

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



**Belfast
City Council**

18th February, 2022

MEETING OF STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet remotely via Teams on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022 at 5.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

RONAN CREGAN

Deputy Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

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

2. Motions

- (a) Notice of Motion - Energy Price Crises (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Illumination of Belfast Castle for the Samaritans (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Historic Belfast Street Signs (Pages 9 - 12)
- (d) Notice of Motion - Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service (Pages 13 - 16)
- (e) Notice of Motion - Mountainview Centre (Pages 17 - 20)



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Energy Price Crises
Date:	22nd February, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>

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

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 March in relation to the Energy Price Crises.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the People and Communities Committee.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="272 259 427 293"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 327 1452 394">3.1 The Committee will be aware Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r) as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October is as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="165 461 1473 1368">3.2</p> <div data-bbox="323 461 1473 1368"> <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> </div> <p data-bbox="165 1424 802 1458">3.3 The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="272 1525 555 1559"><u>Energy Price Crises</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1592 1473 1693">This Council notes the spiralling cost of energy bills and the increased pressure on households across the City particularly the most vulnerable. In order to provide long-term solutions to escalating energy prices this Council will:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 1727 1369 2007" style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to civic leadership on the development of community energy projects across the City. These projects will focus on developing renewable energy in partnership with communities and expert organisations, including the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and sourcing financing for these community energy projects; • Engage with the Department for the Economy for support in developing community energy schemes; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write to the UK Government Treasury stating our support for a Windfall Tax on the Energy Companies who have recorded record profits. <p>For the purpose of this motion, the use of the term 'community energy' to mean community projects or initiatives focused on the four strands of reducing energy use, managing energy better, generating energy or purchasing energy. This included communities of place and communities of interest. These projects or initiatives share an emphasis on community ownership, leadership or control where the community benefits.</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor O'Hara</p>
3.4	<p>The Committee should note that the People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.</p> <p>Therefore, the motion should, in the first instance, be referred to the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Illumination for the Samaritans 21st December
Date:	22nd February, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>

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

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 March in relation to the illumination of the Belfast Castle on 21st December.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="272 259 429 293"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 327 1452 394">3.1 The Committee will be aware Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r) as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October is as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="165 461 1473 1368">3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="325 461 1473 629">(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> <li data-bbox="325 663 1473 831">(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> <li data-bbox="349 864 1473 965">(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> <li data-bbox="349 999 1473 1066">(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> <li data-bbox="349 1099 1473 1200">(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> <li data-bbox="349 1234 1473 1368">(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 data-bbox="165 1424 802 1458">3.3 The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="272 1525 970 1559"><u>Illumination for the Samaritans on 21st December</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1592 1473 1827">“This Council commends and recognises the extraordinary efforts of the Samaritans during the period of Covid 19 and beyond. The ability of the volunteers to react quickly and effectively during the pandemic and to continue to offer support to anyone who needs a listening ear day or night, 365 days a year is to be commended. This Council also recognises the mental health challenges facing our society and agrees to light up the Belfast Castle in green (Samaritan colours) to mark the Longest Night on 21st December, to show people that the Samaritans are always there for them.”</p> <p data-bbox="272 1895 616 1928">Proposer: Councillor Kyle</p> <p data-bbox="272 1962 644 1995">Seconder: Councillor Lyons</p>

3.4	The Committee should note that the motion originally requested that the City Hall be illuminated on this date. However, in line with previous years, the proposer was advised that the building could not make use of the illuminate facilities during that period due to the Christmas lighting and therefore is seeking to have the Belfast Castle lit up on that date instead.
3.5	As the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for illuminate policy, the motion should, in the first instance, be referred to that Committee.
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Historic Belfast Street Signs
Date:	22nd February, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>

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

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 March in relation to Historic Belfast Street Signs.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the Planning Committee.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="276 264 427 297"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="276 331 1465 398">The Committee will be aware Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r) as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October is as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="167 465 212 499">3.2</p> <div data-bbox="323 465 1473 1373"> <p data-bbox="323 465 1473 633">(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 data-bbox="323 667 1473 835">(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 data-bbox="323 869 1473 969">(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 data-bbox="323 1003 1473 1070">(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 data-bbox="323 1104 1473 1205">(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 data-bbox="323 1238 1473 1373">(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> </div> <p data-bbox="167 1429 212 1462">3.3</p> <p data-bbox="276 1429 802 1462">The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="276 1529 675 1563"><u>Historic Belfast Street Signs</u></p> <p data-bbox="276 1597 1473 1731">“This Council recognises the important role that traditional black tile street signs play in the built heritage of Belfast and the aesthetic benefits they bring to the character of the city. However, it notes with concern the absence of robust protections to ensure their upkeep, which could put at direct threat this significant part of Belfast’s history.</p> <p data-bbox="276 1765 1473 1832">The Council therefore agrees to undertake a review with the aim of identifying firm and practical recommendations for implementation in consideration of the following:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 1865 1385 2069" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="323 1865 1385 1933">• Creating a register of all historic street signs in Belfast including, where possible, details of their ownership; <li data-bbox="323 1966 1385 2069">• Putting in place arrangements for the timely repair and upkeep of historic street signs, including those which are listed and in council ownership, and those that are not listed;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing arrangements for the reinstatement of signs which would have originally been traditional black signs but have subsequently been replaced with generic street signs – this could be done when the generic sign needs replaced at the natural end of its lifespan or after damage. Reinstatements should use the traditional white font and black background and may include the use of other materials if appropriate and more practical; Assessing whether steps should be undertaken to request the listing of all traditional Belfast street signs to provide them with legal protection, particularly those that are not in council ownership and may currently have to protection; Putting in place requisite resources to enable the above to be rolled out and continued, including accessing government or third party funding if available to enable heritage and protection work to be undertaken; and Any other relevant issues which arise during the course of this review.” <p>Proposer: Councillor McKeown</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor de Faoite</p>
3.4	<p>The Committee should note that a motion which incorporated some of the areas above had previously been referred to the Planning Committee:</p> <p>http://www.internalminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=167&MID=9745#AI56216.</p>
3.5	<p>A number of the street signs set out in the motion were subsequently listed:</p> <p>http://www.internalminutes/documents/s90925/20210420HEDListingStreetSigns.pdf</p>
3.6	<p>Officers from Building Control, Planning and City Services are seeking to progress the work set out in paragraph 3 of the original motion and therefore the motion should, in the first instance, be referred to Planning Committee to allow it to determine whether it wishes to incorporate the additional requests.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Belfast Citywide Tribunal Services
Date:	22nd February, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>

