

# Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast**  
City Council

1st July, 2025

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy of the report for the following item to be considered at the Council meeting to be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 1st July, 2025.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

## **AGENDA:**

- (a) Call-In - Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service (Pages 1 - 36)

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**Belfast**  
City Council

COUNCIL

INSERT AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

<b>Subject:</b>	Call in – Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service
<b>Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services & Governance Manager Helen Kernan, Solicitor, Legal Services
<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b> <span style="float: right;"> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </span>	
<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>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<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> <b>After Council Decision</b> <b>Sometime in the future</b> <b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide Council with a copy of the legal opinion which was obtained in relation to the call-in of the Council decision at its meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 regarding delivery of the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service (A copy of the minutes of the June Council meeting are attached at Appendix One).</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p>Council is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the contents of the legal opinion;</li> <li>Note that the call-in was not considered to have merit on either procedural grounds or community impact grounds;</li> <li>Note that the Council should keep the transition to procured services under close scrutiny to ensure that there is continuity in service provision.</li> <li>Note that as the decision was called-in, the approval for the public advertisement of the Belfast Citywide Appeals Service was not able to be brought to the June meeting of the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee. Therefore, to enable the procurement to proceed in a timely manner, Council is asked to approve the public advertisement of the tender as per Standing Order 37a for delivery of a Belfast Citywide Appeals Service from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2028 (with the possibility of extension to March 2030) with an estimated contract value of £270k per annum.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b><u>Background</u></b></p> <p>At its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, Council ratified a decision taken at May P&amp;C Committee for delivery of the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service until the end of September by Ligoniel Improvement Association until the end of September 2025 and for the undertaking of a procurement exercise for the future delivery of the service from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028 .</p>
<b>3.2</b>	<p>On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, the Council ratified the minute of the P&amp;C Committee of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The Chief Executive received a call-in on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025, which called the decision in on both procedural grounds and community impact grounds.</p>

	<b><u>Call-in Process</u></b>
<b>3.3</b>	Members will be aware that the call-in process is provided for in Section 41 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 ('the 2014 Act'), with more detailed provision about how that process operates being contained within the Council's Standing Orders.
<b>3.4</b>	In accordance with Section 41 of the 2014 Act, 15% of members may ask for a decision to be called-in because they consider that the decision is flawed on "either or both of the following grounds— (a) that the decision was not arrived at after a proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues; (b) that the decision would disproportionately affect adversely any section of the inhabitants of the district". Members will note that the call-in requisition referred to both grounds, namely that the decision was not arrived at after proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues AND an alleged disproportionate adverse impact upon a section of the inhabitants.
<b>3.5</b>	In accordance with Standing Orders, on receipt of an admissible call-in under Section 41(1)(b), the opinion of a practicing barrister was sought on whether the call-in has merit. Counsel's opinion was obtained and a copy of their opinion is attached at Appendix Two. Members are asked to note that Counsel considered that the call-in did not have merit on either the procedural or community impact grounds. It does however recommend that Council continues to monitor the tender process to ensure that there is continuity of service provision.
<b>3.6</b>	In accordance with Standing Order 48(b)(9), the legal opinion is being placed before the next available meeting of the Council. Given the opinion includes detailed information on the business and financial affairs of both the Council and a third-party organisation, the legal opinion has been restricted.
<b>3.7</b>	As the decision was called-in the approval for the public advertisement of the Belfast Citywide Appeals Service was not able to be brought to the June meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. Therefore, to enable the procurement to proceed in a timely manner, Council is asked to approve the public advertisement of the tender as per Standing Order 37a for delivery of a Belfast Citywide Appeals Service from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2028 (with the possibility of extension to March 2030) with an estimated contract value of £270k per annum.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality &amp; Good Relations Issues</b>  None other than those detailed in the report above and considered in Counsel's opinion.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>

