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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – NIHE Tenancy Succession Policy |
| Date: | 26th May, 2026 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager |

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| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. 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 matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 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 7. 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 After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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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 June, 2026 in relation to NIHE Tenancy Succession Policy. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the People and Communities Committee. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | <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> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(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> |
| 3.2 | <p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Housing Executive Tenancy Succession Policy</u></p> <p>This Council:</p> |

Notes:

- The ongoing housing crisis across the North and the increasing demand for permanent social housing.
- That many families live for long periods in Housing Executive properties and develop vital community roots.
- That the current Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) succession policy prevents family members who have lived long-term in a property from succeeding a tenancy following the death of the tenant, where succession has already previously occurred (for example, between husband and wife).
- That this policy can lead to unnecessary displacement, eviction, hardship, and further breakdown of family units.

Believes:

- That housing policy should prioritise stability for families and communities.
- That family members or partners who have contributed to and depended on the household should not face eviction due to restrictive succession rules.
- That social housing should be managed in a way that balances fairness, community stability, and objective housing need.

Resolves:

- To write to the Minister of the Department for Communities calling on him to undertake a legislative review of the NIHE tenancy succession policy.
- To request the introduction of safeguards to prevent unnecessary eviction or relocation following the death of a tenant, particularly where long-term residence and established community ties exist.
- To support the development of a fair and community-aligned succession policy that protects households while ensuring that social housing is allocated on the basis of objective need.
- To seek engagement with residents' groups, community organisations, and elected representatives in the development of any revised succession policy.

Proposer: Councillor Claire Canavan

Seconder: Councillor Tina Black

3.3

The motion calls upon the Council to write to the Minister for Communities calling on him to undertake a legislative review of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive tenancy succession policy – since housing matters fall under the People and Communities Committee, the motion will be referred in the first instance to that committee.

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| 3.4 | <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report. |
| 3.5 | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report. |
| 4.0 | Documents Attached |
| | None. |