

Standards and Business Committee

Tuesday, 24th June, 2025

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Councillor McAteer);
Aldermen Lawlor and McCullough; and
Councillors Bower, Bradley, Carson,
de Faoite, P. Donnelly, D. Douglas,
Long, Magee, McCormick, McDonough-Brown,
McDowell, I. McLaughlin, R. McLaughlin and Murphy.

In attendance: Mr. J. Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance
Manager; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Apology

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McCallin.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd June.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Motions

The Committee considered the following motions which had been received in advance of the Council's meeting on 1st July:

National City Parks

The Committee agreed that the motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor T. Brooks, be referred, in the first instance, to the Climate and City Resilience Committee.

Nitrates Action Plan

Proposal

Moved by Councillor McCormick,
Seconded by Councillor I. McLaughlin,

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That the Committee agrees that the motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Alderman Lawlor, be adopted.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor de Faoite,
Seconded by Councillor Flynn,

That the Committee agrees to refer the motion for consideration by the Council at its meeting on 1st July, with no restriction on the number of speakers.

On a vote, six Members voted for the amendment and twelve against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal was put to the meeting whereupon twelve Members voted for the proposal and six against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee adopted the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Alderman Lawlor:

“Belfast City Council notes the recent launch of a public consultation by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on a new Nutrients Action Plan. The Council expresses deep concern that the consultation has been issued without adequate prior engagement with stakeholders, including local councils, environmental organisations, the farming community, and the public, particularly in light of the significant environmental, economic and social implications of such a plan. The measures currently proposed could devastate agriculture, reduce livestock numbers, and undermine food security. We call on the Minister to immediately withdraw the current public consultation on the Nutrients Action Programme and to bring forward a policy based on genuine partnership rather than punitive policies which risk the viability of our agricultural industry.”

Safeguarding Belfast’s Playparks

The Committee agreed that the motion, which had been proposed by Alderman McCullough and seconded by Councillor McCormick, be referred, in the first instance, to the People and Communities Committee.

**Supreme Court Ruling –
Biological Definition of a Woman or Girl**

The Committee noted that the above-mentioned motion had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Chairperson