



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Safeguarding Belfast’s Playparks – Verbal Update (
Date:	5th August, 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Restricted Report

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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	At the Committee meeting in August, a motion in relation to ‘Safeguarding Belfast’s Playparks’ which the Standards and Business Committee considered. The Committee deferred consideration of the motion to allow further information to be provided to the Party Group Leaders’ Consultative Forum on the consultation and policy process. A verbal update in this regard will be provided at the meeting.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	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. 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.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 24th June, referred the following motion to the Committee for consideration:
3.2	<u>Safeguarding Belfast’s Playparks</u> “Belfast City Council, hereinafter “this Council”, expresses its deep concern at the growing number of reports relating to indecent, threatening, and predatory behaviour in Council-owned playparks across Belfast. These spaces, intended for the

	<p>happiness and well-being of children, are increasingly being compromised by individuals loitering without lawful purpose, in a manner that alarms parents and communities.</p> <p>This Council believes that every child has the right to play safely, and every parent has the right to peace of mind when bringing their children to a local park. Public spaces must reflect public values – including the protection of childhood innocence, the upholding of decency, and the moral duty to safeguard the vulnerable. Accordingly, this Council commits to the creation of a comprehensive ‘Safeguarding Belfast’s Playparks Policy’ – including, but not limited to, the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prohibit loitering in and around children's playparks by any adult not accompanying a child, or without a legitimate purpose; 2. To conduct a full public consultation, both online and in person, to hear the views of residents, parents/guardians, and community organisations in directly shaping this policy; 3. To work with statutory bodies – including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Home Office, and community organisations – to combat predatory sexual crime and anti-social behaviour in our public spaces.” <p>Proposer: Alderman McCullough Seconder: Councillor McCormick</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to commit to the creation of a comprehensive Safeguarding Belfast’s Playparks Policy - The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the Council’s playgrounds and parks and accordingly the motion was referred to this Committee.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>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.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>