

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
Date:	18 th September 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, 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: • 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 51, 243, 394, 417, 457, 460, 479 and 514. • Agree the proposals for the timely management of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance. • Agree to the closure of Notice of Motion 375.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> 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: 1. Date received 2. Notice of motion title 3. Submitted by which Councillor 4. Council meeting date 5. Committee motion is referred to 6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated

3.2	7. Month it will be reported back to committee 8. Other action to be taken.” 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.
3.3	Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons: • Notices of Motion which contained an action(s) that has been completed; and • Notices of Motion have become Council policy. SP&R Committee are asked to agree that the following are now closed:
3.4	Category 1 Recommended Closure: • Growth Deal (51) This Notice of Motion called on the Council to prepare an initial report on developing a new growth deal for the city of Belfast, with a focus on housing. The issues raised are now being considered under the housing-led regeneration proposition and it proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed. • Cost of Living (243): This Notice of Motion called on the Council to create a citywide hardship fund to support those most at need across the city in response to the cost of living crisis. Following the successful delivery of the Hardship Programme in 2023/24 and 2024/25, no further funding has been secured from the Department for Communities or Council. SP&R agreed to allocate £75,000 of in-year underspend to the network of Family Support Hubs across the city and this process has now been completed. Given the successful delivery of the Hardship Programme over two years, and in the absence of any future budget allocation, it is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed. • Official Announcements (394): This Notice of Motion called on the Council to explore on how the purpose of Official Announcements could be better utilised and develop a new procedure for raising Official Announcements during Council Meetings. A report was brought back to SP&R with options on how the purpose of Official Announcements could be better utilised and Council agreed it should be limited to one minute in duration. Therefore it is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **Addressing Educational Inequalities in Belfast (417):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to implement a number of actions to take forward a coordinated, effective, and inclusive approach to reducing educational inequalities in Belfast. These included supporting the RAISE programme and aligning it with the Belfast Agenda and establishing a cross-party committee to monitor progress. Locality Reference Groups have been established and have overseen the development of four RAISE locality action plans for Belfast (North, South, East and West). These plans, which are now being delivered, set out the priority needs and actions for tackling educational disadvantage through the programme. Officers continue to participate as members of each Locality Reference Group, and the implementation of the RAISE Programme is captured as a key action within the Belfast Agenda. Officers also continue to engage with the Education Authority, the Department of Education and community education partners through the Belfast Agenda Educational Inequalities Task Group. Given that the RAISE locality plans have been established and are now in delivery, it is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **Nitrates Action Plan (460):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to contact the DAREA Minister to urge the immediate withdraw of the current public consultation on the Nutrients Action Programme and to bring forward a policy developed in partnership with the agricultural industry. The Minister extended the consultation and undertook a number of additional consultation activities. A facilitated NAP task and finish group with representatives from farming, agri-food, environmental groups and DAERA, used the consultation responses to shape new proposals. The new proposals were subject to a further public consultation this summer. Given the Minister intends to seek the necessary Committee and Assembly approval for the revised NAP proposals so that they can be implemented within this mandate, it is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

- **Calling for the University of Ulster to rescind the decision to cut 450 jobs (514):**

This Notice of Motion called on the Council to write to senior University of Ulster management and the Economy Minister urging them to rescind the proposals to cut 450 jobs and protect educational provision. The correspondence received was considered by SP&R in June 26. Additionally, Ulster University representatives attended SP&R in August 26 to discuss the matter and the information provided was noted, therefore it is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.

Category 2 Recommended Closure:

3.5	• An update on the next stage in the development of the Irish Language Policy (457): This Notice of Motion called for an update on the next stage in the development of the Irish Language Policy. The draft Irish Language Policy, agreed and ratified by Council on 1st October 2025, was subsequently subject to call in procedures. Last month, SP&R committee received an update on the implementation of the policy and the associated 2-year implantation plan. Going forward, monthly update reports will be provided and so, this motion is proposed for category 2 closure as the various strands of work related to this policy continue to be addressed as an on-going priority. • Levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre (479): This Notice of Motion called on the Council to convene a multi-agency meeting to address the levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre and to consider the short-term actions and long-term strategy to alleviate the issues across the city. A multi-agency meeting was convened in December 2025 to focus on this. Going forward, the City Centre Leadership Coordination Group will be the forum to discussion matters linked to community safety in the City Centre. The group, with representation from all the city centre leaders, council's party group leaders, the Belfast PCSP Chair, alongside City centre partner organisations with a specific community safety focus, will meet twice a year in summer and winter in advance of Christmas. It is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed. As noted in the Governance Review report which is also before the committee today, officers are exploring measures to improve the management, tracking and reporting of Member Motions and Issues Raised in Advance. In order to establish clear arrangements for the management of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance that relate to correspondence, it is proposed that if no response is received after a period of three months, a follow up correspondence will be sent by officers. After a further three month period, any Motions and Issues Raised in Advance that have received no or partial responses will be reported back to committee. In this way, Motions and Issues Raised in Advance will be addressed in a timely fashion. Based on this proposal, there is a Motion being dealt with by this committee that has received no response, the Endorsement of Plant Based Treaty (375). • Endorsement of Plant Based Treaty (375): This Notice of Motion called on the NI Assembly to endorse the Plant Based Treaty and for a greater commitment to further transitioning towards more sustainable plant-based food systems. No response has been received to the correspondences sent in relation to this motion; therefore it is proposed that this Notice of Motion is now closed.
3.6	

3.7	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.
3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – SP&R Committee