	Appendix 1 –Minutes of Council meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 Appendix 2 - Legal Opinion on call-in requisition dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 Appendix 3 – Copy of the call-in requisition
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## **Council**

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

Held in the Council Chamber, City Hall,  
on Monday, 2nd June, 2025 at 6.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Lord Mayor, Councillor Murray (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McCormick);  
The High Sherriff (Councillor McAteer);  
Aldermen Copeland, Lawlor, McCoubrey,  
McCullough and Rodgers; and  
Councillors Abernethy, Anglin, Beattie, Bell, Black,  
Bower, Bradley, Brennan, R. Brooks, T. Brooks,  
Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Cobain, Collins, de Faoite,  
Doherty, M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly, R-M Donnelly,  
Doran, D. Douglas, S. Douglas, Duffy, Ferguson,  
Flynn, Garrett, Groogan, Hanvey, Kelly, Long,  
Lyons, Magee, Maghie, Maskey, McCabe, McCallin,  
McCann, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McDowell, McKay,  
McKeown, I. McLaughlin, R. McLaughlin, Murphy,  
Nelson, O'Neill, Smyth, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

### **Summons**

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Declarations of Interest**

#### **Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Councillors R-M Donnelly, Duffy, Groogan, McCabe and Verner declared interests in the 'Shared City Partnership' item in that they worked for, or were associated with, organisations which had applied for PEACEPLUS funding. Since the item did not become the subject of debate, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

Councillors Beattie, Canavan, Carson, M. Donnelly, Duffy and Groogan declared interests in the 'Social Supermarket Fund' item in that they were associated with organisations which had applied for support under the fund. Since the item did not become the subject of debate, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

#### **Standards and Business Committee**

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McCormick) declared an interest in the item 'Stranded Dreams Report launched by Anaka Women's Collective' in that he worked for an organisation which provided funding to the collective. Since the item did not become the subject of debate, the Member was not required to leave the meeting.

**Annual Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 2nd June, 2025**

**People and Communities Committee**

Councillor Bradley declared an interest in the item “Belfast City Tribunal Service”, in that her employer was the current contract holder and she left the room when the item was under discussion.

**Minutes of the Council**

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Murray),  
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McCormick and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 1st May, be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Official Announcements**

Councillor R. Brooks congratulated the Bloomfield Community Association on the recent announcement that it was to receive Capital Investment for a full rebuild.

Councillor I. McLaughlin congratulated Woodvale Youth Academy Girls Football Team who had won their first competitive tournament, the Seaview Bank Holiday Soccer Tournament, less than ten weeks after coming together as a team.

Councillor McKeown thanked Ms. Bríd Ruddy and all the residents who had worked so hard to create the new Wildflower Alley in the south of the City.

Councillor McCabe paid tribute to Anthony Cacace, who had recently won the IBO Super Featherweight World Title and requested that the Lord Mayor would send a letter of congratulations.

Alderman Copeland paid tribute to Mr S. Smyth and Mr. G. Stevens, both of whom had lost a child to cancer, who had both worked tirelessly to encourage young people to sign up and donate stem cells.

The Lord Mayor congratulated Ms. L. Cameron, Business Relationship Manager, on the recent birth of her daughter.

**Request to Film Proceedings**

The Chief Executive advised the Council that a request to film parts of the Council meeting had been received from a number of media outlets.

The Council acceded to the request.

**Annual Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 2nd June, 2025**

**Appointment of Positions of Responsibility 2025/2026**

The Chief Executive drew the Council's attention to a report which identified the persons who had been selected by the Nominating Officer of each Political Party to hold the following Positions of Responsibility in year three of the current Council term:

<b>Internal Positions of Responsibility</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
Lord Mayor	Councillor Tracy Kelly
Deputy Lord Mayor	Councillor Paul Doherty

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Natasha Brennan
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Ian McLaughlin
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Joseph Duffy

**People and Communities Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Ruth Brooks
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Fred Cobain

**Licensing Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Jordan Doran
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Arder Carson

