



Belfast District Council (Shadow)

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Gender Inequality
Date:	Friday, 28th November, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Shadow Council, as its meeting on 4th November considered the undernoted Notice of Motion which had been proposed by Councillor O’Hara and Seconded by Councillor J.A. Corr:</p> <p><i>“Belfast District Council recognises that gender inequality is not simply an issue for women, but equally an issue for men. In recognition of this, the Council agrees to endorse the United Nation’s Women’s solidarity campaign ‘He for She’ and to put this campaign into action in our policy- making.</i></p> <p><i>The Council commends Belfast City Council for the great work that it has carried out to promote gender equality through the Women’s Steering Group and commits itself to pushing this agenda further by opening up membership of the Group to include senior male officers and Members of Council. The Council recognises the positive contribution they could make as advocates and stakeholders to fully achieve gender equality within our organisation.”</i></p>
1.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 16.1, the matter was referred without discussion to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>In addressing the Shadow Council on 4th November, Councillor O’Hara outlined the principal aspects of her Notice of Motion and commended the Council on the work that has already been undertaken to promote gender inequality within the organisation.</p>
2.2	<p>She emphasised that by endorsing the ‘He for She’ campaign, the Council should open up membership of the Women’s Steering Group to recognise the positive contribution that senior male officers and Members of Council could make.</p>
2.3	<p>A report is to be brought back to committee on the practicalities of implementing the principles in the Notice of Motion.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	To be determined.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	To be determined.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the notice of motion and that a report on implementation will be brought back in due course.

6	Decision Tracking
Democratic Services Section	

7	Documents Attached