



Subject:	Night-time Economy Notice of Motion
Date:	11 th September 2024
Reporting Officer:	Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager

Restricted Reports											
Is this report restricted?	Yes	No	X								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 											
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>				After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Call-in			
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Night-time Economy Notice of Motion which is recommended for closure as part of the quarterly NoM update.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update on action in relation to the Notice of Motion on Belfast City’s Nightlife and Night-time economy; and • Agree that members engage with the newly appointed Night Czar through the City Centre All-Party Working Group.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>At the City Growth & Regeneration Committee meeting on 4th October 2021 Councillor de Faoite raised a Notice of Motion focussed on Belfast City’s Nightlife and Night-time Economy which sought to deliver two specific actions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a roundtable engagement event which seeks to identify the main challenges facing the city center’s evening and nighttime economy (ENTE) and opportunities for the future; and • the establishment of an ENTE ‘coordinator’.
3.2	<p>At a meeting of the City Centre All-Party Working Group (CCAPWG) on 26th January 2023, members welcomed Amy Lamé, London’s Night Czar, who provided an overview of her background, role and collaborative approach to ensuring London thrives as a 24-hour city. Ms. Lamé outlined the challenges that she had faced, including changing perceptions of the city at night, ensuring women felt safe in London at night, addressing issues relating to nighttime workers and improving nighttime transport links. Members heard that key to addressing these challenges was working in partnership with the nighttime industries, local authorities, the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London and the general public.</p>
3.3	<p>At the same meeting members also received a presentation from the council’s Director of Economic Development who provided an update on council related work which was assisting with the revitalisation effort of the night-time economy following the Covid pandemic. This included a presentation on case studies and best practice from other cities and information on Belfast’s Purple Flag status. (Purple Flag is an internationally recognised accreditation for excellence in the nighttime economy and helped to create safe and thriving locations at night for all users).</p>
3.4	<p>Belfast City Centre First Achieved Purple Flag Status in 2020, just prior to the lock down and more recently Belfast City Council had joined the Steering Group that was seeking re-accreditation. Membership of the group included representatives from the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast One BID; • Linen Quarter BID; • Destination CQ BID; • Belfast City Council; • Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce; • PSNI; • SOS Bus; • Value Cabs; • Hospitality Ulster; and • Translink.

3.5	As part of its recent application for Purple Flag status the Steering Group undertook a self-assessment evening in September 2023 which identified the main challenges facing the city's nighttime economy and a number of areas of improvement in relation to the Purple Flag themes. Belfast City Centre's Purple Flag status was successfully re-certified in January 2024 (following an assessment conducted by assessors in November 2023).
3.6	The CCAPWG received a presentation from Chris McCracken, Managing Director of the Linen Quarter BID (on behalf of the Purple Flag Steering Group) at its May 2024 meeting. Mr. McCracken updated the working group on the latest status and outlined the next steps of the process, which included addressing a number of recommendations within the assessors' feedback report (attached at Appendix 1). It was agreed that the CCAPWG would be used to collate and direct Members' feedback to the ongoing work of the Purple Flag Steering Group.
3.7	<p><u>Night Czar</u></p> <p>On 11th June 2024, Belfast's three BIDs (Linen Quarter, Belfast One and Destination CQ) announced the appointment of Michael Stewart as Belfast's city centre's first Night Czar. The role reflects a previous Purple Flag recommendation and will focus to enhancing, coordinating, leading and advocating for the city's night-time economy. The Night Czar position follows appointments in cities such as London, Manchester, and Edinburgh and is an honorary role attracting remuneration of £12K per year which is jointly funded by the three BIDs.</p>
3.8	Following discussion at the May CCAPWG, it was recommended that the Night Czar should be invited to future meetings to engage with elected members. It was proposed that the working group would enable ongoing political engagement to ensure that elected representative's feedback could be provided and discussed (as suggested by best practice from other cities).
3.10	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications attached to this report. Finance and resource implications are considered by Committee when taking decisions on the specific Notices of Motion and Issues Raised by Members.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	Appendix 1 - Purple Flag Assessor's full renewal report