



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Commemoration of the Famine
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 commemorating the Famine.
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 on the first instance to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> 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) <i>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.</i>
3.2	The following motion has been received: <u>Commemoration of the Famine</u> “Belfast City Council will develop a programme of commemoration to mark the 180th anniversary of the Famine in 2027, to include a focus on the contemporary shared experience of communities; the impact on Belfast, Ulster and island of Ireland at the time and in the years that followed; international aspects such as emigration and the role this played here and in the history of other countries; domestic and overseas contributions to altruistic relief; and telling the stories of ordinary people whose experiences have been forgotten. This will be an opportunity to discover more about our collective history from this period, and in addition will support the Council’s bid to host the National Famine Commemoration in Belfast in 2027.” Proposed by: Councillor Gary McKeown Seconded by: Councillor Carl Whyte The motion calls upon on the Council to develop a programme of events and activities in 2027 to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Famine and support the Council’s bid to host the National Famine Commemoration in Belfast in 2027. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for supporting culture and heritage and coordinating major city-wide events and the motion will be referred to that Committee. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> 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> None associated with this report.
3.4	
3.5	
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

