

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Monday, 2nd September, 2019 immediately following the conclusion of the special meeting scheduled for 5.30pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 30)
 - a) Extract of Minutes of Special Meeting of 1st July, 2019 (Pages 31 - 36)
5. Changes to Committees
6. Official Announcements
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 37 - 148)
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 149 - 186)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 187 - 226)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 227 - 232)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 233 - 266)
12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee (Pages 267 - 274)
13. Brexit Committee (Pages 275 - 288)
14. Notices of Motion

a) Equal Protection for Children Legislation

Proposed by Councillor Heading

Seconded by Councillor Lyons

“This Council notes and welcomes the work of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People’s work in promoting positive parenting and Equal Protection for Children.

In recognition of this work by the NICCY and in support of other agencies such as the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, this Council will write to Assembly Party Leaders, the Executive Office and other NI Councils to champion the inclusion of Equal Protection for Children legislation in the Programme for Government.”

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Climate Strikes

Proposed by Councillor Matt Collins

Seconded by Councillor Smyth

“This Council notes the global call made by young people, workers, environmental organisations and concerned citizens to mobilise “climate strikes”, beginning on 20th September, 2019.

The Council wishes to see an immediate end to the age of fossil fuels and the implementation of urgent action to avoid climate breakdown and catastrophe.

Belfast City Council supports the climate strikes taking place in this city on 20th September, and pledges to help publicise, facilitate and lend practical support to climate activists taking to the streets on this historic day.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Soft Opt-Out Organ Donation

Proposed by Councillor Donnelly

Seconded by Councillor Hargey

“This Council will support the introduction of soft opt-out organ donation legislation here in the North which will follow the example led by the introduction of the same legislation in Wales (2015), Scotland and England (2020) and the calls from the Minister of Health in the South of Ireland, Simon Harris TD, for the same to be introduced there”.

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Rally for Choice

Proposed by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Councillor Groogan

“Belfast City Council notes the recent Westminster amendment which will decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland on 21st October, unless an Executive is formed before that date.

This Council also notes the trauma experienced by 20 women and pregnant people each week who have to leave our shores to avail of reproductive healthcare as we continue to criminalise them.

This Council therefore welcomes and supports the Rally for Choice on September 7th, 2019, as an expression of public protest against the current law and the need to ensure decriminalisation of abortion so that no other woman or healthcare professional faces the prospect of arrest and prosecution over the procurement of necessary reproductive healthcare services.”

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Rewilding Our Wards

Proposed by Councillor Garrett

Seconded by Councillor Canavan

“We commend this Council for the work and projects it undertakes across the city to enhance biodiversity and increase environmental protection.

Rewilding spaces in the heart of our communities not only enhances and adds to the good work already undertaken to protect the environment; but also confirms our commitment as a Council to challenge the climate emergency we have already recognised is upon us.

We call on this Council in each of our city’s 60 electoral wards to rewild, as a minimum, 1 extra space each year outside of what is already planned or programmed.

We further call on this Council to promote this initiative and working alongside members in each ward to identify achievable and appropriate sites, where working with the community we create rewilded spaces that local communities can feel part of challenging climate change.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

f) EuroPride

Proposed by Councillor S. Baker

Seconded by Councillor McAteer

“This Council recognises the significant impact that Belfast Pride has on our City. It makes our City a more diverse and welcoming city for all. We also recognise the economic impact that Belfast Pride creates within the city, generating income for business and creating employment.

This Council will task our officers to work with Belfast Pride and assist in their bid to bring EuroPride to our City.

EuroPride will have a huge economic and social impact to Belfast and showcase to the world on how progressive and open our City is.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

g) Play Facilities for Children with Disabilities

Proposed by Alderman McCoubrey

Seconded by Councillor Smyth

“This Council recognises the need to improve play facilities for those children with disabilities, and undertakes to engage with those in the sector who can best advise on making play facilities more accessible.

An audit should be undertaken of current facilities across the city and opportunities for disability improvements identified, work to be completed through the course of the current council term.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

h) Desecration of Graves within Belfast City Cemetery

Proposed by Alderman Copeland

Seconded by Alderman Rodgers

“That this Council:

Notes with grave concern and mounting anger the recent desecration of graves within Belfast City Cemetery, and resolves to renew and redouble its efforts to upgrade the facilities at the cemetery and to work with other partner agencies to ensure that such wanton rampage of destruction is never repeated, and that those responsible are brought before the courts.

This facility is for everyone, and we as a Council need to look after the needs of all the communities who are buried, visit and are bereaved.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

i) Silver Poppies of Remembrance

Proposed by Councillor T. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Graham

“With the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaching, this Council wishes to recognise the contribution of those who fought in that war from Belfast.

