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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Notice of Motion – UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b>              |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 27th January, 2026   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager            |

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

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 2nd February, 2026 in relation to UK Shared Prosperity Fund.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
| 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.  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
|            | <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>3.1 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> <p>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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> <p>3.2 The following motion has been received:</p> <p><b><u>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</u></b></p> <p>“The Council notes the planned transition from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to the UK Government’s Local Growth Fund from April 2026.</p> |

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|  | <p>The Council recognises the vital role played by community organisations and disability-led and that support independent living, inclusion, advocacy, early intervention and preventative services across our city.</p> <p>The Council further recognises that many of these organisations are heavily reliant on revenue funding to employ staff and deliver frontline support; and that the proportion of capital investment proposed cannot sustain these services.</p> <p>The Council expresses disappointment that, once again, many staff within community organisations and disability-led are being placed on notice that their roles may end at the close of the financial year due to yet more funding uncertainty.</p> <p>The Council expresses concern that the transition to the Local Growth Fund without sufficient clarity or a balanced approach between capital and revenue funding, risks having a disproportionate impact on jobless, under skilled and disabled people and the organisations that support them.</p> <p>The Council is further concerned that the capital-led approach of the Local Growth Fund is poorly aligned with Northern Ireland's needs and fundamentally misaligned with the intent of the European Social Fund it was designed to replace, resulting in insufficient support for revenue-funded services that address economic inactivity, disability and long-term exclusion.</p> <p>Therefore, the Council agrees to write to the UK Government to express its strong disappointment that the transition to the Local Growth Fund has resulted in a reduction in revenue funding for community organisations and disability-led placing staff on notice and putting essential frontline services at risk for some of the most vulnerable people in our society."</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Ruth Brooks</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>3.3 The motion calls upon the Council to write to the UK Government, the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.4 None associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.5 None associated with this report.</p> <p><b>4.0 Documents Attached</b></p> <p>None.</p> |
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