

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Wednesday, 18th September, 2024
at 5.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Lord Mayor, Councillor Murray (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McCormick);
The High Sheriff of Belfast (Councillor S. Douglas);
Aldermen Lawlor, McCoubrey, McCullough and Rodgers;
Councillors Abernethy, Beattie, Bell, Black, Bower,
Bradley, Brennan, R. Brooks, T. Brooks, Bunting,
Carson, de Faoite, Doherty, M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly,
Doran, D. Douglas, Duffy, Ferguson, Flynn,
Garrett, Groogan, Kelly, Lyons, Magee, Maghie,
Maskey, F. McAteer, McCann, McDowell,
McKay, McKeown, I. McLaughlin, R. McLaughlin,
Murphy, Nelson, O'Neill, Smyth, Verner and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Alderman Copeland and Councillors Anglin, Canavan, R-M Donnelly, Long, McCabe, McDonough-Brown and Whyte.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Motions

Pause in funding to City Deals

In accordance with the notice on the agenda, Councillor de Faoite proposed:

“This Council condemns the pause in funding by the British Government to City Deals and calls for its immediate and full reinstatement.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Doherty.

The proposer advised the Council that he wished to amend the wording of the proposal to allow for the addition, after the word “and”, with “the way in which this pause was announced on a Friday afternoon and welcomes the announcement that the Belfast City Deal will move forward at pace with the full support of all partners.”

The amended motion would read as follows:

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“This Council condemns the pause in funding by the British Government to City Deals and the way in which this pause was announced on a Friday afternoon and welcomes the announcement that the Belfast City Deal will move forward at pace with the full support of all partners.”

The Council agreed to consider the motion in its amended form.

After discussion, the motion, as amended, was put to the Council and passed.

Commitment to Casement Park

In accordance with the notice on the agenda, Councillor Beattie proposed:

“This Council expresses deep disappointment that the British Government has failed to honour its commitment regarding the Euro 2028 bid for Belfast, particularly the investment in Casement Park, a catalyst project for economic regeneration in West Belfast.

The involvement of Belfast in the Euro 2028 bid presented us with a once in a generation opportunity to showcase the very best of Belfast to an international audience with the economic benefits being felt across a range of industries in the city and beyond.

Casement Park must now be delivered regardless of the outcome of the Euro 2028 bid, as it still represents a vital investment in the city’s infrastructure and community.

Belfast City Council will therefore write to Hilary Benn, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Prime Minister Keir Starmer, to urge the British Government to fulfil its previous commitment to Casement Park.

And will further write to Taoiseach Simon Harris along with the relevant Executive Ministers at the NI Assembly requesting that all parties involved come together to fulfil that same commitment to delivering Casement Park.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Doherty.

On a vote by a show of hands, thirty-one Members voted for the motion and fourteen against and it was declared carried.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson