

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

19th November, 2024

## **MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet as a Hybrid Meeting from the Lavery Room, City Hall on Thursday, 21st November, 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
- (d) Schedule of Meetings 2025 (Pages 1 - 4)

#### **2. Motions**

- (a) Notice of Motion - Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast (Pages 5 - 8)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Retail Business in Sandy Row (Pages 9 - 12)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Armed Forces Covenant (Pages 13 - 16)
- (d) Notice of Motion - Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service (Pages 17 - 20)





<b>Subject:</b>	Schedule of Meetings 2025
<b>Date:</b>	21st November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

**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?**

<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Call-in**

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the Standards and Business Committee between January and November, 2025.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is requested to approve the schedule of meetings for the Committee as outlined.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
<b>3.1</b>	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.
<b>3.2</b>	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.
<b>3.3</b>	Accordingly, the following dates have been identified for meetings of the Standards and Business Committee for the period from January to December, 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday, 7th January at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Thursday, 23rd January at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Thursday, 20th February at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Tuesday, 25th March at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Monday, 28th April at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Thursday, 22nd May at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Tuesday, 24th June at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Thursday, 21st August at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Tuesday, 23rd September at 5.30 pm;</li> <li>• Thursday, 23rd October at 5.30 pm; and</li> <li>• Thursday, 20th November at 5.30 pm.</li> </ul>
<b>3.4</b>	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.

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

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21st November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 2nd December in relation to Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or falls within the remit of a particular Committee 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>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
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</i></p>



*Motion to one per political party. At the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor will clearly indicate if the restriction applies.*

3.2 The following motion has been received:

**Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast**

“In light of the DENI ‘RAISE’ programme in response to the ‘Fair Start’ report, the Council resolves to:

1. Support the RAISE programme and align it with the Belfast Agenda.
2. Establish a cross-party committee to monitor progress and ensure community engagement.
3. Commit to continuous improvement in addressing educational inequalities, including writing to the Education Minister to seek confirmation that his department will proactively respond to feedback about the targeting of the programme and ensure it reaches the communities most in need.

This motion aims to ensure coordinated, effective, and inclusive efforts to reduce educational inequalities in Belfast.”

Proposer: Councillor David Bell

Seconder: Councillor

3.3 The motion calls upon the Council to undertake a number of actions to address education inequalities.

The Belfast Strategic Partnership was a partnership between Belfast City Council, the PHA and Belfast Trust. It has been superseded by the establishment of the Community Planning Partnership.

One of the working groups of the BSP was the Lifelong Learning Group. They established a Lifelong Learning Charter and undertook a range of community-based learning activities – including the Festival of Learning. While BSP no longer exists, that Lifelong Learning Group continues to meet – and the main focus of their activities remains the annual festival of learning, scheduled to take place in April next year. This is usually a week-long programme of events to promote learning opportunities across the board. It does not have a specific focus on any type of learning or any target group. Membership of the group involves Belfast City Council, UU, QUB, Forum for Adult Learning, BMC and a number of community-based learning partners. The work on the Learning City group is coordinated through our

3.4	<p>Community Planning team which bring updates to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the work. The Motion will therefore be referred to that Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Retail Business in Sandy Row</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21st November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 2nd December in relation to Retail Business in Sandy Row.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or falls within the remit of a particular Committee 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 in the first instance to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
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</i></p>

	<p><i>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><b><u>Retail Business in Sandy Row</u></b></p> <p>“That this Council recognises the importance of small businesses and the creation of a thriving economy in communities across our city; accepts that changes to infrastructure can have a significant impact on local businesses in the surrounding area; agrees that businesses in Sandy Row have been disadvantaged by the closure of the Boyne Bridge as part of the Grand Central Station development and recognises the struggle of business owners in the area to survive given the reduction in footfall; and calls on this Council to look at options of re-opening the Boyne Bridge, create a Taskforce, alongside the Department of the Economy, Department for Communities, Translink and local business owners, to explore how businesses can be urgently supported.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Tracy Kelly</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Ruth Brooks</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to undertake a number of actions to explore how businesses can be supported in the Sandy Row area. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for developing programmes and actions to support local and the motion will be referred to that Committee.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Armed Forces Covenant</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21st November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 2nd December in relation to Armed Forces Covenant.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or falls within the remit of a particular Committee 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 in the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
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</i></p>



	<p><i>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><b><u>Armed Forces Covenant</u></b></p> <p>“That this Council recognises the unique skills that are held by Armed Forces service leavers; recognises that many veterans can face disadvantages compared to the general population, arising from military life, when accessing services and as such, this Council commits to signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant immediately.”</p> <p>Proposer: Alderman James Lawlor</p> <p>Seconder: Alderman Dean McCullough</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to sign to the Armed Forces Covenant. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for policy and HR matters and the motion will have to be referred to that Committee in the first instance in order for officers to ascertain what is involved and to ascertain what, if any, the Council’s commitments would be in signing the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21st November, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 2nd December in relation to Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
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><b><u>Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service</u></b></p> <p>"This Council opposes the Belfast Trust's plan to remove the Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors service, which provides urgent medical care for South and East Belfast residents when GP practices are closed; recognises the disproportionate</p>

	<p>impact on residents in these areas, particularly those without access to transport, who may struggle to reach alternative services.; believes this removal of service is likely to increase pressure on already overburdened A&amp;E departments at the Ulster Hospital and Royal Victoria Hospital, further compromising timely access to care; and agrees to write to the Belfast Trust to oppose this proposal, participate in the public consultation, and advocate for retaining this vital healthcare service."</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Sarah Bunting</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Ruth Brooks</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to write to the Belfast Trust to oppose the proposals - 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><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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