



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Embedding Community Food Growing in the Planning Process for new housing developments</b>
<b>Date:</b>	26th May, 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p><b>Insert number</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>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</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 1st June, 2026 in relation to Embedding Community Food Growing in the Planning Process for new housing developments.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or falls within the remit of a particular Committee 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 a subsequent report will be brought to Committee, if that Committee so agrees, outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the Planning Committee.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>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>(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> <li>(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> <li>(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> <li>(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> </ul>

3.2

- (q) *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.*
- (r) *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.*

The following motion has been received:

**Embedding Community Food Growing in the Planning Process for New Housing Developments**

“This Council recognises Belfast’s status as a Right to Food City and affirms that the planning system has an important role to play in building healthier, more sustainable and more food-resilient communities.

Council notes that new housing developments should not only provide homes, but should also contribute to the long-term health, wellbeing, sustainability and resilience of the communities in which they are built.

Council further notes that Belfast’s existing policy framework already recognises the importance of open space, residential amenity, placemaking, biodiversity, climate resilience, health and wellbeing, and that Council strategies also acknowledge the value of allotments, community gardens and local food growing.

Council agrees that officers bring forward a report examining how Belfast City Council, through its planning powers, planning policy framework and development management processes, could introduce a planning requirement or policy approach to ensure appropriate space for community food growing is considered and, where feasible, incorporated into new social and private housing developments.

This should include consideration of allotments, community gardens, orchards, raised beds, edible landscaping and other forms of productive green space.

The report should examine how this could be progressed through the Local Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Guidance, residential design guidance, Health Impact Assessment guidance, planning application validation requirements, planning conditions, developer contributions, Section 76 planning agreements or any other relevant planning mechanism.

Council agrees that this would represent a practical and innovative next step in giving meaning to Belfast’s status as a Right to Food City, placing food resilience, health and community wellbeing at the heart of how our city is planned and developed.”

Proposer: Councillor Paul Doherty

Seconder: Councillor Paul McCusker

3.3

3.4	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to bring forward a report examining how Belfast City Council, through its planning powers, planning policy framework and development management processes, could introduce a planning requirement or policy approach to ensure appropriate space for community food growing is considered and, where feasible, incorporated into new social and private housing developments. The Planning Committee is responsible for exercising the Council’s powers and duties in relation to local planning policies, plan strategies, the statement of community involvement and any other development plan documents and the motion will be referred to that Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.5	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>