

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



**Belfast
City Council**

21st August, 2026

STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in hybrid format, both in the Lavery Room - City Hall and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Tuesday, 25th August, 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 - Mobile Maternity Units for Gaza (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Open Doors World Watch 2026 (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Evidence-based Approach to Preventing Radicalisation and Supporting the De-Radicalisation of Young Men (Pages 9 - 12)
- (d) Notice of Motion - Parks Outreach Team (Pages 13 - 16)



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Mobile Maternity Units for Gaza
Date:	25th August, 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 September, 2026 in relation to Mobile Maternity Units for Gaza.
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 (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
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>Mobile Maternity Units for Gaza</u> “This Council:

3.3	Notes with grave concern the continuing genocide and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the devastating impact on pregnant women, newborn babies and families requiring urgent medical care. Further notes that three mobile maternity units have been developed to provide safe and secure maternity and newborn care for women and babies in Gaza. Commends the extraordinary fundraising efforts of Gaels Against Genocide and communities across Belfast, the North and Ireland which have made these three mobile maternity units possible. Many Belfast residents have contributed directly to this humanitarian effort, demonstrating the depth of solidarity in our city with Palestinian women, babies and families. Is deeply concerned that, despite these efforts and the urgent humanitarian need, the units have not been permitted to enter Gaza. Believes that humanitarian medical aid must never be blocked, and that pregnant women and babies must be protected in all circumstances. Agrees to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister, and all Executive Ministers, calling on the Northern Ireland Executive to make urgent representations to the Irish Government, UK Government and relevant international bodies to secure the immediate and unrestricted entry of these mobile maternity units into Gaza. Proposer: Councillor Paul Doherty Seconder: Councillor Paul McCusker
3.4	The motion calls upon on the Council to write to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to make urgent representations to the Irish Government, UK Government and relevant international bodies to secure the immediate and unrestricted entry of these mobile maternity units into Gaza, the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
3.5	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Open Doors World Watch 2026
Date:	25th August, 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 September, 2026 in relation to Open Doors World Watch 2026.
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 (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
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>Open Doors World Watch List 2026</u> “Belfast City Council notes with profound concern that more than 388 million Christians around the world face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.

	The Council further notes the findings of the Open Doors World Watch List 2026, including that 4,849 Christians were killed worldwide during the reporting period because of their Christian identity, of whom 3,490 were killed in Nigeria. The Council expresses particular concern at the extreme levels of violence, persecution and displacement faced by Christians in Nigeria and recognises that these events will also be of particular concern to members of Belfast's Christian and Nigerian communities, including those with family and community connections to Nigeria. The Council further notes the recent European Parliament resolution condemning the ongoing persecution of Christians in Nigeria and calling for greater protection and accountability. Therefore, this Council notes the Open Doors World Watch List 2026 Advocacy Report and commits to: • Condemning the persecution, discrimination and violence faced by Christians around the world; • Writing to the UK Government urging it to continue to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief as a leading priority in foreign policy and diplomatic engagement; • Urging the UK Government, through its engagement with Nigeria, to press the Nigerian Government to take effective action to protect vulnerable communities, tackle the culture of impunity surrounding attacks, and ensure that those responsible for violence against Christians and other civilians are brought to justice; and • Highlighting the findings of the World Watch List 2026 and the plight of persecuted Christians on the Council's social media channels." Proposer: Alderman Dean A. McCullough Seconder: Councillor Bradley Ferguson
3.3	The motion calls upon on the Council to endorse the Open Doors World Watch 2026 Advocacy Report, the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>

	None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Evidence-based Approach to Preventing Radicalisation and Supporting the de-radicalisation of young men
Date:	25th August, 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 September, 2026 in relation to Evidence-based Approach to Preventing Radicalisation and supporting the de-radicalisation of young men.
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 (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
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>Evidence-based approach to preventing radicalisation</u>

3.3	<u>and supporting the de-radicalisation of young men</u> “This Council unequivocally condemns the recent knife attack and expresses its solidarity with those affected; • further condemns attempts to exploit this or any other serious crime to inflame racial tensions, spread hatred or justify violence against minority communities; • Notes with alarm the growing challenge of far-right, misogynistic and xenophobic radicalisation among young men, and recognises that children and young people, as they develop their identity and seek belonging and purpose, can be particularly vulnerable to radicalisation; • Recognises that many young men are drawn towards extremist ideas not through deep ideological commitment, but through a search for belonging, respect, identity and community, particularly where they experience isolation, disadvantage or poverty; • Acknowledges the role that far-right radicalisation has played in racist violence and disorder in our city and expresses alarm at the disturbing rise in recorded hate crimes and incidents; • Expresses concern that, without effective early intervention, more young men will be vulnerable to individuals and organisations which deliberately exploit grievance, alienation and insecurity to spread hatred and prejudice; • Calls on the Executive Office and Department of Justice to develop a new, evidence-based approach to preventing radicalisation and supporting the de-radicalisation of young men, drawing on international best practice and developed in partnership with experts and practitioners in education, youth work and community development; • Further calls for this approach to go beyond traditional forms of outreach and engage young people in the spaces where radicalisation increasingly takes place, including social media, online communities and gaming platforms.” Proposer: Councillor Carl Whyte Seconder: Councillor Séamas de Faoite The motion calls upon on the Council to write to the Executive Office and Department of Justice to develop a new, evidence-based approach to preventing radicalisation and supporting the de-radicalisation of young men, drawing on international best practice and developed in partnership with experts and practitioners in education, youth work and
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3.4	community development, the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
3.5	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Parks Outreach Team
Date:	25th August, 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 September, 2026 in relation to the Parks Outreach Team.
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 People and Communities 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>

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3.2	The following motion has been received: <u>Parks Outreach Team</u> Belfast City Council: • Recognises the value of our parks and open spaces and the role they play in our communities; • Acknowledges the significant and positive work of the Parks Outreach Team in engaging with people and communities across the city; • Agrees that to support and enhance this work further, promote environmental and horticultural educational opportunities, facilitate community-focused activities and social engagement, and support biodiversity initiatives, it will develop a new strategic approach for the identification and establishment of outreach hubs within the parks estate, and associated programming; • Will use this new approach to consider how our parks and green spaces can be better used by residents and community and voluntary groups; any adaptations required to identified locations to enable this; and a long-term programme of activity to complement the existing work of the Parks Outreach team. Proposer: Councillor Gary McKeown Seconder: Councillor Séamas de Faoite
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to agree a long-term programme of activity to complement the existing work of Parks Outreach Team. The People and Communities Committee is responsible for managing, maintaining and maximising the benefit of the Council's parks, pitches, playgrounds and other public spaces and the motion will be referred to that Committee.
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached

	None.
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