



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Future Management Structures of Lough Neagh
Date:	29th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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 4th September in relation to Future Management Structures of Lough Neagh.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion will be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="316 304 472 331"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 365 1514 432">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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="363 465 1514 633">(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> <li data-bbox="363 656 1514 824">(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> <li data-bbox="387 846 1514 947">(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> <li data-bbox="387 969 1514 1037">(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> <li data-bbox="387 1059 1514 1160">(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> <li data-bbox="387 1182 1514 1328">(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	<p data-bbox="316 1357 842 1391">The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="316 1424 986 1458"><u>Future Management Structures of Lough Neagh</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 1491 1514 1693">“The Council recognises that the recent spread of toxic blue green algae on Lough Neagh is of major concern to the residents of Belfast. Over 50% of Belfast’s water comes from Neagh. Many people will have seen many recent reports that the Lough is dying. Lough Neagh is largest lake in these islands and has been described as hyper- eutrophic - in other words the Lough suffers from nutrient enrichment mainly from human sewage and agricultural run-off both directly into the Lough and the wider water catchment.</p> <p data-bbox="316 1727 1514 1895">This severe deterioration in water quality is the latest in a number of problems ranging from extractive industries, invasive species, and the depletion in the numbers of fish and birds. If Lough Neagh was a person, it would be described as having multiple organ failure. Over decades the current management and ownership structures have proven incapable of dealing with these complex problems</p> <p data-bbox="316 1928 1514 2027">For such a strategic asset and its importance for drinking water, fishing, culture, recreation and biodiversity, Lough Neagh deserves a more effective form of ownership and a management structure that works in the public interest to deal with these multiple problems.</p>

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>It is the Council’s view that the public acquisition of Lough Neagh is sought from Lord Shaftesbury, including acquiring the bed of the Lough. Furthermore, the Council supports a new legal right of nature for Lough Neagh that guarantees a model of ownership that protects the rights of Lough Neagh to exist and evolve. Finally, the Council recognises that public acquisition of Lough must involve in the future participation of the Lough Neagh communities in any future decision making for the Lough.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Anthony Flynn</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to seek from Lord Shaftesbury the public acquisition of Lough Neagh. The motion should be referred in the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which has responsibility for managing and maintaining the corporate land bank and city assets, including the City Hall, and is also responsible for making strategic policy decisions.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>