**Planning Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Ryan Murphy
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Sammy Douglas

**Climate and City Resilience Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Micheal Donnelly
Deputy Chairperson	Alderman Frank McCoubrey

**Standards and Business Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Anthony Flynn
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Davy Douglas

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee**

Chairperson	Councillor Eric Hanvey
Deputy Chairperson	Councillor Bradley Ferguson

**Policing and Community Safety Partnership Political Members**

**Chairs**

<b>PCSP</b>	Councillor Ian McLaughlin
<b>North DPCSP</b>	Alderman Dean McCullough

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<b>South DPCSP</b>	Councillor Gary McKeown
<b>East DPCSP</b>	Councillor Pádraig Donnelly
<b>West DPCSP</b>	Councillor Claire Canavan

**Other Changes to Memberships of DPCSPs**

	<b>Outgoing</b>	<b>Incoming</b>
<b>South DPCSP</b>	Councillor Tracy Kelly	<b>Councillor Sarah Bunting</b>
<b>West DPCSP</b>	Councillor Nicola Verner	<b>Alderman Frank McCoubrey</b>

The Council agreed to appoint the Members to the positions of responsibility as set out above.

**Expressions of Thanks**

The Lord Mayor reviewed his year in office, which he stated had been an incredible honour. He outlined that he had been privileged to be the first openly gay Lord Mayor of the City and that he had been proud to represent his community through his work. He thanked the Deputy Lord Mayor, the two High Sheriffs which he had worked alongside, Council staff, his Political Party and his partner, family and friends for all of their support and wished the incoming Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor every success for the year ahead.

The Deputy Lord Mayor reflected on his year in office and paid tribute to the Lord Mayor, the two High Sheriffs, his Political Party, his family and Council staff for the valuable assistance which they had provided. He paid tribute to his wife and his two young daughters and stated that he was looking forward to spending more time with them again. He stated that he had been grateful to have worked with a number of important charities during his time in office, including the Alzheimer's Society, the Mary Peters Trust, Women's Aid and Friends of the Cancer Centre. He wished the incoming Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayor well in their forthcoming term of office.

**Tributes**

Representatives of all the Political Parties paid tribute to the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord for the manner in which they had fulfilled their duties during their year in office.

**Installation of Lord Mayor**

The Chief Executive reminded the Council that it had, earlier in the meeting, approved the Positions of Responsibility for 2025/2026 and that Councillor Kelly had been nominated to serve as Lord Mayor.

Accordingly, Councillor Kelly was installed in Office for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2026.

Councillor Kelly thanked her Political Party for nominating her to serve as Lord Mayor. She stated that she was honoured to be the first female Democratic Unionist the second ever female Unionist Lord Mayor of Belfast. She paid a special tribute to the

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late Christopher Stalford MLA, who had not only been her political mentor, but also a close friend. She paid tribute to the previous Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the manner in which they had carried out their duties. She stated that she was looking forward to the year ahead and to working with the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff.

(The Lord Mayor, Councillor Kelly, in the Chair.)

**Installation of Deputy Lord Mayor**

The Council was again reminded that earlier in the meeting Councillor Doherty had, under the Positions of Responsibility for 2025/2026, been nominated to serve as Deputy Lord Mayor.

Accordingly, Councillor Doherty was installed in Office for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2026.

He paid tribute to the previous Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, thanked his Political Party for nominating him, thanked his family and friends for their support, and outlined his main objectives for his term in office. He stated that he was looking forward to the year ahead, to listening and learning, and to working with the Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff.

(The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Doherty, in the Chair.)

