

As you may be aware, in 2021 Belfast City Council pledged £15,000 to support a feasibility study into Universal Basic Income in Northern Ireland, following a 2020 motion passed by elected members.

Since then, BCC officers and councillors, particularly those on the Anti-Poverty working group, have supported the development of this feasibility study which includes ground breaking research into the behavioural modelling of UBI in a post-conflict society, economic modelling on the cost of UBI in NI, and a UBI Calculator to show people how much better or worse off a UBI would make them.

The development of the study was previously overseen by a steering group with representation from all local authorities involved (DCSDC also contributed £15k) and then transitioned into the All-Party Working Group on UBI, which I chair. Local authorities are invited to send elected members as observers to this APWG, the next meeting of which will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The APG meets quarterly at present.

Previously the elected members nominated by BCC to attend these meetings were Peter Reynolds (Alliance) and Brian Heading (SDLP). I believe this reflected the fact that these councillors respectively proposed and seconded the original motion in 2020. Given both are no longer members of council, I am writing on behalf of the APWG to ask if BCC would consider nominating 2 new representatives to the Group, to support officers in their oversight of delivery of this feasibility study.

As an All-Party Working Group, we would value representation that reflects political balance as well as support for the concept of UBI and the previous work of the UBI steering group and BCC's Anti-poverty working group. It would be our preference that these members would serve for the full term of council to maximise their knowledge and sustainability of the Group.

**Dr Patrick Brown MLA**  
MLA for South Down  
Northern Ireland Assembly