

# Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

27th March, 2024

## **MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Thursday, 28th March, 2024 at 5.30 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 - Endorsement of Plant Based Treaty (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Bilingual Signage at Weavers Cross (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Notice of Motion - International Dark Skies Week (Pages 9 - 12)

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Endorsement of Plant Based Treaty</b>
<b>Date:</b>	28th March, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><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></p> <p><b>Insert number</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <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>									
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<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 8th April in relation to Endorsement of Plant Based Treaty.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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 (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	<p>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:</p> <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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><b><u>Endorsement of Plant Based Treaty</u></b></p> <p>"Belfast City Council endorses the Plant Based Treaty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognises the need to put food systems at the heart of combating the climate crisis and encourages a shift to healthier and sustainable plant-based</li> </ul>

	<p>diets, while simultaneously working to reverse the damage to ecosystems and biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agrees to write to the NI Assembly and call for a further endorsement of the Plant Based Treaty and for a greater commitment to further transitioning towards more sustainable plant-based food systems.”</li> </ul> <p>Proposer: Councillor Paul Doherty</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Gary McKeown</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to write to the NI Assembly for the endorsement of the Plant Based Treaty - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Bilingual Signage at Weavers Cross</b>
<b>Date:</b>	28th March, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 8th April in relation to Bilingual Signage at Weavers Cross.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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 (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	<p>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:</p> <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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><b><u>Bilingual Signage at Weavers Cross</u></b></p> <p>“Belfast City Council acknowledges the significant progress made in promoting the Irish language within our jurisdiction, including the formulation of a Language Strategy in 2018, the revision of the dual language street signage policy in 2022, and the formulation of a draft Irish language policy in 2024.</p>



3.3	<p>To further this commitment, the Council fully supports the installation of bilingual internal and external signage at Cros na bhFíodóirí - Weavers Cross - Belfast's new Grand Central Station.</p> <p>As a result, this Council will also write to Translink urging them to install bilingual signage at Weavers Cross and to ask what steps they are taking to fulfil their obligations under the European Charter for Regional &amp; Minority Languages and ensuring shared public spaces are welcoming and cater to the bespoke needs of the Irish language community.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Róis-Máire Donnelly</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Tomás Ó Néill</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to write to Translink urging them to install bilingual signage at Weavers Cross - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – International Dark Skies Week</b>
<b>Date:</b>	28th March, 2024
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<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
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 (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
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3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><b><u>International Dark Skies Week</u></b></p> <p>“We call upon the Council to pledge support for Belfast to be part of ‘International Dark Skies Week’ from 2nd to 8th April 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will coincide with public events that are part of Belfast 2024 project ‘Right to the Night’ led by artist Aisling O’Beirn and art organisation</li> </ul>

	<p>Household, including 2 guided night walks in North Belfast (one on shared reading and one on sense of smell);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include participation in the week, raising awareness of the impact of light pollution on climate, environmental species and biodiversity, human sleep patterns and access to seeing the stars. Also raising awareness of solutions to protect dark skies while enjoying good outdoor lighting;</li> <li>• Will include the issuing of a statement that signals Belfast’s participation in the week and support by the Council; and</li> <li>• Request that the City Hall Lights be switched off on a date during that week.”</li> </ul> <p>Proposer: Councillor Áine Groogan</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to support International Dark Skies Week through a number of actions - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>

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