



Subject:	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
Date:	24 April 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor & Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer(s):	Russell Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer Clare Hutchinson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance for which SP&R Committee is responsible for.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that SP&R Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the updates to all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance that SP&R Committee is responsible for and• Agree to the closure of Notices of Motion 284, 305, 347, 358, 391, 411, 439, 440, 455, 456 and 474.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> <p>At SP&R Committee on 25th October 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed: “That this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Date received2. Notice of motion title3. Submitted by which Councillor4. Council meeting date5. Committee motion is referred to6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated7. Month it will be reported back to committee8. Other action to be taken.”

3.2	<p>Following a review exercise, a new database containing all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance at Committee was created and quarterly reporting to Committee commenced in March 2021. Appendix 1 is the latest quarterly update showing all active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which SP&R Committee is responsible for.</p>
3.3	<p>Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance</p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices of Motion which contained an action(s) that has been completed; and • Notices of Motion have become Council policy. <p>SP&R Committee are asked to agree that the following are now closed:</p>
3.4	<p>Category 1 Recommended Closure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the Ceremony Room, City Hall (284): <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to submit a report on the potential for the Ceremony Room in the City Hall, which was being used to accommodate staff as part of the Covid-19 arrangements, to be reinstated for marriage and civil partnership ceremonies. Following a report on the City Hall Income Generation Project that went to SP&R Committee in May 2024, considerations relating to ceremonies and locations were clearly set out and agreed. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for striking health workers (305): <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Department for Health and the Secretary of State to urge them to source and provide a fair, above inflation pay rise for health workers. The correspondence requested was issued and the disputes were resolved in 2023-24. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of school uniforms and P.E. kits (347): <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education, expressing concern for children and their parents in relation to the cost of school uniforms and ask them to address this problem by putting in place robust and enforceable measures to require schools to provide for affordable uniform options from a range of suppliers. No return correspondence has been received. The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 came into operation in February 2026 with immediate effect. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p>

- **Ulster Bank closures (358):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to support the Financial Services Unions (FSU) and write to Ulster Bank calling on them to reverse planned branch closures. In January 2024 Council wrote to Ulster Bank and the Commissioner for Older People but no return correspondence has been received. The Financial Services Union addressed Council on 8th January 2024 in relation to these branch closures, but all were closed in 2024. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **High costs of childcare (391):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Minister of Education to bring forward a package of interventions to deliver urgent financial support for parents, a new funding scheme to guarantee sustainability for providers and increased pay and qualifications for workers and a new independent body to oversee the development and implementation of the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy. Since this motion was proposed the NI Childcare Subsidy Scheme has been introduced providing access to tax-free childcare or reimbursement through Universal Credit. As part of the initial development of the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy, the Minister announced a £55 million package of measures which included an extension of the Northern Ireland Childcare Subsidy Scheme to cover school-age children. The public consultation on the draft strategy closed in March 2026, and the Council's response was agreed and submitted. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **LORAG, Youth Club development (439):**

This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to investigate the lease and administrative fees being paid by LORAG for Council-owned land and assess the possibility of a granting a waiver. Assignment of the Lease from the Trustees of St John Vianney to LORAG was completed in November 2025 and Ministerial consent has been approved. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.

- **Bi-weekly meeting of SP&R Committee (440):**

This Issue Raised in Advance called for a special meeting of the Committee be held to consider an initial report on efficiency savings, consultancy fees and fees and charges. A special meeting of SP&R Committee was held in June 2025 in relation to this matter. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.

	<p>Category 2 Recommended Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Fundraising box at the City Hall Christmas Tree (411):</p> <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to locate a fundraising box at the City Hall Christmas Tree. A fundraising box has been located alongside the City Hall Christmas Tree in recent years with the monies raised donated to charity. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <p>The installation of dual language signage in Olympia (455):</p> <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to install dual-language signage in Olympia, including GLL/BETTER information signage. This is being progressed as part of the Physical Programme workstream. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <p>The installation of signage on the Forth-Meadow Greenway (456):</p> <p>This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to install dual-language signage on the Forth-Meadow Greenway. This is being progressed as part of the Physical Programme workstream. It is proposed that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.</p> <p>Together – Building a United Community Strategy (474):</p> <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to remove the interface barrier in Alexandra Park as part of the Reconnecting Waterworks and Alexandra Park project and bring forward an accompanying programme of work with local stakeholders to establish support to assist with the transition. This programme of work is being progressed under the PEACEPLUS Reconnected Belfast project. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</p>
3.6	<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	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – SP&R Committee</p>