

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Tuesday, 1st October, 2019, immediately following the conclusion of the special meeting scheduled for 5.30pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 18)
5. Official Announcements
6. Request to Address the Council

To consider a request from Ms. B. Ruddy, Chair of College Park Residents Association to address the Council in relation to the motion on Anti-social Behaviour - Holylands being proposed by Councillor Groogan.

7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 19 - 78)
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 79 - 104)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 105 - 168)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 169 - 180)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 181 - 200)
12. Brexit Committee (Pages 201 - 218)
13. Notices of Motion
 - a) Attacks on Places of Worship

Proposed by Alderman Copeland

Seconded by Alderman Rodgers

“That this Council notes recently published research from the charity CARE NI, that found 445 attacks have been recorded on places of worship in Northern Ireland in just the last 3 years: Notes with concern that 147 of these despicable attacks were recorded in the Belfast City Policing District; unreservedly condemns all attacks on places of worship, no matter of faith or denomination, and upholds the important human right for individuals to be free to worship and live out their faith in this society.

This Council also notes the operation of the Places of worship Security Scheme in England and Wales and expresses regret that a similar scheme is not available in Northern Ireland; and therefore agrees to write to the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Office calling for the swift introduction of a similar scheme locally”.

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Integrated Education

Proposed by Councillor McAllister

Seconded by Councillor Graham

“Belfast City Council, in seeking to encourage and support reconciliation in Northern Ireland, congratulates the Integrated Education Fund and the Northern Ireland Council on Integrated Education, on being nominated for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Animal Cruelty

Proposed by Councillor McKeown

Seconded by Councillor Flynn

“Council condemns animal cruelty in all forms; notes the effective framework currently in place for punishing offenders and imposing appropriate sentences which serve as a deterrent to others; recognises the excellent enforcement work of Council Animal Welfare Officers and that of the USPCA in challenging cruel behaviour toward animals as well as supporting rehoming initiatives for those animals that have suffered abuse or neglect; further notes with concern that there is no centrally accessible register of those convicted of animal cruelty offences and resolves to write to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Justice and the Irish Government to raise these concerns and propose a central all-island register of animal abusers.”

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Electricity Price Hikes

Proposed by Councillor Michael Collins

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

“Council condemns plans to hike electricity and energy prices across Belfast, with, for example, Power NI planning to raise their prices by 6%, SSE Airtricity by almost 7% and Electric Ireland by 8%. Council notes that some of these companies have increased their prices for the past 3 years. Council believes that this is grossly unfair, particularly given the fact that prices on the wholesale gas market have fallen by 49% over the last 12 months. Council believes that every effort should be made to oppose these hikes and wishes to see an immediate energy cap put in place. Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the utility regulator to argue for the above”.

(To be debated by the Council)

e) NIPSA Strike

Proposed by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Councillor Matt Collins

“Council notes that NIPSA members have planned strike action for Thursday 3 October. Council also notes that public sector workers have faced years of wage freezes and attacks on working conditions. Council believes that in this context strike action is a measured and appropriate response to the paltry pay deal that is currently being offered to public sector workers.

To this end, Council fully supports NIPSA in their campaign for better pay and better terms and conditions, including strike action. Council sends particular support to those workers on picket lines on Thursday. Finally, Council agrees that the Chief Executive should write to Permanent Secretary of the Department for Finance, Sue Gray, to implore her to immediately revisit the issue of public sector pay and reconsider the offer extended.”

(To be debated by the Council)

f) Imposition of Non-Devolved Legislation on Abortion

Proposed by Alderman Kingston

Seconded by Councillor Bunting

“This Council deeply regrets the recent amendment of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill at Westminster to include the imposition of major changes to abortion law in Northern Ireland. The immediate implications of this Bill are that abortion on request will be legalised to the point of viability and potentially beyond, up to 28 weeks depending on legal interpretation.

Council notes that no consultation took place with the people of Northern Ireland on the amendments at Westminster related to the Abortion clause. The process which led to this section being passed into law was deeply flawed and has significant detrimental consequences for devolution and for local people.

