



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Support for Striking Communication Workers Union
Date:	23rd August, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 1st September in relation to Support for Striking Communication Workers Union.
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	The Committee will be aware Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r) as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October is as follows:
3.2	<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>
3.3	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Support for Striking Communication Workers Union</u></p> <p>“This Council supports the decision by communication workers to engage in strike action to lift pay.</p> <p>August will see significant strike action by workers in the Communication Workers Union, including staff from Royal Mail, BT and Openreach in a bid to improve staff wages.</p> <p>As the cost-of-living spirals out of control, workers deserve a substantial pay increase to help offset rapidly escalating bills.</p> <p>These strikes are considered a last recourse for workers, in a context where the political institutions have utterly failed to address the issue of poverty wages, and shareholder profits have been prioritised over pay rises for workers in line with inflation.</p> <p>Recent studies show that over half the population here now live in fuel poverty. Lifting</p>

	<p>wages would be a welcome step toward addressing fuel poverty, inequality, and improving the livelihood of those struggling to cope with rising costs.</p> <p>Belfast City Council supports these communication workers in their demands for an above inflation pay offer. Council resolves to write to senior management of Royal Mail, BT and Openreach encouraging them to present a fair, above inflation pay offer to workers.</p> <p>The Council also resolves to host an all-party meeting of Councillors, officers and representatives from CWU engaging in strike action, to explore ways in which Council can support their demands for a fair pay increase.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Michael Collins</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Ferguson</p>
3.4	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to support the strike action by the Communications Workers Union – can be adopted, referred to the Council for debate (with or without restrictions) or rejected.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
	<p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>None.</p>