

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



**Belfast
City Council**

22nd September, 2026

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall and remotely via Teams on Tuesday, 22nd September, 2026 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Motions

- (a) Notice of Motion - Belfast Children's Champion (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Food Allergy Safety in Parks Play Areas and Leisure Centres (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Notice of Motion - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Pages 9 - 12)
- (d) Notice of Motion - Sailortown Bridge (Pages 13 - 16)
- (e) Notice of Motion - Commemoration of the Famine (Pages 17 - 20)



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Belfast Children’s Champion
Date:	22nd September, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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 <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	

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

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 October, 2026 in relation to Belfast Children's Champion.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	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. 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. The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> 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: (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> (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> (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) <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> (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>

3.2	(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> The following motion has been received: <u>Belfast Children's Champion</u> "This Council recognises that children and young people are a vital part of our City, and that decisions taken by Belfast City Council can have a significant impact on their lives, opportunities, wellbeing and future. This Council believes that the interests of children young people and their families should be considered at every level and across all relevant areas of Council policy, service delivery and partnership working. Council recognises the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda - Belfast's community plan - and the importance of giving all children and young people the best possible start in life and tackling inequalities from an early age. Alongside the Belfast Agenda, this Council welcomes and supports the adoption of 'The Belfast Child', by both this Council and the city's Community Planning Partnership. This document envisions creating a seamless pathway plan to support the needs children and young people of this city. It also reflects the importance of further developing partnership working, if we are to improve outcomes for children and young people across the city. Accordingly, this Council: 1. Requests that we agree to the creation of a Children's Champion and that a report be brought to the appropriate Council committee setting out options for establishing the role, including its responsibilities, governance arrangements, resources, accountability and mechanisms for engaging directly with children and young people. 2. Agrees that the establishment of a dedicated Belfast City Council Children's Champion, will focus on advocating for the interests, rights, wellbeing and best outcomes of all children and young people across the City of Belfast. 3. Calls for the Belfast Children's Champion to act as a strong voice for children and young people within and across Council, helping to ensure that the vision of good outcomes and seamless support in meeting their needs as laid out in the Belfast Child are reflected in the delivery of the Belfast Agenda, as well as in Council policies, programmes and major decisions. 4. Calls on Council to ensure that the voice of children and young people is considered at the earliest appropriate stage in the development of relevant Council policies, strategies and major initiatives.
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3.3	Council believes that <u>every</u> child in Belfast, regardless of where they live or their circumstances, should have the opportunity to grow up safe, supported, healthy and able to fulfil their potential.” Proposed by: Councillor Nicola Verner Seconded by: Councillor Natasha Brennan The motion calls upon on the Council to establish a dedicated Belfast City Council Children’s Champion. It also requests that the Council ensures that the voice of children and young people is considered at the earliest appropriate stage in the development of relevant Council policies, strategies and major initiatives. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for policy and HR matters, and the motion will be referred to that Committee. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report but there will be finance and resource implications in relation to the substantive motion. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Food Allergy Safety in Parks, Play Areas and Leisure Centres
Date:	22nd September, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒								
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Call-in									
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐								

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 October, 2026 in relation to Food Allergy Safety in Parks, Play Areas and Leisure Centres.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	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. 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. The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred in the first instance to the People and Communities Committee.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	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: (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> (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> (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) <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> (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>

- (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.*

3.2

The following motion has been received:

Food Allergy Safety in Parks, Play Areas and Leisure Centres

“This Council recognises that severe food allergies are a major public health issue, affecting many children and adults across Belfast. Belfast City Council is aware that allergen or allergen residue (such as dairy, peanut, or tree nut oils) left on park play equipment and benches can trigger allergic reactions, including in rare cases anaphylaxis, when a child or adult with a severe allergy comes into contact with it.

Belfast City Council acknowledges public parks and play areas should be safe, accessible, and inclusive spaces for everyone, including those with allergies. This motion builds on the UK's first National Allergy Strategy, launched in April 2026, which calls for a whole-society approach to allergy awareness - extending that principle to everyday outdoor spaces.