We consider this course of action goes far beyond the public conversation which has been happening in Northern Ireland over recent years about amending the law to allow abortion in cases of life-limiting conditions deemed fatal before, during or shortly after birth. This Council recognises that a restored Northern Ireland Assembly would consider these cases within its own legislative remit and that is where these matters should be determined.

Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Julian Smith MP, to express our strong opposition to this over-riding of devolved legislation on this fundamental matter of conscience”.

(To be debated by the Council)

g) Srebrenica Genocide

Proposed by Councillor Dorrian

Seconded by Councillor McMullan

“This council continues to stand with those who suffered as a result of the Srebrenica genocide. We will continue to support those who suffered during this shameful time and mark the occasion with a suitable event, which informs the wider community and promotes the message of reconciliation.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

h) Alley-gating Programme

Proposed by Councillor Brooks

Seconded by Councillor M. Kelly

"This Council will undertake a review of the effectiveness of its alley-gating programme to date, and look to build delivery partnerships with other agencies, should internal funding not be available to gate those areas still on waiting list".

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

- i) Anti-social Behaviour - Holylands

Proposed by Councillor Groogan

Seconded by Councillor McKeown

"This Council condemns the persistent and serious anti-social behaviour that residents of the Holylands and the surrounding area endure throughout the year due to the high numbers of HMOs that exist there.

This council will review its policy for dealing with all aspects of anti-social behaviour in the Holylands area, particularly around on-street drinking, noise and littering and bring forward an action plan for tackling the ongoing problems experienced in this area.

This council also notes the worryingly high levels of crime in a small, densely populated area of this city and commits to working with statutory partners to bring back CCTV units to the area as one of the means to tackle this issue."

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

- j) Notice of Motion Update

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl

Seconded by The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds

“That this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:

1. Date received
2. Notice of motion title
3. Submitted by which Councillor
4. Council meeting date
5. Committee motion is referred to
6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated
7. Month it will be reported back to committee
8. Other action to be taken.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

k) Environmental Implications of Decision Making

Proposed by Councillor de Faoite

Seconded by Councillor McKeown

“This Council:

Recognises that many of the decisions taken by Council can and will have environmental implications, whether intentional or not;

Believes that information about the environmental impact of decisions made by Council can help to inform elected members and officers about more sustainable and resilient practices and approaches;

Agrees to include details of the environmental implications of proposals or decisions in all reports which are brought to Council or any of the Standing Committees or Working Groups”.

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

l) Climate Change

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara

Seconded by Councillor Matt Collins

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"This Council notes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, which tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities and notes the UK Governments target of reducing emissions to net-zero by 2050. Council also notes the recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) reports on global species and habitat loss. This Council has supported a motion to declare a Climate Emergency and in light of these, this Council commits to a more ambitious and more urgent target of net-zero emissions than 2050. This target will be informed by the work undertaken below and will reflect the ambition of similar cities in the UK with an initial interim target of 80% by 2030.

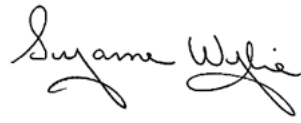
Council therefore;

- Commits to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation as urgently as possible, and will publish an evidence-based decision on a target year by 2021 (including Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol);
- Requests that the Chief Executive reports back to Council within eighteen months with an Action Plan and 'roadmap' to ensure that Belfast City Council becomes a carbon-neutral organisation by a recommended date;
- Requests that the Chief Executive reports back to Council by 2021 with detailed information about how the Council will work with partners across the Belfast City Council Area and with central and devolved government to seek to ensure that Belfast District's net carbon emissions (Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3) are reduced by 80% as speedily as possible compared to 2005 levels. This will include a resourcing plan for the Council and what that will require in terms of council decision making on the rates consequences. The working group will also receive a report on the costs and activities required to develop a deliverable plan, including the expertise that will need to be procured;
- Requests that Council immediately establish a Resilience and Sustainability Board similar to that in Manchester, to underpin our efforts to decarbonise Belfast;
- Requests that the Council writes to the Central and Devolved government requesting:

(a) additional powers and funding to make our climate mitigation and adaptation work possible; and

(b) that Ministers work with other governments to ensure that the UK maximizes carbon reduction urgently in line with the overriding need to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C."

The Members of Belfast City Council are hereby summoned to attend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a prominent flourish at the end.

Chief Executive