

# Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**

3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020

## **MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 4th February, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

#### **2. Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

- (b) Motion – Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (Pages 1 - 4)
- (c) Motion – Graffiti (Pages 5 - 6)
- (d) Motion – Irish Language Street Signage Policy (Pages 7 - 10)
- (e) Motion – Historic Graveyards (Pages 11 - 12)

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	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 a motion on sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion will be proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor Kyle:
3.2	<i>“This Council will be aware of Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 outlining that new public building owned by public authorities from 2019 and all</i>

	<i>new buildings, including social and private housing developments, “must be a nearly zero energy buildings”, (NZEB43B) by 31st December, 2020.</i>
3.3	<i>The Council reaffirms its commitment to work with statutory and non-statutory agencies to end fuel poverty and the reduction of carbon emissions.</i>
3.4	<i>In addition, it acknowledges the evidence gathered by the World Health Organisation and environmental groups indicating the damage to both health and our climate from fuel poverty. Accordingly, the Council agrees to:</i>
3.5	<i>i. write to the Minister of Finance in the NI Assembly seeking an update on how the Department will assist local councils in implementing Sections 43A 43B and enquiring if the Department has an assurance from the building industry that they are prepared and their staff trained to meet this policy implementation;</i>
3.6	<i>ii. seek a meeting with the Minister of Finance or his officials to consider the adoption of Passive House standard as an amendment to the 2012 Building regulations or in any new legislation reforming building regulations;</i>
3.7	<i>iii. seek an all-Party meeting with the Northern Ireland Federation Housing Association and the Chartered Institute of Housing to discuss how their members will implement and adhere to Sections 43A and 43B and NZEB;</i>
3.8	<i>iv. seek an all-Party meeting with the Minister for Communities or Department officials to discuss Passive House standard for all social housing developments, as a means of meeting current obligations set out in Sections 43A and 43B; and</i>
3.9	<i>v. write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ascertain if there are any proposals for planning legislation to be amended or introduced to tackle fuel poverty.”</i>
3.10	In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion will be referred without debate to the People and Communities Committee.
3.11	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report.

3.12	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Graffiti
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<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 a motion on graffiti, which will be referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor M. Kelly:
3.2	<i>“This Council notes that graffiti is an area of concern for many residents of Belfast. It spoils the local environment and can encourage other forms of anti-social behaviour.</i>

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p><i>The Council notes also that it can also be costly to remove graffiti and is not a service which it currently provides, but believes that it is an issue it should be taking responsibility for.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will, therefore, review current practices in other councils to remove graffiti and will work through the Area Working Groups to develop an Anti-Graffiti Strategy, which will identify areas of partnership in order to creatively and proactively tackle this growing problem.”</i></p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion will be referred without debate to the People and Communities Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>





<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Irish Language Street Signage Policy
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Never	<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 a motion on graffiti, which will be referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin:
3.2	<i>“This Council has one of the most restrictive policies of any council in the North in regards to Irish Language Street Signage Policy.</i>

	<p><i>Currently, the policy is that you need a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the eligible electorate in a street to sign a petition which starts the process. Once the process has been initiated, a letter is sent to everyone in that street who is on the electoral register asking if they consent to have bilingual signage installed. The resident has three options, namely, Yes, No and Don't Care. For the process to come to a successful conclusion, 2/3rds of the total electorate in the street need to consent to yes. If a letter is not returned, it is considered by the Council as saying that they don't consent for the bilingual signage. Furthermore, where residents send the survey back saying 'Don't Care, this is also considered to be a negative response.</i></p>
3.3	<p><i>If we, as Elected Members were held to the same standard as this policy in the Local Government elections, not one Member would have been returned to serve on this Council, as we would not have met those restrictive parameters. The Council's Language Strategy refers to increasing the visibility of the Irish Language in our City. However, it is essential not to impose the Irish language on residents if the majority of them in a street do not consent to it.</i></p>
3.4	<p><i>Therefore, this Council will amend its Irish language street signage policy to the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. continue with the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the eligible electorate in the street to initiate the process;</i></li> <li><i>2. change the policy to reflect that it will be the majority of respondents to the survey that will decide if the process has been successful. Therefore, it will be 50% +1 of respondents that will determine if the petition to erect bilingual signage has been successful. Non-respondents will not be considered as a negative response; and</i></li> <li><i>3. those respondents who respond as 'Don't Care' are not considered to be a negative response and will be treated as a void vote."</i></li> </ol>
3.5	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion will be referred without debate to the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Historic Graveyards
<b>Date:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<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 a motion on historic graveyards, which will be referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Magee:
3.2	<i>“This Council is deeply concerned about the serious neglect of two of our Belfast Historic Cemeteries, namely Balmoral and Clifton Street. In Balmoral Cemetery, many headstones and</i>

	<p><i>monuments are dilapidated and many of the Victorian iron surrounds have been damaged and suffer from rust. The railway and northern embankments at Balmoral are completely covered with undergrowth, making it impossible to locate the graves in these sections. Clifton Street Cemetery suffers from a similar set of conditions, the undergrowth along its perimeter walls is accelerating the deterioration of a number of headstones and tablets. Often, when environmental work is carried out, rubbish is left on graves near the entrance.</i></p> <p>3.3 <i>Given the historical importance and worth of these burial grounds to the narrative of our Belfast history, it is proposed that the Council organise a tour of the two cemeteries for Members; prepare a maintenance and conservation plan; provide a report on the plan and costs and set a timeframe for the completion of the required works.”</i></p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion will be referred without debate to the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>