



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Belfast Citywide Tribunal Services
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 Belfast Citywide Tribunal Services.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources 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 1477 1368">3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="325 461 1477 629">(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> <li data-bbox="325 663 1477 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> <li data-bbox="349 864 1477 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> <li data-bbox="349 999 1477 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> <li data-bbox="349 1099 1477 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> <li data-bbox="349 1234 1477 1368">(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 data-bbox="165 1424 804 1458">3.3 The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="272 1525 743 1559"><u>Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1592 1417 1659">This Council notes with concern that the Belfast Citywide Tribunal service once again faces a lack of funding, putting staff jobs and a vital service at risk.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1693 1417 1794">Additionally, the Council is deeply disappointed that the Department for Communities has failed to provide core funding for this service, despite the impact this will have on workers and working class communities in particular.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1827 1417 1928">Given the vast amount of successful tribunal appeals, the Council recognises that there is an onus on the Executive to fund a tribunal service which is capable of addressing the flawed welfare system.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1962 1417 2063">However, given that core funding is not forthcoming and the upcoming election leaves uncertainty about future funding, the Council agrees that measure should be taken to ensure the service can stay open for the next year.</p>

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p>Accordingly, the Council agrees to fund the Tribunal services an amount of £342,278, from its reserves if necessary, to maintain the service and stave off redundancies.</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Ferguson</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Matt Collins</p> <p>As the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the allocation of the Council's resources and, in particular the Council's reserves, the motion should, in the first instance, be referred to that Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>