



Subject:	Motion – Funding for the Citywide Tribunal Service
Date:	23rd April, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion on Funding for the Citywide Tribunal Service which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st April.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 1st April, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Matt Collins:</p> <p>“This Council notes with alarm that the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service once again faces closure due to a lack of funding.</p> <p>The Council is deeply concerned with the lack of core funding offered to this service over the past year and notes that the recent Department for Communities budget did not include a necessary funding package to retain this vital service.</p>

	<p>The Council, therefore, calls on the Minister for Communities to immediately release core funding for the Citywide Tribunal Service of £256,769 per annum, in order to meet the growing need and pressure which the service faces and calls for an urgent meeting with the Minister, with a view to securing its long term future.</p> <p>Until then, the Council will provide £128,500 through its reserves, if necessary and refers the matter to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.”</p>
3.3	The Director of Finance and Resources will provide an update on the motion at the Committee meeting.
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.5	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	None