u>Ireland's Ancient East</u></p> <p>"This Council recognises the importance of Belfast as a tourist hub and a main point of entry on the east coast of the island of Ireland. In recognition of work to include the counties of Down and Armagh in the Ireland's Ancient East destination marketing brand, this Council resolves to support Belfast City Council joining these efforts with a view to having the city included, and agrees to write to the Irish Government and</p>

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>the Northern Ireland Executive requesting this. The extension of this initiative would enhance the project to the benefit of the entire east coast, and the inclusion of Belfast would enable it to take its place as a major destination at one end of it, with Cork city bookending the other.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Gary McKeown</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Séamas de Faoite</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to support an Ireland’s Ancient East destination marketing brand through a number of actions, including Belfast City Council joining efforts to have Belfast included - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Going for Growth Strategy
Date:	23rd May, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
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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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 3rd June in relation to a Going for Growth Strategy.
2.0	Recommendation
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.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
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><u>Going for Growth Strategy</u></p> <p>“This Council acknowledges the disastrous impact that the Going for Growth strategy has had on our environment, biodiversity and waterways. This Council is particularly concerned at agricultural runoff into Lough Neagh which provides over 50% of the drinking water to Belfast.</p>

	<p>Since 2015 and the introduction of the Going for Growth strategy, large scale industrial farming for export markets has proved unsustainable. A Northern Ireland Environment Agency report on the blue-green algae at Lough Neagh found that 60% of the nutrients causing algae bloom came from farming practices.</p> <p>This council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to instigate a review of the Going for Growth strategy's impact on water quality, biodiversity and wider environmental degradation.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Anthony Flynn</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Minister to instigate a review of the Going for Growth Strategy and its subsequent impacts - 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><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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