



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Citizen’s Forum for Belfast
Date:	25th October, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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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 November in relation to a Citizen’s Forum for Belfast
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
3.1	<p data-bbox="316 297 470 331"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 365 1492 432">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> <div data-bbox="316 499 1516 1406"> <p data-bbox="316 499 1516 667">3.2 (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="316 701 1516 869">(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="316 902 1516 1003">(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="316 1037 1516 1104">(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="316 1137 1516 1238">(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="316 1272 1516 1406">(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="316 1440 842 1473">3.3 The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="316 1507 694 1541"><u>Citizen's Forum for Belfast</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 1597 1412 1731">"Without prejudice to the constitutional position of the citizens of Belfast, this Council will establish a citizens' forum to discuss the possibility of future constitutional change and the planning that will be necessary in advance of any referendum.</p> <p data-bbox="316 1765 1412 1832">The Citizen's Forum should also examine the potential benefits for the City of Belfast that would arise from any new constitutional arrangement.</p> <p data-bbox="316 1865 1236 1899">This forum will be reflective of the totality and diversity of our society.</p> <p data-bbox="316 1933 1412 2033">Provision for a Unity referendum is contained within the Good Friday agreement, and prudent planning must take place in advance of any potential referendum to ensure that citizen's views are directly represented.</p>

3.4	<p>This Council will also write to the Taoiseach to inform him of this exercise in participative democracy by the citizens of Belfast and encourage the Irish Government to establish an All-Island Citizens Assembly which also includes the views of Belfast citizens.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Ciaran Beattie</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Ryan Murphy</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to establish a Citizen’s Forum for Belfast – can be adopted, referred to the Council for debate (with or without restrictions) or rejected.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>None.</p>