



Subject:	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
Date:	19 th June 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor & Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer(s):	Christina Bateson, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer Jim Hanna, Democratic Services & Governance Manager 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 50, 176, 337, 393, 402, 420, 446 and 501.• Note that there will be a review of the Notice of Motion process as part of phase one of the governance review. A report on this will be brought back to committee in August.
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 to

3.2	<p>6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated</p> <p>7. Month it will be reported back to committee</p> <p>8. Other action to be taken.”</p> <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"> • Mater Hospital services (176): <p>This Notice of Motion relates to the resumption of services at the Mater Hospital, following its temporary designation as the Belfast Trust’s primary Covid 19 hospital during the pandemic. From November 2022, the Trust began the process of returning pre-Covid 19 services. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland’s Ancient East (393): <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to request that Belfast be considered within Ireland’s Ancient East destination marketing brand. Ireland’s Ancient East tourism branding falls under the remit of Failte Ireland, which is currently undertaking a review of the brand effectiveness. The Minister for Economy plans to engage with Failte Ireland on the opportunities of extending the brand to Armagh, Down and Antrim. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Services (420): <p>This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Belfast Trust opposing plans to remove the Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Services. Following the conclusion of the consultation on the future provision of General Practice Out of Hours (GPOOH), and on the basis of feedback received, the Trust did not proceed with the proposal and decided that</p>

the service would proceed with a multi-disciplinary team approach. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **Pathways to Work Green Paper (446):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the First and Deputy First Minister and Minister for Communities, outlining opposition to proposed welfare reforms as part of the Pathways to Work Green Paper and to request a business case for a mitigation package to provide protection for current and future claimants. Council wrote to the Minister for Communities and the subsequent response from the Minister was presented to SP&R in August 2025. SP&R noted receipt of the correspondence and agreed to the closure of this Notice of Motion.

- **Procedures of the Irish Street Sign Consultation (501):**

This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to submit a report exploring how surveys for dual language street signs could be as inclusive and robust as possible and address the issue of occupants not on the electoral role being unable to participate. A review of the current data collection process for surveys for dual language street sign applications was brought to the May meeting of the People and Communities committee. It is recommended that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.

Category 2 Recommended Closure

- **Belfast Zoo (50):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to carry out a feasibility study in relation to the Belfast Zoo and the surrounding area, including the Floral Hall. At the June 2025 meeting of the CG&R Committee, Members requested a specific governance structure be established to look at a range of issues within Belfast Zoo. An initial meeting of the Zoo Long-Term Financial Sustainability Group was held in December 2025, the minutes of which were reported to the January 2026 meeting of the CG&R Committee. This motion will be addressed by this group. It is recommended that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **Right To Food campaign (337):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to the Department for Education to request the restoration of the School Holiday Food Grant Scheme and affirm support for the Right to Food campaign. The correspondence requested was issued and a response was presented to the Social Policy Working Group in 2024. Since this report, different strands of work have continued across Council to address food poverty including the development of a draft Sustainable Food Strategy, and addressing food poverty will

	<p>continue to be reflected as an on-going priority. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Trading Pilot Scheme (402): This Issue Raised in Advance called on the Council to plan and deliver a pilot Sunday trading scheme that provided earlier Sunday trading hours for a period of 6 weeks. Public consultation was launched in March 2026 and the outcome of the consultation was reported to the SP&R Committee in May 2026. The Committee agreed that a pilot scheme be undertaken to designate the entire Belfast City Council area as a Holiday Resort designation under Article 6, for the two Sundays during the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. In addition, a timebound Working Group will be set-up with relevant stakeholders and trade unions to further engage on issues and a review of the pilot will be carried out by the end of October 2026. It is recommended that this Issue Raised in Advance is now closed.
	<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	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – SP&R Committee