**Appointment of Members to Committees 2025/2026**

The Chief Executive drew the Council's attention to a report which identified the following persons who had been nominated by the Nominating Officer of each Political Party to the Council's Standing Committees and to the (District) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships for 2025/2026:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> (Sinn Féin)	Councillor Natasha Brennan
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Alliance)	Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Ciaran Beattie
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Christina Black
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Matt Garrett
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor Ronan McLaughlin
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Ryan Murphy
9	Sinn Féin	Councillor Tomás Ó Néill
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Alderman Frank McCoubrey
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Sarah Bunting
12	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Fred Cobain
13	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Bradley Ferguson
14	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Ian McLaughlin
15	Alliance	Councillor Michael Long
16	Alliance	Councillor Jenna Maghie
17	Alliance	Councillor Sam Nelson

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18	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Séamas de Faoite
19	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Carl Whyte
20	Green Party	Councillor Brian Smyth

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Councillor Ian McLaughlin
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Sinn Féin)	Councillor Joe Duffy
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Christina Black
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Conor Maskey
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor Áine McCabe
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Siobhán McCallin
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor Conor McKay
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Ronan McLaughlin
9	Sinn Féin	Councillor Tomás Ó Néill
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Alderman James Lawlor
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Sarah Bunting
12	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Sammy Douglas
13	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Andrew McCormick
14	Alliance	Councillor Eric Harvey
15	Alliance	Councillor Fiona McAteer
16	Alliance	Councillor Micky Murray
17	Alliance	Councillor Sam Nelson
18	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Séamas de Faoite
19	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Dónal Lyons
20	Green Party	Councillor Áine Groogan

**People and Communities Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Councillor Ruth Brooks
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Councillor Fred Cobain
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Christina Black
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Nichola Bradley
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor Claire Canavan
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Micheal Donnelly
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Matt Garrett
9	Sinn Féin	Councillor JJ Magee
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Sarah Bunting
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Jordan Doran
12	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Nicola Verner
13	Alliance	Councillor Hedley Abernethy
14	Alliance	Councillor Micky Murray

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15	Alliance	Councillor Christine Bower
16	Alliance	Councillor Jenna Maghie
17	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Gary McKeown
18	Green Party	Councillor Anthony Flynn
19	Ulster Unionist Party	Alderman Sonia Copeland
20	People Before Profit Alliance	Councillor Michael Collins

**Licensing Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Councillor Jordan Doran
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Sinn Féin)	Councillor Arder Carson
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Brónach Anglin
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Nichola Bradley
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor Micheal Donnelly
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Pádraig Donnelly
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor Caoimhín McCann
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Conor McKay
9	Democratic Unionist Party	Alderman McCullough
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Davy Douglas
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Sarah Bunting
12	Alliance	Councillor Hedley Abernethy
13	Alliance	Councillor Tara Brooks
14	Alliance	Councillor Fiona McAteer
15	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Gary McKeown
16	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Carl Whyte
17	Green Party	Councillor Brian Smyth
18	Ulster Unionist Party	Alderman Jim Rodgers
19	Traditional Unionist Voice	Councillor Ron McDowell
20	Independent	Councillor Paul McCusker

**Planning Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> (Sinn Féin)	Councillor Ryan Murphy
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Councillor Sammy Douglas
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Brónach Anglin
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Natasha Brennan
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor Arder Carson
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Matt Garrett
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor JJ Magee
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Áine McCabe
9	Sinn Féin	Councillor Caoimhín McCann
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Alderman James Lawlor
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Alderman Dean McCullough
12	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Jordan Doran
13	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Davy Douglas

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14	Alliance	Councillor Hedley Abernethy
15	Alliance	Councillor Tara Brooks
16	Alliance	Councillor David Bell
17	Alliance	Councillor Eric Hanvey
18	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Carl Whyte
19	Green Party	Councillor Áine Groogan
20	Ulster Unionist Party	Alderman Jim Rodgers

