



Subject:	Notice of Motion – City Centre Gritting Feasibility Study
Date:	20th February, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

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"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to City Centre Gritting Feasibility Study, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 27th January, 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or fall within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

	At this stage, the Committee is asked to note that the notice of motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought back to the Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 27th January, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Smyth and seconded by Councillor Groogan was referred to the Committee for consideration:</p>
3.2	<p><u>City Centre Gritting Feasibility Study</u></p> <p>“This Council notes that the Department for Infrastructure currently grits only 20% of the road network across Northern Ireland as part of its winter service programme.</p> <p>This limited coverage excludes pavements and cycle lanes, critical routes for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly in Belfast City Centre where footfall is highest.</p> <p>This Council recognises the health, safety, and accessibility issues caused by untreated pavements and active travel routes during winter months. Impacting workers, residents, those with mobility issues, and visitors as well as discouraging walking and cycling at a time when sustainable transport remains a key council priority.</p> <p>Therefore, this Council calls on the Department for Infrastructure and Belfast City Council to jointly undertake a feasibility study into the development of a winter gritting programme within the Belfast City Centre area, with a focus on pedestrian routes and cycle lanes.</p> <p>This feasibility study should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the operational and financial requirements of such a programme and explore potential sources of capital grant funding from the Department for Infrastructure for the purchase of appropriate gritting and maintenance machinery. As well as identifying how Belfast City Council could support delivery through associated staffing and coordination costs.” <p>Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Áine Groogan</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to jointly undertake a city centre gritting feasibility study. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the allocation of resources and the motion will be referred to that Committee.</p>

3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.