



Subject:	Notice of Motion – National Park City
Date:	7th August, 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention the Notice of Motion referred to it by the Standards and Business Committee, on 24th June, in relation to a National Park City.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<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
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Order 13 (n), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, is as follows:</p> <p>(n) 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.</p>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p>National Park City</p> <p>"This Council recognises the ambition set out in the Belfast Agenda that Belfast will be a "vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable" city by 2035, as well as somewhere "where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing".</p>
3.3	<p>The Council celebrate the good work already happening right across the city that will help us achieve this aim; alleyway greening, community growing projects, the</p>

	<p>Blackstaff greenway, development of a neighbourhood net-zero framework, the One Million Trees project, and many more initiatives working to improve biodiversity, make green spaces more accessible and help make Belfast a greener and cleaner city.</p>
3.4	<p>The Council believes that a city where people, places and nature are better connected is one that not only helps us to tackle our climate and biodiversity crisis but leads to better health and wellbeing outcomes for everyone in the city.</p>
3.5	<p>As such, this Council commits to supporting the move to become a National Park City, convening stakeholders from across the city, improving support to empower local communities, bringing together existing projects, and developing a clear roadmap to how we collectively can restore nature for the benefit of people, wildlife and planet.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Áine Groogan Seconded: Councillor Tara Brooks</p>
3.6	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to commit to move to become a National Park City. As the Climate and City Resilience Committee is responsible for making recommendations on the Council's approach to addressing the climate crises and the Council's role and responsibilities at city level, including but not limited to considering public campaigns/public education programmes which the Council may wish to deliver to change behaviour amongst residents and businesses; and to take account of the Council's statutory responsibilities on sustainable development, the motion has been referred to this Committee.</p>
3.7	<p>Financial and Resource Implications</p> <p>None at this stage. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>
3.8	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications</p> <p>None at this stage.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