**Climate and City Resilience Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> (Sinn Féin)	Councillor Micheal Donnelly
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Alderman Frank McCoubrey
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Brónach Anglin
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Pádraig Donnelly
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor JJ Magee
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Conor Maskey
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor Caoimhín McCann
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Séanna Walsh
9	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Ruth Brooks
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Sammy Douglas
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Bradley Ferguson
12	Alliance	Councillor Micky Murray
13	Alliance	Councillor Tara Brooks
14	Alliance	Councillor David Bell
15	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Paul Doherty
16	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Dónal Lyons
17	Green Party	Councillor Áine Groogan
18	Ulster Unionist Party	Alderman Sonia Copeland
19	People Before Profit Alliance	Councillor Michael Collins
20	Independent	Councillor Paul McCusker

**Standards and Business Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> (Green Party)	Councillor Anthony Flynn
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Councillor Davy Douglas
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Nichola Bradley
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Arder Carson
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor Pádraig Donnelly
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Siobhán McCallin
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor JJ Magee
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Ronan McLaughlin
9	Sinn Féin	Councillor Ryan Murphy
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Alderman James Lawlor
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Alderman Dean McCullough
12	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Andrew McCormick

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13	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Ian McLaughlin
14	Alliance	Councillor Fiona McAteer
15	Alliance	Councillor Christine Bower
16	Alliance	Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown
17	Alliance	Councillor Michael Long
18	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Séamas de Faoite
19	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Dónal Lyons
20	Traditional Unionist Voice	Councillor Ron McDowell

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee**

1	<b>Chairperson</b> Alliance	Councillor Eric Hanvey
2	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (Democratic Unionist Party)	Councillor Bradley Ferguson
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor Natasha Brennan
4	Sinn Féin	Councillor Claire Canavan
5	Sinn Féin	Councillor Áine McCabe
6	Sinn Féin	Councillor Caoimhín McCann
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor Conor McKay
8	Sinn Féin	Councillor Tomás Ó Néill
9	Sinn Féin	Councillor Séanna Walsh
10	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Ruth Brooks
11	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Andrew McCormick
12	Democratic Unionist Party	Councillor Nicola Verner
13	Alliance	Councillor Christine Bower
14	Alliance	Councillor David Bell
15	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Councillor Séamas de Faoite
16	Green Party	Councillor Anthony Flynn
17	Ulster Unionist Party	Alderman Sonia Copeland
18	People Before Profit Alliance	Councillor Michael Collins
19	Traditional Unionist Voice	Councillor Ron McDowell
20	Independent	Councillor Paul McCusker

The Council agreed to appoint the Members to the Council's Standing Committees for 2025/2026, as set out above.

**Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Councillor Brennan,  
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd and 30th May, 2025, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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**Amendment**

**City Hall Income Generation Project**

Moved by Councillor Collins,  
Seconded by Councillor McDowell,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd May under the heading 'City Hall Income Generation Project' be rejected.

On a vote, two Members voted for the amendment and fifty-three against and it was accordingly declared lost.

**Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd and 30th May, 2025, were approved and adopted.

**Minutes of People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Councillor R. Brooks,  
Seconded by Councillor McKeown,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 6th May, be approved and adopted.

**Amendment**

**Play Service Rental Agreement**

Moved by Councillor Doran,  
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 6th May under the heading 'Play Service Rental Agreement' be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees to extend the current play service rental agreement with the Benview Residents Association for a further period of five years.

On a vote, twenty Members voted for the amendment and thirty-eight against, and it was accordingly declared lost.

**Amendment**

**Belfast City Tribunal Service**

Moved by Councillor Collins,  
Seconded by Councillor Groogan,

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That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 6th May under the heading 'Belfast City Tribunal Service' be referred back to Committee for further consideration, with the Tribunal Service to be invited in.

On a vote, twenty-six Members voted for the amendment and thirty-two against and it was accordingly declared lost.

**Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 6th May, 2025, were approved and adopted.

**Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Moved by Councillor I. McLaughlin,  
Seconded by Councillor Duffy and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th and 28th May, be approved and adopted.

**Minutes of Licensing Committee**

Moved by Councillor Doran,  
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 21st May, be approved and adopted.

