



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Embedding Community Food Growing in the Planning Process for New Housing Developments
Date:	15th September, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Carolyn Donnelly, Committee Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Carolyn Donnelly, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion re: Embedding Community Food Growing in the Planning Process for New Housing Developments, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 26th May 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 26th May 2026, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Doherty and seconded by Councillor McCusker, was referred to the Committee for consideration:
3.2	<u>Embedding Community Food Growing in the Planning Process for New Housing Developments</u> “This Council recognises Belfast’s status as a Right to Food City and affirms that the planning system has an important role to play in building healthier, more sustainable and more food-resilient communities. Council notes that new housing developments should not only provide homes, but should also contribute to the long-term health, wellbeing, sustainability and resilience of the communities in which they are built. Council further notes that Belfast’s existing policy framework already recognises the importance of open space, residential amenity, placemaking, biodiversity, climate resilience, health and wellbeing, and that Council strategies also acknowledge the value of allotments, community gardens and local food growing. Council agrees that officers bring forward a report examining how Belfast City Council, through its planning powers, planning policy framework and development management processes, could introduce a planning requirement or policy approach to ensure appropriate space for community food growing is considered and, where feasible, incorporated into new social and private housing developments. This should include consideration of allotments, community gardens, orchards, raised beds, edible landscaping and other forms of productive green space. The report should examine how this could be progressed through the Local Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Guidance, residential design guidance, Health Impact Assessment guidance, planning application validation requirements, planning conditions, developer contributions, Section 76 planning agreements or any other relevant planning mechanism. Council agrees that this would represent a practical and innovative next step in giving meaning to Belfast’s status as a Right to Food City, placing food resilience, health and community wellbeing at the heart of how our city is planned and developed.”
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> 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.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report at this stage of the process.

