



27th November, 2023

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in Hybrid format, both in the Lavery Room - City Hall and via Microsoft Teams, on Tuesday, 28th November, 2023 at 5.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest
- (d) Schedule of Meetings 2024 (Pages 1 - 4)

2. **Motions**

- (a) Cost of School Uniforms and P.E. Kits (Pages 5 - 8)
- (b) Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway (Pages 9 - 12)
- (c) Regional Jobs and Investment Bill (Pages 13 - 16)
- (d) Removal of the Maximum Capital Value Cap on Domestic Rates (Pages 17 - 20)
- (e) Right to Grow on Council owned land (Pages 21 - 24)
- (f) Tiny Urban Forests (Pages 25 - 28)



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| Subject: | Schedule of Meetings 2024 |
| Date: | 28th November, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, City Solicitor |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

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

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| | To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the Standards and Business Committee between January and December, 2024. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| | The Committee is requested to approve the schedule of meetings for the Committee as outlined. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | The monthly meeting of the Standards and Business Committee is normally held at 5.30 p.m. at the end of each month, before the Council meeting. |
| 3.2 | However, due to holiday periods and the timing of the monthly Council meetings and, in order to assist with the decision-making process, it has been necessary on occasions to move some of the meetings to earlier in the month. |
| 3.3 | Accordingly, the following dates have been identified for meetings of the Standards and Business Committee for the period from January to December, 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 4th January at 5.30 pm; • Tuesday, 23rd January at 5.30 pm; • Thursday, 22nd February at 5.30 pm; • Thursday, 28th March at 5.30 pm; • Tuesday, 23rd April at 5.30 pm; • Thursday, 23rd May at 5.30 pm; • Tuesday, 25th June at 5.30 pm; • Thursday, 22nd August at 5.30 pm; • Tuesday, 24th September at 5.30 pm; • Thursday, 24th October at 5.30 pm; and • Thursday, 21st November at 5.30 pm. |
| 3.4 | <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report. |

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| 3.5 | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report. |
| 4.0 | Appendices – None associated with this report. |

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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Cost of School Uniforms and PE Kits |
| Date: | 28th November, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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| 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 5%; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> </table> | | After Committee Decision | | After Council Decision | | Sometime in the future | | Never | |
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| Sometime in the future | | | | | | | | | |
| Never | | | | | | | | | |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 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 4th December in relation to Cost of School Uniforms and PE Kits. |
| 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 |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | <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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> |
| 3.2 | <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Cost of School Uniforms and PE Kits</u></p> <p>"That this Council recognises that the uncapped cost of school uniforms and PE kits is causing financial hardship for many families across the borough. A recent poll from Save the Children NI revealed that a third of parents in Northern Ireland have had to borrow money to pay for their child's uniform and PE items, while 6 in 10 parents were financially challenged trying to cover the cost. In recognition of this ongoing hardship,</p> |

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| <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> | <p>this Council will write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education expressing concern for children and their parents and request that his department take action as a matter of urgency to address the long-standing problem."</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Sarah Bunting</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Tracy Kelly</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education in relation to the cost of school uniforms and PE kits - 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.</p> |
| <p>4.0</p> | <p>Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>None.</p> |

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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway |
| Date: | 28th November, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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| 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 | | | | | | | | | |
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| After Council Decision | | | | | | | | | |
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| Never | | | | | | | | | |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 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 4th December in relation to a Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to note that the motion will be referred, in the first instance, to the People and Communities Committee. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | <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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> |
| 3.2 | <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Feasibility Study into a Blackstaff Greenway</u></p> <p>“This Council recognises the success of Belfast’s greenways in creating a green lung in the city, providing respite from traffic and delivering safe, accessible routes to employment, education and leisure. It agrees to undertake a feasibility study into a Blackstaff Greenway, which would follow the route of the Blackstaff river from the Stockman's Way roundabout through Boucher Road playing fields and continuing</p> |

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| | <p>through the Boucher Estate terminating at the 'Rise' sculpture; recommends that such a feasibility study should examine connections to Adelaide Train Station; and where a full greenway is not possible this study should also examine alternatives, including the creation of a shared cycle and pedestrian path or the creation of a walking trail."</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Tara Brooks</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Micky Murray</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>The motion calls upon the Council to undertake a feasibility study into a Blackstaff Greenway - the motion should be referred to the People and Communities Committee which has responsibility for the development of the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> |
| 4.0 | Documents Attached |
| | None. |

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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Regional Jobs and Investment Bill |
| Date: | 28th November, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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| Restricted Reports | | | | | | | | | |
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| Sometime in the future | | | | | | | | | |
| Never | | | | | | | | | |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 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 4th December in relation to a Regional Jobs and Investment Bill. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to note that the motion will be referred in the first instance to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | <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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> |
| 3.2 | <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Regional Jobs and Investment Bill</u></p> <p>“Belfast City Council:</p> <p>Expresses grave concern at the significant geographic disparities in the economy of Northern Ireland between those areas which have experienced economic prosperity and those areas which have been left behind.</p> |