Therefore, Belfast City Council resolves to:

1. Introduce a dedicated Food Allergy Awareness Campaign across all Belfast City Council managed parks, play areas, and leisure centres, including brief allergy-awareness guidance for park services and leisure centre staff.
2. Design and install clear, child-friendly signage at park entrances and play areas, encouraging park users to:
 - Wash or wipe hands after eating and before using shared play equipment.
 - Consume food only in designated picnic areas rather than on or around play equipment.
 - Immediately dispose of all food waste in the bins provided.
3. Ensure adequate waste bin placement near play areas and park entrances/exits to facilitate safe disposal of food waste and packaging
4. Provide anaphylaxis awareness training for leisure centre staff, including recognition of symptoms and safe use of adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens/Jext), and review whether Council-managed leisure centres should hold spare adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use, in line with the legal provisions already used by schools.
5. Report back to Committee within six months on implementation, including signage rollout, bin placement, and leisure centre staff training.”

Proposed by: Councillor Bower

Seconded by: Councillor McDonough-Brown

3.3	The motion calls upon on the Council to undertake a number of actions in relation to food allergy safety in parks, play areas and leisure centres. The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the management of the assets included in the motion, and the motion will be referred to that Committee in the first instance. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	None associated with this report but there will be finance and resource implications in relation to the substantive motion. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.5	None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
Date:	22nd September, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒								
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Call-in									
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐								

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 October, 2026 in relation to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	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. 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. The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	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: (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> (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> (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) <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> (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>

	(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>
3.2	The following motion has been received: <u>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</u> “That this Council recognises the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities and agrees that a more equitable legislative framework is required that fully protects the rights of children and young people. This Council supports the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and accordingly, calls upon the Executive and Assembly to bring forward legislation to incorporate the UNCRC into domestic law. This Council also commits to adopting a children's rights-based approach across Council functions and to progressively embedding Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIAs) within decision-making processes. Finally, this Council agrees that the Chief Executive shall write to the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and relevant Executive Ministers outlining the Council's support for the incorporation of the UNCRC and its commitment to advancing a children's rights-based approach within local government.” Proposed by: Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly Seconded by: Councillor Tomás Ó Néill
3.3	The motion calls upon the Executive to incorporate UNCRC into domestic law and to write to the Executive outlining the Council's support for the incorporation of the UNCRC and its commitment to advancing a children's right-based approach within local government. It also asks the Council to commit to adopting a children's rights-based approach across Council functions and to progressively embedding Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIAs) within decision-making processes.
3.4	The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for policy and resourcing matters, and the motion will be referred to that Committee for consideration in the first instance.
3.5	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report but there will be finance and resource implications in relation to the substantive motion.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Sailortown and Sailortown Bridge
Date:	22nd September, 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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Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

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 October, 2026 in relation to Sailortown and Sailortown Bridge.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	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. 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. The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.0	Main Report
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3.2	(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> The following motion has been received: <u>Sailortown & Sailortown Bridge</u> “This Council welcomes the renewed focus on Sailortown and the growing momentum behind its regeneration, supported by Belfast City Council, the Department for Infrastructure, Belfast Harbour, Maritime Belfast Trust and Sailortown Regeneration. The Council particularly welcomes the Shared Island funding secured to bring the proposed Sailortown Bridge through its next stage of design and planning, alongside the support of partner organisations which will ensure that this phase is fully funded. The Sailortown Bridge has the potential to transform this part of Belfast. It would reconnect Sailortown with the waterfront, create a new link to Titanic Quarter and open up parts of our maritime heritage which have been inaccessible for too long. It would support regeneration, improve walking and cycling connections and create new opportunities for communities on both sides of the Lagan. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver a major piece of legacy infrastructure for the people of Belfast. The Council will now begin discussions with the Department for Infrastructure, the Shared Island Unit and all relevant partner organisations to establish the full cost of delivering the bridge and how the funding required to make it a reality can be secured.” Proposed by: Councillor Carl Whyte Seconded by: Councillor Brian Smyth 3.3 The motion calls upon on the Council to working with DfI, the Shared Island Unit and partner organisations to determine the full delivery costs and identify funding needed to bring the proposed Sailortown Bridge project to completion. 3.4 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for strategic planning, investment and partnership engagement and the motion will be referred to that Committee. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> 3.5 None associated with this report but there will be finance and resource implications in relation to the substantive motion.
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	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Commemoration of the Famine
Date:	22nd September, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

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 October, 2026 in relation to commemorating the Famine.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	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. 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. The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> 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: (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> (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> (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) <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> (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>

	(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>
3.2	The following motion has been received: <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 Gary McKeown Seconded by: Councillor Carl Whyte 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. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for supporting culture and heritage and coordinating major city-wide events and the motion will be referred to that Committee.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report but there will be finance and resource implications in relation to the substantive motion. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.4	
3.5	
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

