



Subject:	Motion – Childcare Strategy
Date:	20 April, 2018
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
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"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to a Childcare Strategy, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 9th April.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At the meeting of the Council on 9th April, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor O'Neill, was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This council agrees to explore options and take practical steps, including through the Belfast Agenda and City Deal, with a view to creating a childcare strategy for the city that will encourage greater maternal employment, redress gender inequalities in the workplace, increase GVA in the city and, most importantly, improve educational and social outcomes for our children.”

3.2	A number of targeted initiatives are in the pipeline to address some of the issues identified in this Notice of Motion. They include a proposed Childcare Employment Academy which will help interested individuals to establish childcare businesses. In addition to providing the participants with employment opportunities for themselves and any staff, the increased childcare provision will ensure that parents wishing to enter the workforce have more options in terms of childcare access.
3.3	In addition, a budget has been set aside as part of the Council’s Employability and Skills investment for this year. This will be available to individuals to access the support programmes by providing resources to address potential barriers, such as childcare.
3.4	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None