



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast
Date:	13 th December, 2024
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"/>
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 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<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
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 21 st November.
2.0	Recommendation
	<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, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 21st November, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 2nd December:</p> <p><u>Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast</u></p> <p>“In light of the DENI ‘RAISE’ programme in response to the ‘Fair Start’ report, the Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>This motion aims to ensure coordinated, effective, and inclusive efforts to reduce educational inequalities in Belfast.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor David Bell Secunder: Councillor Long</p>
3.2	The motion calls upon the Council to undertake a number of actions to address education inequalities.

	<p>The Committee may be aware that the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) was previously a partnership between Belfast City Council, the PHA and Belfast Trust. It has been superseded by the establishment of the Community Planning Partnership.</p> <p>One of the working groups of the BSP was the Lifelong Learning Group. They had established a Lifelong Learning Charter and undertook a range of community-based learning activities – including the Festival of Learning. While the 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 Community Planning team which bring updates to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the work. The Motion will therefore be referred to this Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.3 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 / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.4 This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None