



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Support for Striking Health Workers
Date:	24th January, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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 consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 1st February in relation to Support for Striking Health Workers.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the motion and agree to either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="316 297 470 331"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 365 1517 432">The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="363 465 1517 633">(m) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will have delegated authority to adopt or reject Notices of Motion. The Lord Mayor will indicate at the Council meeting those Notices of Motion that have been considered by the Standards and Business Committee and whether such Notices of Motion were rejected or adopted. In either case, the proposer only may speak on the issue at Council.</i> <li data-bbox="363 656 1517 824">(n) <i>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.</i> <li data-bbox="387 846 1517 947">(o) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer Notices of Motion for consideration by full Council when the Notice of Motion relates to a strategic or constitutional matter.</i> <li data-bbox="387 969 1517 1037">(p) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will not have the power to amend the wording of any Notice of Motion that is being referred to the full Council for debate.</i> <li data-bbox="387 1059 1517 1171">(q) <i>Any amendments to Notice of Motions to be proposed at the Council are to be furnished at least one day in advance of going to the full Council and will be circulated to Party Group Leaders in advance of the Council meeting.</i> <li data-bbox="387 1193 1517 1328">(r) <i>In referring any matter to the full Council, the Standards and Business Committee may determine to restrict contributions to the debate in relation to any Notice of Motion to one per political party. At the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor will clearly indicate if the restriction applies.</i> <p data-bbox="204 1361 1214 1395">3.2 The following motion has been received from Councillor Matt Collins:</p> <p data-bbox="347 1429 855 1462"><u>Support for Striking Health Workers</u></p> <p data-bbox="347 1496 1437 1563">“This Council notes with concern that health workers in Belfast are once again forced to take strike action for fair pay.</p> <p data-bbox="347 1597 1437 1697">Health workers have faced long-term deterioration in conditions, a series of below inflation pay offers, and the additional work due to staff shortages and the ongoing crisis within the Health Service.</p> <p data-bbox="347 1731 1437 1832">The Council further notes that health workers are being offered an unsatisfactory pay offer in the midst of the cost-of-living crisis, as many who work full time are struggling to make ends meet.</p> <p data-bbox="347 1865 1437 2011">In order to retain a vibrant and world class health service, it is vital that we reward staff fairly for the work which they carry out. High levels of agency usage, staff travelling to find better pay and conditions elsewhere, underfunding and privatisation is actively undermining this aim.</p>

	<p>The pandemic has shown how important our health service and the workers who staff it, are. Yet many NHS staff still suffer poverty wages and are forced to consider leaving a job they studied and worked hard to achieve.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the Department for Health and the Secretary of State, in the absence of a Minister for Health, to urge them to source and provide a fair, above inflation pay rise for health workers.</p> <p>The Council further resolves to show public support for health workers on pickets and to send a message of solidarity on behalf of Councillors to Unison, The Royal College of Nurses, and NIPSA, who are engaged in the action.”</p> <p>Proposer - Councillor Matt Collins</p> <p>Seconder – Councillor Michael Collins</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to write to the Department of Health and the Secretary of State in relation to an above inflation pay rise for health workers – the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>None.</p>