



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Motion – Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service, which the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February, referred to this Committee.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February, considered a report providing details of the motions which had been received for consideration by the Council on 1st March.

In accordance with Standing Order 37(h), the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Matt Collins, was referred directly to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

**Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service**

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.

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.

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.

However, given that core funding is not forthcoming and the upcoming election leaves uncertainty about future funding, the Council agrees that measures should be taken to ensure the service can stay open for the next year.

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.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

The motion calls upon the Council to allocate £342,278 to the Tribunal Service.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications**

All potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications will be taken into consideration.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None