



<b>Subject:</b>	Official Announcements during Council Meetings
<b>Date:</b>	20th March, 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

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

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

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  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide the Committee with options in relation to Official Announcements at Council meetings.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider whether it wishes to adopt options in relation to Official Announcements at Council meetings as set out a paragraph 3.3.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2024 in relation to the volume of Official Announcements being received during Council Meetings, Councillor McLaughlin requested that options be explored on how the purpose of Official Announcements could be better utilised.
3.2	The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future Committee to outline options in relation to a potential new procedure for raising Official Announcements during Council Meetings.
3.3	It is suggested that official announcements be limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships and retirements of Belfast citizens or Belfast City Council employees;</li> <li>Achievements by local groups/organisations and/or individuals;</li> <li>Requests for the Lord Mayor to write to and/or host a group/organisation;</li> <li>Be no longer than 1 minute on duration;</li> <li>Cannot commit the Council to any position or action which should be properly brought before the relevant Committee in the first instance by way of a notice of motion or is otherwise governed by a Council Policy or existing process; and</li> <li>The Lord Mayor may depart from this Standing Order where, due to the urgency of the matter, allow it to be discussed at the Council meeting rather than it being referred to a committee.</li> </ul>
	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>
3.4	None.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.5	None associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None