

Belfast City Night life and Night-time Economy

Belfast City Council:

- I. Recognises the profound impact of the pandemic on the city's nightlife, music, arts and entertainment sectors and the night-time economy and acknowledges the actions of Council Officers to support a managed return of Belfast's nightlife in difficult circumstances;
- II. Further recognises that, for many residents and visitors, Belfast at night may not feel safe or welcoming at present due to changes in behaviour and the use of space over the last 18 months;
- III. Believes significant night-time challenges existed prior to COVID-19, including issues around licensing, policing, public safety, diversity, organisational and venue capacity, public transit and sustainability;
- IV. Further believes that the establishment of a vibrant, diverse and sustainable nightlife between 6pm and 6am will help us meet the objectives set out in the Belfast Agenda, including encouraging city centre living and creating a vibrant, well-connected environment for people to enjoy;
- V. Seeks to create a nightlife for the City which is inclusive of young people, women, LGBT+ people and ethnic minorities;
- VI. Believes that this work to establish Belfast's nightlife takes on a new urgency following the pandemic;
- VII. Notes that several cities have chosen to establish a nightlife co-ordinator including Dublin, London, Amsterdam, Washington D.C., New York, Paris, Zurich, Toulouse and Mannheim;
- VIII. Shall convene a one day roundtable discussion about the future of Belfast's nightlife and the immediate challenges posed in the city between 6pm and 6am, with Elected Members, relevant Executive Ministers and political representatives, trade unions, public and private transport providers, artists, event organisers, venue owners, industry and consumer representatives, student unions, Belfast City Youth Council and non-profit organisations, including but not limited to Reclaim The Night, the Rainbow Project, Women's Aid and the SOS Bus; and
- IX. Agrees to establish a co-ordinator for Belfast's nightlife or "Night Mayor" who will co-ordinate the work of the Council and relevant partners in developing and promoting the city's nightlife and night-time economy following the roundtable discussion.

Proposer: Councillor de Faoite

Seconder: Councillor Smyth

(To be referred to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee)

