



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Homelessness in Belfast
<b>Date:</b>	12th February, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To bring to the Committee’s attention the Motion in respect of Homelessness in Belfast which was referred to the Committee by the Council on 4th February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consider the motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b> The Council, at its meeting on 4th February, considered the following Motion which had been moved by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Magee:

*“This Council recognises that issues relating to homelessness in the city of Belfast are complex, multi-faceted and that they require interventions and solutions from a wide range of statutory organisations, delivery agents, charities and the community and voluntary sector.*

*The work that all these organisations carry out is to be welcomed and commended at the highest level, however, no single agency working on its own in isolation, including this Council, will solve the many complex issues relating to homelessness.*

*Too often, we tragically hear about people dying on our city streets and, as leaders of this city, we must do everything that we can to try to help those who are vulnerable and feeling desolate.*

*The Council can play a pivotal role to enable partnership action and our City’s Ard Mhéara/Mayor, as first citizen, can be a convener and facilitator in taking decisive action to address these issues in partnership with others.*

*The Council agrees, through the office of the Mayor, to convene a statutory and non-statutory multi-agency task group that will seek to take further partnership actions in addressing all facets of homelessness. This would include those people who find themselves on the streets with complex needs, those suffering from addiction and mental health issues and those who have no place to call home. The task group should seek to increase support services, scope out available and suitable facilities for extra supported bed provision in the city and any further issues which the task group identifies.”*

3.2 In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Motion was referred without discussion to the People and Communities Committee.

3.3 The Committee is reminded that, a Special Meeting of the People and Communities Committee was held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, at this meeting a very useful update was received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) which provided a detailed overview of the current homelessness situation throughout the City. A copy of this presentation has been attached to this report for reference.

3.4 In addition, Members will recall that, in October 2018, a Notice of Motion was submitted to the Council seeking the establishment of an all-female hostel to assist in the recovery of homeless women suffering addiction. Following liaison with the Health and Social Care Board, the Public Health Authority and the NIHE it is anticipated that this meeting will take place at the end of March. Party Group Leaders will be contacted once the date has been confirmed.

4.0	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.1	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
5.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p> <p>APP 1 – Presentation from the NIHE (update on homelessness)  APP 2 – Correspondence from the Department of Health and Health and Social Care Board re: all Party deputation to discuss the establishment of an all-female hostel.</p>