



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Commemoration of the Famine
Date:	2nd October, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Craig Mealey, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number ☐	
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	☐

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To inform the Committee that a motion in relation to commemorating the famine has been referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 22nd September, 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	At this stage, the Committee is asked to: i. note that the motion has been received; and ii. agree that a report be brought back outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential financial and resource implications.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 22nd September, 2026, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor McKeown and seconded by Councillor Whyte, was referred to the Committee for consideration:
3.3	<u>Commemoration of the Famine</u> “Belfast City Council will develop a programme of commemoration to mark the 180th anniversary of the Famine in 2027, to include a focus on the contemporary shared experience of communities; the impact on Belfast, Ulster and island of Ireland at the time and in the years that followed; international aspects such as emigration and the role this played here and in the history of other countries; domestic and overseas contributions to altruistic relief; and telling the stories of ordinary people whose experiences have been forgotten. This will be an opportunity to discover more about our collective history from this period, and in addition will support the Council’s bid to host the National Famine Commemoration in Belfast in 2027.” Proposed by: Councillor McKeown Seconded by: Councillor Whyte
3.4	The motion calls upon on the Council to develop a programme of events and activities in 2027 to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Famine and support the Council’s bid to host the National Famine Commemoration in Belfast in 2027.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
	None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.

5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices
	None.