

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

23rd March, 2026

STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in hybrid format, both in the Lavery Room - City Hall and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Tuesday, 24th March, 2026 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Motions

- (d) Notice of Motion - Placing Children's Safety Above Political Ideology (Pages 1 - 4)

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Placing Children’s Safety Above Political Ideology
Date:	24th March, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. 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 matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. 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 After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 1st April, 2026 in relation to Placing Children’s Safety Above Political Ideology.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the motion and agree to either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (m) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will have delegated authority to adopt or reject Notices of Motion. The Lord Mayor will indicate at the Council meeting those Notices of Motion that have been considered by the Standards and Business Committee and whether such Notices of Motion were rejected or adopted. In either case, the proposer only may speak on the issue at Council.</i> (n) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer all Notices of Motion directly to a standing committee when the matter to which the Notice of Motion refers falls within the remit of that committee. At Council, the Lord Mayor will indicate that the Notice of Motion was received and referred. There will be no speakers on such Notices of Motion at Council.</i> (o) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer Notices of Motion for consideration by full Council when the Notice of Motion relates to a strategic or constitutional matter.</i> (p) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will not have the power to amend the wording of any Notice of Motion that is being referred to the full Council for debate.</i> (q) <i>Any amendments to Notice of Motions to be proposed at the Council are to be furnished at least one day in advance of going to the full Council and will be circulated to Party Group Leaders in advance of the Council meeting.</i> (r) <i>In referring any matter to the full Council, the Standards and Business Committee may determine to restrict contributions to the debate in relation to any Notice of Motion to one per political party. At the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor will clearly indicate if the restriction applies.</i> <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Placing Children’s Safety Above Political Ideology</u></p> <p>“That this Council welcomes the decision to pause the King’s College London puberty blockers clinical trial after the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) raised safety concerns; stresses that many of the</p>
3.2	

	<p>young people presenting to gender services are highly vulnerable and often dealing with complex personal circumstances; recognises that this includes children and young people from Belfast who may be directly impacted by such policies and clinical decisions; does not believe, therefore, that children and young people should be subject to medical interventions with potentially irreversible consequences without the highest standards of safeguarding or evidence-based decision-making; condemns Sinn Fein and the Alliance Party, in particular, for repeatedly placing radical transgender ideology ahead of legitimate safety concerns in this regard; is clear, furthermore, that health professionals that lack training and expertise in adolescent development or family-based approaches to care should not be treating children with gender dysphoria; notes the potential implications for children and families in Belfast of any future participation in such trials or related interventions; and calls on the Minister of Health to demonstrate a consistent approach to the welfare and safety of children by ruling out Northern Ireland's participation in puberty blocker trials indefinitely.</p> <p>Proposer: Alderman Dean A. McCullough</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Sarah Bunting</p> <p>The motion calls upon on the Minister of Health to demonstrate a consistent approach to the welfare and safety of children by ruling out Northern Ireland's participation in puberty blocker trials indefinitely, the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

This page is intentionally left blank