



Subject:	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
Date:	20 th October 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor & Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer Clare Hutchinson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of all Notices of Motion for which SP&R Committee is responsible for.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that SP&R Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the updates to all Notices of Motion that SP&R Committee is responsible for and • Agree to the closure of Notice of Motion 7, 24, 25, 55, 73, 78, 93, 98, 108, 139, 163, 168, 169, 196, 198, 210, 213, 215, 237, 239, 247, 292, 295, 301 as referenced in Appendix 1 and paragraph 3.4 below.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 25th October 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:</p> <p>“That this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Date received 2. Notice of motion title 3. Submitted by which Councillor 4. Council meeting date 5. Committee motion is referred to 6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated 7. Month it will be reported back to committee 8. Other action to be taken.”
3.2	<p>Following a review exercise, a new database containing all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance at Committee was created and quarterly reporting to Committee commenced in March 2021. Appendix 1 is the latest quarterly update showing all active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which SP&R Committee is responsible for.</p>
3.3	<p>Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance</p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices of Motion which contained an action(s) that has been completed; and • Notices of Motion have become Council policy.

3.4

SP&R Committee are asked to agree that the following 24 Notices of Motion are now closed:

Category 1 Recommended Closures:

- **Childcare Strategy (Ref no 7)** – This NOM called for the Council to agree to investigate options to co-create a Childcare Strategy for the city. It was agreed that a childcare strategy that is for Belfast alone would not be operational and outside the remit of the Council. Council continues to engage with key central government departments and agencies through community planning and other structures to advocate the need to accelerate the finalisation and implementation of the regional strategy. Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Application to Ulster History Circle for a Blue Plaque (Ref 108)** – This called for an application to the Ulster History Circle for a blue plaque for Olaudah Equiano and to meet the costs for it's implementation. A letter was issued to the Secretary of the Ulster History Circle who advised that this application has been discussed and declined on the basis that Mr. Equiano did not meet the criteria for a blue plaque. Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Establishment of an External Independent Review of Educational Provision (Ref 139)** – This NOM called for the Council to write to the NI Executive to show support for the very early implementation of the agreement to establish an external, independent review of educational provision and the prospect of moving towards a single education system and invite representation onto the Community Planning Partnership to ensure Belfast is equipped to ensure that education is inclusive for all. SP&R Committee agreed a Council response on 18th November 2022 (endorsed by Full Council) to the Department of Education's consultation on it's Corporate Plan which has been submitted. Council officers continue to work with colleagues from Dept of Education and the Education Authority in bringing forward the refreshed Belfast Agenda and focus for the next four years and it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Application Fees in the Private Rental Sector (Ref 163)** – This NOM called for the Council to write to the Minister for Communities and the Minister of Finance, outlining concerns about and pledging council's support for the regulation of the private rented sector. Letter were sent in March 2021 and the responses reported back to Committee in April 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Legislation to Tackle the Third Party Sale of Pups (Ref 168)** – This NOM called for the Council to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs with regard to measures to tackle the third party sale of pups. Letters were issued

in April 2021 and a further motion on the Illegal Puppy Trade (Ref 221) was taken forward and completed in December 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

- **Mullaghglass Landfill Sire – Legal action (Ref 169)** – This NOM called on the Council to prepare legal action against the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the site operator for their dereliction of duty in protecting the rights of citizens around the Mullaghglass landfill site. The outcome of the legal proceedings were notified to the People & Communities Committee at the September 2023 meeting. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Bonfire Procedures (Ref 198)** – This NOM called for the Council to review bonfire procedures. A report was brought to Committee on 24 September 2021. A further report 'Review of Bonfire Procedure' was brought on 19 November 2021. The SP&R Committee agreed to endorse the proposed review process and noted that the Bonfire Panel would be reconvened to move that forward and address the issues which had been raised in relation to the decision to regulate illegal and toxic bonfires. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Community Sector Terms and Conditions (Ref 213)** – This NOM called for the Council to write to the Minister for Communities to request that a review be undertaken and actions recommended, to support and strengthen the community sector, particularly in relation to terms and conditions and salaries. A letter was sent in November 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Regulation of Air BnB's (Ref 215)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to the NI Executive to undertake a review and propose recommendations with regard to concerns around the growing number of unregulated Air BnB's and similar types of short-term let arrangements. A letter was sent in November 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service (Ref 237)** – This NOM called on the Council to fund the Tribunal a sum of money, if necessary, to avert redundancies and maintain the level of service. The funding allocation was approved and it is therefore recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Mountainview Centre (Ref 239)** – This NOM called on the Council to convene an urgent meeting with relevant partners to explore the possibility of keeping this service open. The Mountainview Centre has now closed with the staff and service users being absorbed elsewhere and therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Abortion Services (Ref 295)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to the Northern Trust to encourage it to provide more information about early medical abortion on their website and write to Minister Swann to urge him to convene an

emergency meeting of the Executive to officially commission abortion services. The Northern Trust have now commissioned abortion services and therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