It notes that every year the number of surviving veterans is reducing and time to provide appropriate recognition is running out. The Council, therefore, should come together to provide all surviving veterans of WW2 (including those in the Merchant Navy) with a silver Poppy of Remembrance, to mark their service in the fight against Fascism and Nazism.

These poppies will be presented to all surviving veterans who live in the Belfast Council area week commencing 4th November 2019.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

j) Transgender Day of Visibility

Proposed by Councillor Flynn

Seconded by Alderman Copeland

“This council recognises the contribution that our Transgender community makes to the city of Belfast and Northern Ireland. This council notes that many within the Trans community still suffer discrimination and that visibility of the community is a hugely important part of raising awareness and overcoming discrimination.

As a statement of our solidarity with the Trans community, this Council agrees to illuminate the City Hall in the colours of the Trans flag to coincide with the Transgender Day of Visibility every year on 31st March; as a continuation of our solidarity with the community, this Council also agrees to fly the Transgender flag over the City Hall from dawn to dusk on 31st March every year to coincide with Transgender Day of Visibility.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

k) E-Petition Mechanism

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"This Council supports the development of an e-petition mechanism for Belfast City Council.

E-petitions are an opportunity for citizens of the City to bring forward issues of concern over which this Council has authority. They widen access to the democratic process and bring governmental structures closer to the citizens we represent. Similar processes are in place across these islands and Europe at a variety of administrative levels. In the continuing absence of a local Assembly and the democratic deficit it creates, it is imperative that this Council does what it can to enhance and broaden access to the democratic process."

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

l) Citywide Multi-Agency Task Force on Mental Health and Suicide

Proposed by Councillor D. Baker

Seconded by Councillor Magennis

"This Council notes with serious concern the growing number of people who have taken their own life over recent times and extends its deepest sympathy to all those effected. We call on the Lord Mayor to convene a citywide multi-agency task force to respond to the serious concerns regarding mental health and suicide in our City.

The task force, using all their collective resources, should map out an action plan of front facing initiatives such as the successful Multi agency `road safe road show` to engage schools, youth organisations, businesses and citizens on our response to resilience, emotional well-being and positive mental health.

This Council needs to use every partner, every power and every strategy at its disposal to reach out to our citizens, let them know we care and we are there for them and that is ok not to be ok."

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

m) Economic Future Planning

Proposed by Councillor Beattie

Seconded by Councillor Hargey

“This Council recognises that economic future planning is crucial in the period ahead, particularly given the impending withdrawal from the European Union.

This Council should plan for, and bring forward an economic plan for the future of this Council area in the event of the north of Ireland retaining membership of the European Union, following a referendum on Irish Unity.

The economic plan should draw on the numerous existing reports of an all-island economy, including, but not limited to; ‘Modelling Irish Unification’ by Dr Kurt Hubner, ‘The Economic Effects of an All Island Economy’, by Paul Gosling, ‘The Economic Case for Irish Unity’, by Michael Burke and the Joint Oireachtas Committee Report, ‘Brexit and the Future of Ireland – Uniting Ireland & Its People in Peace & Prosperity’.

This Council should be prudent in planning for the future to maximise our potential and secure future economic growth and to compete effectively with other Cities across the Island of Ireland.

The economic plan should examine how this Council would prepare for this scenario and how this Council area could position itself within this potential new constitutional arrangement, in order that Belfast maximizes all opportunities for city growth in this context.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

n) Community Impact of Needle Finds

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin

Seconded by Councillor Donnelly

“This Council notes with alarm the increased volume of needles found on streets in inner city surrounding communities, both used and otherwise. The safety ramifications for families who reside in such areas are extensive and obvious.

This Council has a duty of care to the citizens of Belfast including assisting them in fulfilling their ambitions and striving towards the goals of the Belfast Agenda.

Urban inner city surrounding communities are lived in neighbourhoods, not fully part of the City Centre but neither are they suburbs. Such localities face problems associated to air pollution, high volumes of commuter car parking, dense housing developments, fractured infrastructure and historical failings associated to place and space planning.

One contemporary impact of such failings resides in limited usable green and natural safe play sites.


The evidenced needle finds across urban inner city surrounding communities are ordinarily in sites of overgrown shrubbery, vacant green sites, beside hedge rows and alongside well used play and walking areas.

This Council cannot and should not accept increased street needle finds as a natural and inevitable consequence of a growing City. Such an acceptance is a direct contradiction to the aims and visions of the Belfast Agenda. This neither supports those at risk of addiction or resident families.

Whilst we recognise the massive value of the work undertaken by the Council’s Community Safety structures and the Sharp Removal Programme, this motion seeks a report focused on the immediate areas surrounding the city centre in the contemporary context, detailing the volume of finds, associated costs of removal, correlations if and where they exist, site contexts and recommendations moving forward based on good practice elsewhere.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

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



Chief Executive