



Subject:	Notices of Motion – Pathways to Work Green Paper
Date:	22nd August 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

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="text"/>	
<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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To advise the Committee of a response which has been received from the Minister for Communities in respect of the “Pathways to Work Green Paper” motion which had been adopted by the Standards and Business Committee on 28th April.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the receipt of the correspondence and to agree that the motion be closed.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee on 28th April, the Committee exercised its delegated powers to adopt the undernoted motion, which had been moved by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Doherty) and seconded by Councillor de Faoite.</p> <p><i>“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.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>A response has since been received from the Minister for Communities, Gordon Lyons, MLA, in which he acknowledges the Council’s concern regarding the possible implications of the legislation. In addition, the Minister points out that he had relayed his “strong opposition” to the Secretary of State and government ministers at Westminster. He adds that he is committed to delivering a welfare system that “protects those who need it the most” and that his officials will continue to work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to assess the full implications of the legislation in Northern Ireland.</p>
3.3	<p>The Minister adds in his correspondence that the Department for Work and Pensions would be hosting a consultation event on Monday, 16th June. However, as the correspondence was received late on Friday, 13th June, it was impractical to advise Members.</p>
3.4	<p>The consultation has now closed, and the Department is considering the responses.</p>
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.5	<p>None.</p>
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.6	<p>There are no equality or good relations implications for the Council.</p>
4.0	Appendix – Document Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Letter received 13.06.2025 from Minister for Communities.</p>