- **Dual Language Street Signage (Ref 301)** – This NOM called for an update report to be brought to the next meeting of SP&R outlining the reasons for the delay in processing the backlog of applications. An update report was brought to Committee on 17 February 2023. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

Category 2 Recommended Closures:

- **Webcasting of Committee Meetings (Refs 24 and 93)** – These NOMs called for the webcasting of committee meetings to become common practice after the pandemic. This has now been implemented so it is recommended that both NOMs be closed.
- **Abortion Imagery (Ref 25)** – This NOM called on the Council to investigate whether the public display of graphic abortion imagery in the city centre can be regulated lawfully. The Council undertook initial engagement with the Department for Communities and obtained legal advice on the draft byelaws. On 26 June 2023 the SP&R Committee agreed that the draft bye laws be issued for formal public consultation commencing in September 2023. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Drug Risk Force (Ref 55)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to the Ministers for Health, Justice and Communities to establish a drug task force, the primary role of which would be to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the health outcomes for people who use drugs, reducing the risk of harm and death. Letters were issued as requested on 20 Feb 2020 and this work is now being taken forward as part of the 'Complex Lives' initiative. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Race Equality Champion for Belfast City Council (Ref 73)** – This NOM called on a report to be brought forward for Members to consider, outlining options to further promote the inclusion of BAME communities, their access to Council services and participation in civic life. The Director of City and Organisational Strategy is now the CMT nominated Executive Sponsor for Race and is overseeing the development of a Race Action Plan for 2023 – 2026. The Race Action Plan will be an additional strand to the Council's diversity action plans going forward. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Suicide Awareness Training (Ref 78)** – This NOM called on the Council to resource further mental health and suicide awareness training for staff and appoint

mental health champions in each department. A number of courses have been promoted to staff and Members and are offered on a continual basis via the Council's health and well-being support page. In addition, the revised Health and Well-Being Strategy Action Plan includes the establishment of a network of health and wellbeing champions as a key action. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

- **Procurement Policy – Living Wage (Ref 98)** – This NOM called on the Council to promote a procurement policy that supports the principle of a Real Living Wage. The council's Social Value Procurement Policy is now implemented and includes support for the Real Living Wage and the Council has also been awarded accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council (Ref 196)** – This NOM called on the Council to develop a Changing Places Toilet Facility Policy for Belfast City Council, with input from disabled people, older people and carers. An officer working group has now been established, who are working on a draft policy. This draft policy was presented to the Disability Working Group in October 2023 and therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Staff on Temporary Contracts (Ref no 210)** – This NOM called on the Council to obtain legal opinion to establish whether anyone employed on a temporary contract for 12 continuous months can have that contract made permanent if the staff member wishes to do so. A report was presented to January's SP&R Committee on the legal opinion received and reports on the number of staff on temporary contracts and the use of agency assignees is presented to Committee on a quarterly basis. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **City of Sanctuary (Ref 247)** – This NOM called on the Council to support the Council becoming a Council of Sanctuary and Belfast a City of Sanctuary and commit to the standards identified as part of this. The council has recently carried out research into the inequalities experienced by Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Traveller people residing in Belfast and work is on-going to ensure a co-ordinated approach to addressing the findings. In addition, initiatives are still on-going through the Good Relations Action Plan and Council has also been awarded £406 thousand pounds from the TEO's Dispersal Fund to assist with programmes to support asylum seekers until March 2024. Updates on this on-going work are brought to Committee as required. Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Council to become an Autism Impact Champion (Ref 292)** – This NOM called on the council to become an Autism Impact Champion, as defined by Autism NI. The Equality and Diversity Unit have included "becoming an Autism NI Impact

	<p>Champion” as an action measure in the new Disability Action Plan 2022-25. Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – SP&R Committee