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| | <p>Recognises that of the ten of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland, six can be found in the Belfast City Council district.</p> <p>Welcomes the publication of an action plan by Invest Northern Ireland (NI) to implement the recommendations of the recent review which revealed the scale of failure of Invest NI to work as a partner on a sub-regional basis.</p> <p>Welcomes the proposal for legislation to address these regional economic imbalances through a Regional Jobs and Investment Bill.</p> <p>Resolves to take all possible measures to alleviate regional economic imbalances in order to give every citizen equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of geography.</p> <p>Commits to responding to the consultation on this legislation which is currently open.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Paul Doherty</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Carl Whyte</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>The motion calls upon the Council, amongst other things, to resolve to take all possible measures to alleviate regional economic imbalances and to commit to respond to a consultation on a Regional Jobs and Investment Bill. The motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee which has responsibility for influencing and contributing to regional regeneration and growth strategies and activities.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>None.</p> |

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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Removal of the Maximum Capital Value Cap on Domestic Rates |
| Date: | 28th November, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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| 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 style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| After Council Decision | | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sometime in the future | | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Never | | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 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 4th December in relation to a Removal of the Maximum Capital Value Cap on Domestic Rates. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is note that the motion will be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | <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> |
| 3.2 | <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Removal of the Maximum Capital Value Cap on Domestic Rates</u></p> <p>"This Council notes that for ordinary domestic Belfast rate payers, it is a struggle to make ends meet at present, especially with rates reaching 7.99% in 2023/2024. For the better off in society, rates are not such a struggle to pay.</p> |

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| | <p>There is a maximum capital value cap on Domestic Rates known as the Max Cap which is currently set at £400,000 that limits the rates those in more affluent homes are compelled to pay. The Max Cap has not been altered since 2009. It is prescribed in legislation: The Rates (Maximum Capital Value) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 as amended.</p> <p>A rebalancing of the rates burden needs to take place so that all rate payers, pay their fair share. There is no good reason for the poorer to pay more in percentage terms when they are struggling financially.</p> <p>This Council urges the Government to remove the Max Cap and phase it in over several years. This will allow affluent rate payers a graduated response to rate rises over a period.</p> <p>In light of consultation that will take place on this issue then this Council will also make this motion a collective submission to the consultation".</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Ron McDowell</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Anthony Flynn</p> <p>3.3 The motion calls upon the Council to support the removal of the maximum capital value cap on domestic rates – the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the annual revenue and capital budgets and the rate to be levied. That Committee will also be considering a Council response to the consultation paper on domestic rating measures and it should be referred to that Committee.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p>3.5 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> |
| <p>4.0</p> | <p>Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>None.</p> |

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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Right to Grow on Council owned land |
| Date: | 28th November, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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| 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 5%; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> </table> | | After Committee Decision | | After Council Decision | | Sometime in the future | | Never | |
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| After Council Decision | | | | | | | | | |
| Sometime in the future | | | | | | | | | |
| Never | | | | | | | | | |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 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 4th December in relation to Right to Grow on Council owned land. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to note that motion will be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | <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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> |
| 3.2 | <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Right to Grow on Council owned land</u></p> <p>“This Council notes the pressures upon food security caused by many issues including the cost-of-living crisis, the impact of the pandemic and climate change. It is therefore vital that the Council plays its part to ensure that that our citizens have access to enough fresh food for day-to-day living.</p> |

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| <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> | <p>This Council agrees to adopt a right to grow on Council owned land which is suitable for cultivation. This would probably involve licensing cultivation of suitable land via community groups.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor David Bell</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Anthony Flynn</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to adopt a right to grow on Council owned land – the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for maintaining the corporate land bank and city assets and the motion should be referred, in the first instance, to that Committee.</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.</p> |
| <p>4.0</p> | <p>Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>None.</p> |

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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Tiny Urban Forests |
| Date: | 28th November, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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| Restricted Reports | | | | | | | | | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
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| Never | | | | | | | | | |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 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 4th December in relation to Tiny Urban Forests. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to note that the motion will be referred to the People and Communities Committee. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | <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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> |
| 3.2 | <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Tiny Urban Forests</u></p> <p>“This Council notes the work that has begun in Plymouth to create 96 mini urban forests in the city and is pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. The Miyawaki forestation method is a unique way to create an urban forest. With this method of plantation, an urban forest can grow within a short span of 20-30 years while a conventional forest takes upwards of 100 years plus to grow naturally. In the Miyawaki</p> |

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| | <p>technique, various native species of plants are planted close to each other so that the greens receive sunlight only from the top and grow upwards than sideways. As a result, the plantation becomes approximately 30 times denser, grows 10 times faster and becomes maintenance-free after a span of 3 years.</p> <p>Tiny Forests are community-led tree-planting initiatives which aim to improve local access to green space and help communities to better understand the challenges faced by nature. These forests are very much suited for small pockets of unused wasteland in urban settings, as well in places such as schools, community centres etc. Urban forests bring many benefits to communities beyond their impact on biodiversity. Green spaces can help to improve people’s mental health, reduce the harmful effects of air pollution, and even counter the phenomenon of heat traps in cities, where expanses of concrete and asphalt raise temperatures unnaturally high. We are already aware of a lack of tree coverage in our built up working class areas throughout the city and this offers an opportunity to tackle this, as well as enhancing our urban biodiversity and understanding of the importance of it.</p> <p>This Council will commit to working with its partners in the One Million Trees project to explore the viability of Tiny Urban Forests being incorporated into it.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Davy Douglas</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>The motion calls upon the Council to commit to working with its partners in the One Million Trees project to explore the viability of Tiny Urban Forests being incorporated into it. The People and Communities Committee is responsible for support the development of the One Million Trees Project and the motion should be referred to that Committee.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> |
| | <p>None associated with this report.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> |
| | <p>None.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>None.</p> |

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