



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Historic Belfast Street Signs
Date:	22nd February, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
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 the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 1st March in relation to Historic Belfast Street Signs.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the Planning Committee.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 259 432 293"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 327 1449 394">The Committee will be aware Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r) as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October is as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="165 461 1473 629">3.2 (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></p> <p data-bbox="325 663 1473 831">(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></p> <p data-bbox="349 864 1473 965">(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> <p data-bbox="349 999 1473 1066">(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></p> <p data-bbox="349 1099 1473 1200">(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></p> <p data-bbox="349 1234 1473 1357">(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></p> <p data-bbox="165 1424 802 1458">3.3 The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="272 1525 671 1559"><u>Historic Belfast Street Signs</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1592 1473 1727">“This Council recognises the important role that traditional black tile street signs play in the built heritage of Belfast and the aesthetic benefits they bring to the character of the city. However, it notes with concern the absence of robust protections to ensure their upkeep, which could put at direct threat this significant part of Belfast’s history.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1760 1473 1827">The Council therefore agrees to undertake a review with the aim of identifying firm and practical recommendations for implementation in consideration of the following:</p> <ul data-bbox="325 1861 1382 2056" style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a register of all historic street signs in Belfast including, where possible, details of their ownership; • Putting in place arrangements for the timely repair and upkeep of historic street signs, including those which are listed and in council ownership, and those that are not listed;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing arrangements for the reinstatement of signs which would have originally been traditional black signs but have subsequently been replaced with generic street signs – this could be done when the generic sign needs replaced at the natural end of its lifespan or after damage. Reinstatements should use the traditional white font and black background and may include the use of other materials if appropriate and more practical; • Assessing whether steps should be undertaken to request the listing of all traditional Belfast street signs to provide them with legal protection, particularly those that are not in council ownership and may currently have to protection; • Putting in place requisite resources to enable the above to be rolled out and continued, including accessing government or third party funding if available to enable heritage and protection work to be undertaken; and • Any other relevant issues which arise during the course of this review.” <p>Proposer: Councillor McKeown</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor de Faoite</p>
3.4	<p>The Committee should note that a motion which incorporated some of the areas above had previously been referred to the Planning Committee:</p> <p>http://www.internalminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=167&MID=9745#AI56216.</p>
3.5	<p>A number of the street signs set out in the motion were subsequently listed:</p> <p>http://www.internalminutes/documents/s90925/20210420HEDListingStreetSigns.pdf</p>
3.6	<p>Officers from Building Control, Planning and City Services are seeking to progress the work set out in paragraph 3 of the original motion and therefore the motion should, in the first instance, be referred to Planning Committee to allow it to determine whether it wishes to incorporate the additional requests.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>