

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Wednesday, 1st April, 2015 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Minutes of Monthly Meeting of District Council of 3rd March (Pages 1 - 6)
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the District Council of 24th March (Pages 7 - 70)
3. Official Announcements and Memorials
4. Minutes of the Shadow Policy and Resources Committee of 20th March (Pages 71 - 168)
5. Minutes of the Transition Committee of 9th March (Pages 169 - 188)
6. Minutes of the Shadow Planning Committee of 11th March (Pages 189 - 210)
7. Motion re: Belfast City Council Boundary

Councillor Craig to move:

“This Council considers that its present boundaries are artificial, do not adequately reflect the socio-economic geography of the City, and are a serious impediment to the economic development of not only Belfast but the entire Province. Accordingly, this Council will seek to engage the necessary advisors to assist it in building the most robust case possible for the extension of its boundaries. Any revised boundaries will reflect fully the City's physical and human geography and permit the Council to maximise its role as the engine of development throughout Ulster.

In addition, the Council will embark on a campaign to ensure that the proposed new boundaries are brought into reality by the Northern Ireland Assembly through the necessary amendments to the Local Government (Boundaries) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012. Therefore, the Council requests the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider how best this matter could be taken forward.”

8. Motion re: Tax Justice

Councillor Hanna to move:

“This Council notes:

- the growing awareness of aggressive tax avoidance and tax evasion and its associated impact, as well as the importance of curtailing tax avoidance and evasion to create a sound market economy in which all traders can compete on a level playing field to provide goods and services
- the wider impact of tax avoidance and evasion on the local and international economy, and in particular its cost to some of the world’s poorest countries. As a result of tax avoidance and evasion by some multinational corporations, developing nations are estimated to lose sums greater than the amount they receive in development aid each year;
- the steps the UK Government has taken to tackle tax abuse by companies seeking to secure public contracts by issuing “Procurement Policy Note 03/14: promoting tax compliance”.

Accordingly, this Council agrees to amend its procurement policies to ensure that all bidders for Council contracts above current European Union thresholds self-certify that they are fully tax compliant, in line with central government practice, and that the Council actively publicises this policy.”

9. Motion re: Opposition to Water Charges

Alderman Stalford to move:

“This Council recognises that many Belfast citizens are struggling due to rising utility bills and the increasing cost of living to pay for basic necessities. It believes that the decision of the Northern Ireland Executive to prevent the introduction of additional water charging was a much-needed step that has alleviated some of the burden upon the most vulnerable members of our society.

Accordingly, this Council re-affirms its opposition to the introduction of any additional water charging which would have a devastating impact upon senior citizens, the working poor, students and other vulnerable groups.”

10. Motion re: Irish Rugby Teams

Councillor O' Donnghaile to move:

“This Council congratulates both the Ireland senior men's and women's international rugby squads on their recent victories in the Six Nations tournaments. It recognises again the positive impact which sport has on the health and well-being of our City and its people and agrees to invite both teams to a civic reception which will allow the people of Belfast the opportunity to show their support and appreciation for the teams.”

11. Motion re: Public Service Spending Cuts

Councillor Brown to move:

“This Council recognises that cuts in spending on public services has a disproportionately negative impact on the poorest and most vulnerable in our society in general and in the most deprived areas of Belfast in particular. This Council considers that the cap on rates payable on properties valued over £400,000 to be a regressive, unaffordable and unjustified perk for the very wealthiest in our society, and calls on the Northern Ireland Executive to abolish the cap on rates and to reinstate the Rates Deferral Scheme to afford appropriate protection to rate payers who are asset rich but income poor.”

The Members of Belfast City Council are hereby summoned to attend.

Chief Executive