



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Costed Support for the Childcare Sector</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24th April, 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Coordinator

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion in relation to Costed Support for the Childcare Sector, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 24th March 2026.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
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.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 24th March 2026, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Maghie and seconded by Councillor Bower was referred to the Committee for consideration:</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Costed Support for the Childcare Sector</u></b></p> <p>“That this council notes with regret the amount of parents who received notification of increased childcare costs in the past month and realises the increased financial burden this places on parents in this city.</p> <p>This council will undertake to bring back a costed report that looks at how council assets can better support childcare provision in Belfast.</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How our parks and open spaces could be utilised to further support the provision of forest schools.</li> <li>• How community spaces could be utilised to support expansions of childcare places.</li> <li>• How community groups could be supported to provide childcare places.</li> <li>• How our training academies could support this work.”</li> </ul> <p>Proposer: Councillor Jenna Maghie</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Christine Bower</p>
3.3	The motion calls upon the Council to bring back a report that looks at how Council assets can better support childcare provision in Belfast. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the management of assets included in the motion, therefore, the motion has been referred to this Committee for consideration.
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>

3.5	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>  None associated with this report.
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