



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Food Allergy Safety in Parks, Play Areas and Leisure Centres
Date:	22nd September, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 1st October, 2026 in relation to Food Allergy Safety in Parks, Play Areas and Leisure Centres.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or falls within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report. At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that a subsequent report will be brought to Committee, if that Committee so agrees, outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications. The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred in the first instance to the People and Communities Committee.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows: (m) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will have delegated authority to adopt or reject Notices of Motion. The Lord Mayor will indicate at the Council meeting those Notices of Motion that have been considered by the Standards and Business Committee and whether such Notices of Motion were rejected or adopted. In either case, the proposer only may speak on the issue at Council.</i> (n) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer all Notices of Motion directly to a standing committee when the matter to which the Notice of Motion refers falls within the remit of that committee. At Council, the Lord Mayor will indicate that the Notice of Motion was received and referred. There will be no speakers on such Notices of Motion at Council.</i> (o) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer Notices of Motion for consideration by full Council when the Notice of Motion relates to a strategic or constitutional matter.</i> (p) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will not have the power to amend the wording of any Notice of Motion that is being referred to the full Council for debate.</i> (q) <i>Any amendments to Notice of Motions to be proposed at the Council are to be furnished at least one day in advance of going to the full Council and will be circulated to Party Group Leaders in advance of the Council meeting.</i>

- (r) *In referring any matter to the full Council, the Standards and Business Committee may determine to restrict contributions to the debate in relation to any Notice of Motion to one per political party. At the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor will clearly indicate if the restriction applies.*

3.2

The following motion has been received:

Food Allergy Safety in Parks, Play Areas and Leisure Centres

“This Council recognises that severe food allergies are a major public health issue, affecting many children and adults across Belfast. Belfast City Council is aware that allergen or allergen residue (such as dairy, peanut, or tree nut oils) left on park play equipment and benches can trigger allergic reactions, including in rare cases anaphylaxis, when a child or adult with a severe allergy comes into contact with it.

Belfast City Council acknowledges public parks and play areas should be safe, accessible, and inclusive spaces for everyone, including those with allergies. This motion builds on the UK's first National Allergy Strategy, launched in April 2026, which calls for a whole-society approach to allergy awareness - extending that principle to everyday outdoor spaces.

Therefore, Belfast City Council resolves to:

1. Introduce a dedicated Food Allergy Awareness Campaign across all Belfast City Council managed parks, play areas, and leisure centres, including brief allergy-awareness guidance for park services and leisure centre staff.
2. Design and install clear, child-friendly signage at park entrances and play areas, encouraging park users to:
 - Wash or wipe hands after eating and before using shared play equipment.
 - Consume food only in designated picnic areas rather than on or around play equipment.
 - Immediately dispose of all food waste in the bins provided.
3. Ensure adequate waste bin placement near play areas and park entrances/exits to facilitate safe disposal of food waste and packaging
4. Provide anaphylaxis awareness training for leisure centre staff, including recognition of symptoms and safe use of adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens/Jext), and review whether Council-managed leisure centres should hold spare adrenaline auto-injectors for emergency use, in line with the legal provisions already used by schools.
5. Report back to Committee within six months on implementation, including signage rollout, bin placement, and leisure centre staff training.”

Proposed by: Councillor Bower

Seconded by: Councillor McDonough-Brown

3.3	The motion calls upon on the Council to undertake a number of actions in relation to food allergy safety in parks, play areas and leisure centres. The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the management of the assets included in the motion, and the motion will be referred to that Committee in the first instance. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	None associated with this report but there will be finance and resource implications in relation to the substantive motion. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.5	None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.