

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



**Belfast
City Council**

HYBRID MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in-person, in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Thursday, 22nd February, 2024 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

2. Motions

- (a) Notice of Motion - Gender Pay Gap Recording and Reporting (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Housing Crisis (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Solidarity with Palestine (Pages 9 - 12)
- (d) Notice of Motion - Anti-Poverty Strategy (Pages 13 - 16)

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Gender Pay Gap Recording and Reporting
Date:	22nd February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim 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 									
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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 4th March in relation to Gender Pay Gap Recording and Reporting.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that a subsequent report will be brought to Committee, if that Committee so agrees, outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
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>Gender Pay Gap Recording and Reporting</u></p> <p>“That this Council will lead the way in Northern Ireland, adopting robust, transparent and accountable processes for gender pay gap recording and reporting.</p> <p>The TUC calculated that in 2023 in the UK, the day when the average woman stops working for free compared to the average man is the 23rd of February. The average woman in paid employment effectively works for free for nearly two months of the year compared to the average man in paid employment. Average figures disguise wider disparities, for instance the gap tends to widen if a woman is a mum, or works in education, finance or insurance.</p> <p>There is no legal obligation to record and report gender pay gap data in Northern Ireland. However, if we don’t transparently measure pay by gender, how can we understand and address structural inequalities in our organisation?</p> <p>Therefore, this Council will record and report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its mean gender pay gap in hourly pay • Its median gender pay gap in hourly pay • The proportion of males and females in each pay quartile • A statistical overview of progression/promotion rates for male and female staff <p>And will use guidance such as the UK Government Equalities Office - What Works guidance to address the gap.</p> <p>After the first gender pay gap report, the Council will move to include Disability and ethnicity pay reporting.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Tara Brooks</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Fiona McAteer</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to adopt a Gender Pay Gap Recording and Reporting - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for Human Resources, Finance and Performance issues and the motion will be referred to that Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.4	<p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>

	None.
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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Housing Crisis
Date:	22nd February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
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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 4th March in relation to Housing Crisis.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that a subsequent report will be brought to Committee, if that Committee so agrees, outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
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>

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Housing Crisis</u></p> <p>“This Council recognises the need to bring forward significant quantities of high standard, affordable housing to meet the increasing demand and alleviate the current housing crisis facing people in Belfast.</p> <p>This Council commits to supporting Cohousing Schemes as an innovative solution to meet the needs of people who are unable to buy within the current system or for whom traditional housing does not meet their needs. Cohousing schemes can create diverse and sustainable communities, providing high quality, affordable housing.</p> <p>The Council will actively seek to identify suitable sites within its own land that could be used for Cohousing and include provision for Cohousing within any development site it brings forward that is appropriate for housing.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Áine Groogan</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to identify suitable sites within its own land that could be used for co-housing - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the corporate land bank and city assets and the motion should be referred to that Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</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 – Solidarity with Palestine
Date:	22nd February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
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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 4th March in relation to Solidarity with Palestine.
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>Solidarity with Palestine</u></p> <p>“This Council notes with horror Israel's ongoing war crimes in Gaza.</p> <p>According to UN statistics, over 28,000 Palestinians have now been killed, 10,000 of them children. 60,000 people have been injured, with 1.9 million more displaced, with Gaza's infrastructure decimated under Israeli bombs.</p>

	<p>Despite repeated calls from international human rights organisations for a ceasefire, Israel continues to bombard and assault an already beleaguered population in Gaza.</p> <p>The Council recognises Israel's actions are facilitated by the military, financial and political support of Western Governments, most notably Joe Biden and the US Administration: which gives \$3.8billion of US military aid each year to Israel.</p> <p>Further notes the US administration has been a consistent supporter of the Zionist project historically, and an enthusiastic proponent of Israel's current offensive which has caused such death and destruction in Gaza.</p> <p>In recent months, the US has used its power on the UN Security Council to block calls for a humanitarian ceasefire, vetoed UN efforts to send aid to Gaza, and allocated emergency military funding to Israel in 2023. The current Biden administration has even taken the unprecedented move of bypassing Congress in order to transfer more arms to Israel to support its ongoing genocide in Gaza.</p> <p>In this context, this year's St Patrick's Day presents an opportunity for Irish politicians to promote the principles of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: by refusing to meet or engage with any US officials complicit in Israeli war crimes.</p> <p>By boycotting these ceremonies we could send a resounding message to the people of Gaza, and the world, that Ireland stands with Palestine.</p> <p>The Council will therefore write to the Irish Taoiseach and all political parties North and South in Ireland calling on them not to attend St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House, nor to meet with President Joe Biden or any representative of his administration as part of the St Patrick's Day events.</p> <p>The Council will also write to Claire Cronin, US Ambassador to Ireland, British Foreign Secretary, David Cameron and Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, calling for an immediate suspension of all military, financial, and diplomatic support for apartheid Israel and its genocidal war on Palestine."</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Michael Collins</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Anthony Flynn</p> <p>3.3 The motion calls upon the Council to undertake a number of actions, that is, calling on all political parties North and South in Ireland to not attend St. Patrick's Day celebrations in The White House and to write further letters for an immediate suspension of all military, financial, and diplomatic support for apartheid Israel and its genocidal war on Palestine - 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>3.4 <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
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3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Anti-Poverty Strategy
Date:	22nd February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
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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 4th March in relation to Anti-Poverty Strategy.
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>Anti-Poverty Strategy</u></p> <p>“This Council notes the significant increase in families living in poverty across Belfast as a result of the cost-of-living crisis and other financial pressures.</p> <p>This Council notes the legal obligation on the Northern Ireland Executive under the 2006 St Andrew’s Agreement and subsequent Northern Ireland (St Andrew’s</p>

	<p>Agreement) Act 2006 and New Decade, New Approach Agreement 2020 to “adopt an Anti-Poverty Strategy setting out how it proposes to tackle poverty, social exclusion and patterns of deprivation based on objective need”.</p> <p>This Council notes that the Executive is acting unlawfully by failing to adopt and Anti-Poverty Strategy.</p> <p>This Council will write to the Minister for Communities calling on him to bring forward an Anti-Poverty Strategy and to outline how he intends to live up to his legal obligation to tackle poverty with measures, targets, and timescales for doing so.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Paul Doherty</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Carl Whyte</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to write to the Minister calling on him to bring forward the Anti-Poverty Strategy - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</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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