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

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 March in relation to Belfast Citywide Tribunal Services.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="276 255 432 293"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="276 327 1453 394">The Committee will be aware Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r) as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October is as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="167 461 209 499">3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="323 461 1473 629">(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> <li data-bbox="323 663 1473 831">(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> <li data-bbox="347 864 1473 965">(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> <li data-bbox="347 999 1473 1066">(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> <li data-bbox="347 1099 1473 1200">(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> <li data-bbox="347 1234 1473 1368">(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 data-bbox="167 1424 209 1462">3.3</p> <p data-bbox="276 1424 802 1462">The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="276 1529 743 1563"><u>Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service</u></p> <p data-bbox="276 1597 1417 1664">This Council notes with concern that the Belfast Citywide Tribunal service once again faces a lack of funding, putting staff jobs and a vital service at risk.</p> <p data-bbox="276 1697 1417 1798">Additionally, the Council is deeply disappointed that the Department for Communities has failed to provide core funding for this service, despite the impact this will have on workers and working class communities in particular.</p> <p data-bbox="276 1832 1417 1933">Given the vast amount of successful tribunal appeals, the Council recognises that there is an onus on the Executive to fund a tribunal service which is capable of addressing the flawed welfare system.</p> <p data-bbox="276 1966 1417 2067">However, given that core funding is not forthcoming and the upcoming election leaves uncertainty about future funding, the Council agrees that measure should be taken to ensure the service can stay open for the next year.</p>

	<p>Accordingly, the Council agrees to fund the Tribunal services an amount of £342,278, from its reserves if necessary, to maintain the service and stave off redundancies.</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Ferguson</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Matt Collins</p>
3.4	<p>As the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the allocation of the Council's resources and, in particular the Council's reserves, the motion should, in the first instance, be referred to that Committee.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Mountainview Centre
Date:	22nd February, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>

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

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 March in relation to the Mountainview Centre.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the motion and agree to either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting or reject the motion.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="272 259 427 293"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="164 327 1453 394">3.1 The Committee will be aware Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r) as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October is as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="164 461 1474 1368">3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="323 461 1474 629">(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> <li data-bbox="323 663 1474 831">(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> <li data-bbox="347 864 1474 965">(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> <li data-bbox="347 999 1474 1066">(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> <li data-bbox="347 1099 1474 1200">(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> <li data-bbox="347 1234 1474 1368">(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 data-bbox="164 1424 802 1458">3.3 The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="272 1491 571 1525"><u>Mountainview Centre</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1559 1474 1626">This Council notes with concern that the childcare service at Mountainview Centre in West Belfast is due to close in the coming weeks.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1659 1474 1727">This follows a recent announcement by the Ardmonagh Family Centre, also based on the Upper Springfield Road, that it too, is reluctantly having to terminate its services.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1760 1474 1861">The Council recognises the vital resource that the Mountainview Centre has been to a large number of families over many years; by providing after schools activities and childcare services at an affordable rate.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1895 1474 1962">The Council believes the closure of this service will have a negative impact on families in West Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1995 1474 2063">This Council also expresses concern that several staff will face redundancy as a result of this closure.</p>

	<p>Given the recent spiralling cost of living, and the inability for working class families to access affordable childcare, it is imperative that this centre remains open to provide after schools services and creche facilities at an affordable rate for parents.</p> <p>The Council resolves to convene an urgent cross-party meeting, reaching out to both the Education and Communities Ministers and their officials, as well as Council officers and staff of the Mountainview Centre, in order to explore the possibility of keeping the doors of this invaluable service open.</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Matt Collins</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Ferguson</p>
3.4	<p>The motion calls on the Council to convene a meeting to explore the possibility of keeping the service open - no cost implications to the Council – can be adopted by the Committee, referred to the Council for debate or rejected.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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