**Minutes of Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Murphy  
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 13th May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Minutes of Climate and City Resilience Committee**

Moved by Councillor M. Donnelly,  
Seconded by Councillor R-M. Donnelly,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Climate and City Resilience Committee of 8th May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Annual Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 2nd June, 2025**

**Council Climate Action Plan**

At the request of a Member, the Council agreed that a section be added to the Action Plan, including key recommendations and findings, to examine the environmental impact of segregation in the City.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the Climate and City Resilience Committee of 8th May, 2025, were approved and adopted.

**Standards and Business Committee**

Moved by Councillor Flynn,  
Seconded by Councillor R. McLaughlin and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Standards and Business Committee of 22nd May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Ad Hoc Committee**

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,  
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Standards and Business Committee of 22nd May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**To reconsider the motion on  
the Armed Forces Covenant**

Moved by Alderman Lawlor,  
Seconded by Alderman McCullough,

“That this Council recognises the unique skills that are held by Armed Forces services leavers; recognises that many veterans can face disadvantages compared to the general population, arising from military life, when accessing services and as such, this Council commits to signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant immediately.”

On a vote, twenty-eight Members voted for the motion, twenty-nine against and with three no votes, it was accordingly declared lost.

**Annual Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 2nd June, 2025**

**Notice of Motion**

**Voting Rights for the Election of  
the President of Ireland**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor R-M. Donnelly proposed the following motion:

“That this Council notes that the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement recognises the birth right of all the people of the north to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both; recalls that, in November 2013, the Fifth Report of the Convention on the Constitution recommended to give citizens residing outside the 26 counties the right to vote in presidential elections; further notes that Irish citizens living in the north can stand for, and be elected as, President of Ireland but cannot vote in presidential elections; and calls on this Council to write to the Irish Government and ask that they implement the recommendation of the Convention on the constitution with regards to voting rights in presidential elections, thereby extending the right to vote in elections for President of Ireland to all Irish citizens on the island of Ireland.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Brennan.

On a vote, forty-one Members voted for the proposal and seventeen against and it was declared carried.

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson

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## Call-in requisition form

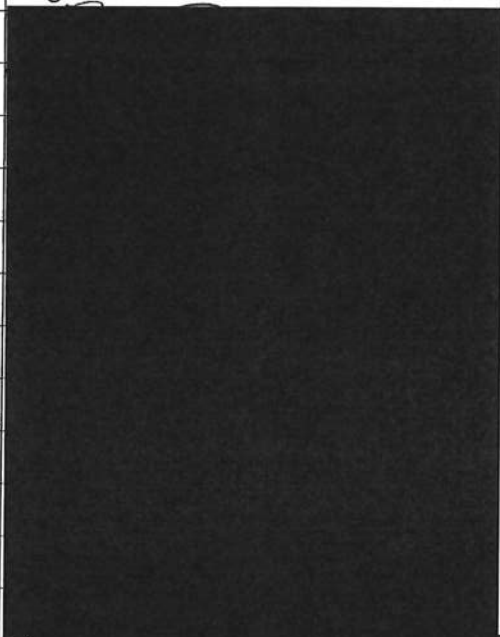
Section 41(1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides that a decision of the Council or one of its Committees can be called in for reconsideration if at least 15% (9 Members) of the total number of Members request it on the basis that the decision:

- (a) was not arrived at after a proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues; and/or
- (b) would disproportionately affect adversely any section of the inhabitants of the district..

We, the undersigned, require that the following decision of the Committee be called in for reconsideration.

Date of Committee meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025			
Minute Heading	PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE			
Section under which call-in is being requested (please tick)	Section 41(1)(a) Procedural grounds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 41(1)(b) Community impact grounds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

M.C.

