Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held Remotely, via Microsoft Teams on
Friday, 10th July, 2026 at 12.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Lord Mayor, Councillor R.M. Donnelly (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland, Lawlor, McCullough
and Rodgers; and
Councillors Anglin, Beattie, Black, Bradley,
Brennan, R. Brooks, Bunting, Canavan, Carson,
Cobain, Collins, de Faoite, M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly,
Doran, D. Douglas, S. Douglas, Duffy, Ferguson, Flynn,
Garrett, Groogan, Kelly, Long, Lyons, Magee, Maghie,
McAteer, McCabe, McCallin, McCann, McCormick,
McDonough-Brown, McDowell, McKay, McKeown,
I. McLaughlin, R. McLaughlin, Meenehan, Murphy,
Murray, Nelson, Ó Néill, Smyth, Verner and Walsh.

Summons

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Abernethy) and Councillors Bell, Bower, T. Brooks and Whyte.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Motion on Bilingual Interpretive Panels at the Assembly Rooms

In accordance with notice on the agenda, it was

Moved by Councillor Murphy,
Seconded by Councillor R. McLaughlin,

“This Council agrees to grant officers delegated authority to progress, approve and erect bilingual interpretive panels at the Assembly Rooms.

The purpose of these panels will be to promote the history, heritage and cultural significance of the Assembly Rooms in both Irish and English and to ensure that this important civic and historic space is better presented and accessible to residents and visitors.

The Council further agrees that officers should seek to have these bilingual panels designed, produced and installed in advance of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, so that they are available as part of the wider visitor experience during the festival."

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Bunting,
Seconded by Councillor Kelly,

That the motion standing in the name of Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor R. McLaughlin be amended as follows:

> **Replace** all 'bilingual' with 'trilingual' and, in the second paragraph after 'Assembly Rooms', **replace** 'in both Irish and English' with 'to both the main communities of Belfast in English, Ulster Scots and Irish'.

The motion, as amended, therefore read:

> "This Council agrees to grant officers delegated authority to progress, approve and erect trilingual interpretive panels at the Assembly Rooms.
>
> The purpose of these panels will be to promote the history, heritage and cultural significance of the Assembly Rooms to both the main communities of Belfast in English, Ulster Scots and Irish and to ensure that this important civic and historic space is better presented and accessible to residents and visitors.
>
> The Council further agrees that officers should seek to have these trilingual panels designed, produced and installed in advance of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, so that they are available as part of the wider visitor experience during the festival."

The amendment was put to the Council and on a vote, twenty-seven Members voted for the amendment and twenty-two against and it was declared carried.

The amendment was thereupon put to the Council as the substantive motion and on a vote, twenty-eight Members voted for the motion and twenty-two against and it was declared passed.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson