



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Nitrates Action Plan
Date:	19th September 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes ☐ No ☒

Call-in

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise the Committee that a response (Appendix 1) has been received from Mr. Andrew Muir MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to the motion entitled 'Nitrates Action Plan.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the response from the Minister and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 24th June, adopted the following motion, which was moved by Councillor McCormick and seconded by Alderman Lawlor:
3.2	<p><u>Nitrates Action Plan</u></p> <p>“Belfast City Council notes the recent launch of a public consultation by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on a new Nutrients Action Plan. The Council expresses deep concern that the consultation has been issued without adequate prior engagement with stakeholders, including local councils, environmental organisations, the farming community, and the public, particularly in light of the significant environmental, economic and social implications of such a plan.</p> <p>The measures currently proposed could devastate agriculture, reduce livestock numbers, and undermine food security. We call on the Minister to immediately withdraw the current public consultation on the Nutrients Action Programme and to</p>

	bring forward a policy based on genuine partnership rather than punitive policies which risk the viability of our agricultural industry.”
3.3	The Committee is asked to note the response from the Minister and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.4	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial implications attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Response from Minister.