	Print name	Signature
Councillor	DEAN H. MCCULLOUGH	
Councillor	SARAH BUNTING	
Councillor	JORDAN DEAN	
Councillor	IAN McLAUGHLIN	
Councillor	FRED COBURN	
Councillor	ANDREW MCCORMICK	
Councillor	FRANK MCCORMICK	
Councillor	<del>JOHN McKEE</del>	
Councillor	SAMMY DOUGLAS	
Councillor	BRADLEY SARGENT	
Councillor	DAVE DOUGLAS	
Councillor	JAMES LAWLOR	

Date 11/06/2025 MICHAEL COLLINS

Reasons for call-in



(Please outline below the reasons why you consider that the decision should be called in. Failure to provide adequate reasons to support your request may invalidate the Call In).

**A. Call-in under Section 41(1)(a) – Procedural grounds**

*That the decision was not arrived at after a proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues*

	Reasons
1	The current provider of the service has expressed concern that they were not afforded a fair hearing by the Council at committee level to outline their case.
2	The Committee was not afforded 'proper reasoning' as to why the recommendation presented in May had changed since the original deferral in March – which is good governance and a procedural requirement.
3	

**Explanatory Notes**

If the decision is properly requisitioned for Call In by at least 9 Members of the Council and the number of Members so requesting the Call In remains at that number at the expiration of the call in period, the decision will not be submitted to the Council for ratification and the Chief Executive will summon a meeting of an Ad-Hoc Committee comprising the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the 7 Committees.

On a procedural call-in, authority is delegated to the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to obtain legal to be tabled at the meeting of the ad hoc committee, if it is their view that this will assist in addressing the issues raised within the call-in.

That Ad Hoc Committee will be empowered to make the following decisions on the matter which has been called in:

- (a) Refer the decision back to the Committee which took it for further consideration; or
- (b) Refer the decision of the Committee which originally took it to the next available meeting of the Council for ratification.

The Members who submitted requisitions on the decision called in shall be invited to attend the meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee, which is considering the request and may, with the consent of the Committee, address the meeting but they shall not have voting rights.

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee where the decision in question was originally taken shall also not have voting rights at the Ad-Hoc Committee which is considering the request.

The following grounds are suggested as legitimate reasons why a Member or Members might seek for a decision to be called in on procedural grounds:

- A. Misapplication/misunderstanding as to legal requirements
- B. Failing to take into account relevant considerations/failure to exclude irrelevant considerations including factual mistake
- C. Failure to follow a procedural requirement

- D. Failure to have a fair hearing
- E. Failure to give reasons

## **B. Call-In under Section 41(1)(b) – Community impact grounds**

*That the decision would disproportionately affect adversely any section of the inhabitants of the district*

		Reasons
1	The community affected by the decision	The disabled community city-wide.
2	The nature and extent of the disproportionate adverse impact	The decision as agreed is unfair in that the timescale set out for transition is unrealistic for an established city-wide service, given the nature of the live and historic complex welfare cases and appeals currently being dealt with and, as such, this would pose a substantial and adverse risk to current service users who would be greatly impacted upon should the decision stand.

### **Explanatory Notes**

If the decision is properly requisitioned for Call In by at least 9 Members of the Council and the number of Members so requesting the Call In remains at that number at the expiration of the call in period, the decision will not be submitted to the Council for ratification and the Chief Executive will within 1 working day seek the opinion of a practising solicitor or barrister on the validity of the Call In.

When the opinion of the solicitor or barrister is received by the Chief Executive she shall:

#### **Where the opinion confirms that the call in has merit**

1. circulate the opinion to the Members of Council; and
2. include the decision of the Committee on the agenda for the next available meeting of the full Council for decision.

Please note that the full Council will be required to decide on such a matter by way of a qualified majority vote where at least 80% of the members present and voting will be required to support a decision.

#### **Where the opinion indicates that the call in does not have merit**

1. circulate the opinion to the Members of Council; and
2. include the decision on the agenda for the next meeting of the full Council for ratification by way of a simple majority decision.

The following advice is offered to assist Members considering calling in a decision on Community Impact grounds:

- A. The decision or policy was not screened for compliance with Section 75 of the NI Act 1998