

Standards and Business Committee

Monday, 28th April, 2025

REMOTE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lawlor (Chairperson) and
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McCormick);
The High Sheriff (Councillor McAteer);
Alderman McCullough; and
Councillors Bradley, de Faoite, P. Donnelly,
D. Douglas, Kelly, Lyons, Magee, Maghie,
McCallin, McDonough-Brown, R. McLaughlin
and Murphy.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal
and Civic Services;
Mr. J. Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance
Manager, and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance
Coordinator.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 25th March were taken as read and signed as correct.
It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st April.

Declaration of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Motions

The Committee considered the following three motions which had been received in
advance of the Council's meeting on 1st May:

Pathways to Work Green Paper

Proposal

Moved by Councillor de Faoite,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

That the Committee agrees that the motion, which had been proposed by
Councillor Doherty and seconded by Councillor de Faoite, be referred to the
Council for debate, with no restriction to be placed on the number of speakers.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor R. McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the motion.

On a vote, fourteen members voted for the proposal, with two no votes, and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee adopted the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Doherty and seconded by Councillor de Faoite:

“This Council strongly opposes the proposed Welfare reforms as part of the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper from the UK government, which will have disproportionate impacts on vulnerable people in the North; commits to writing to the First and Deputy First Minister asking them to lobby the UK Government to reverse changes that will negatively impact vulnerable people; further commits to writing to the Minister for Communities to prepare a business case for a mitigation package which provides protections for current and future claimants from reductions in social security entitlements outlined in the Pathways to Work Green Paper.”

U.S. War Planes out of Belfast

Moved by the High Sheriff, Councillor McAteer,
Seconded by Alderman McCullough and

Resolved – that the Committee agrees that the motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Flynn, be referred to the Council for debate, with no restriction to be placed on the number of speakers.

National Famine Commemoration Day

The City Solicitor reminded the Committee that an update on the previous motion relating to the matter: [National Famine Memorial Day 2024 motion](#) (Ref 336), had been provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in January 2024 and the motion had been subsequently closed. She highlighted that the response to the Council’s letter to the Minister at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on 8th November 2023, to make a request for Belfast to host the National Famine Memorial Day in May 2024, stated that the Commemoration would be due to take place in Ulster again in a number of years and the Department would keep the Council’s expression of interest on file for consideration.

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Proposal

Moved by Councillor R. McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy and

Resolved - That the motion be adopted.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McKay and seconded by Councillor Brennan, be adopted:

“That this Council writes to the National Famine Commemoration Committee asking that they hold the National Famine Commemoration Day in Belfast in 2027.

This commemoration has never been in Belfast and has only been in the North once in Newry in 2015. With recent interest about rediscovering the history of the famine in Belfast, we believe that it would be appropriate for this remembrance to take place in Belfast reflecting on one of the most pivotal and painful chapters of our nation’s history.”

Standing Order 14 - Submission of Minutes

In accordance with Standing Order 14, the Committee agreed, as the meeting had been held later than seven clear days before the meeting of the Council, that the minutes of the meeting be submitted to the Council on 1st May for ratification.

Chairperson