



Subject:	Notice of Motion – City of Sanctuary
Date:	30th March, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Divisional 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 4th April in relation to a call for Belfast to become a City of Sanctuary.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the motion and agree to either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.

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 1368">3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="325 461 1473 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 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> <li 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> <li 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> <li 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> <li data-bbox="349 1234 1473 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 802 1458">3.3 The following motion has been received:</p> <p data-bbox="272 1491 520 1525"><u>City of Sanctuary</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1559 1473 1626">"That this Council supports Belfast City Council becoming a "Council of Sanctuary" and supports the initiative to have Belfast recognised as a "City of Sanctuary".</p> <p data-bbox="272 1659 715 1693">As a council we recognise that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="272 1727 1473 1827">a) A "Council of Sanctuary" is a place that provides a welcome and safe place for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants and supports the conditions that will allow people from these backgrounds to feel safe, valued and included in Belfast. <li data-bbox="272 1861 1473 1928">b) We recognise as leaders we have a responsibility to receive and include new residents with care and dignity. <li data-bbox="272 1962 1473 2051">c) This commitment to become a "Council of Sanctuary" does not seek to provide preferential treatment to one community over another, instead it recognises that during the arrival, settlement and integration journey, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants face many

	<p>challenges and that as city leaders we will play our part in working to build a culture of welcome, equality and inclusion.</p> <p>d) This council will work to implement a “City of Sanctuary” through our actions and policies, through understanding the lived experience of communities that are new to Belfast and through supporting our partners in the community and voluntary sectors.</p> <p>The Council Resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join a network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised “Council of Sanctuary” • Continue to understand the lived experience of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living in Belfast • Continue to work with organisations in the city who support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants • Challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found • Ensure equality in the provision of our services and facilities and that public spaces can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone • Develop an internal Race Equality and Diversity Action Plan – that will review how we deliver our services and take action as an employer to create a diverse workforce.” <p>Proposer: Councillor Kyle</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor McMullan</p>
3.4	<p>The motion calls on the support of Belfast City Council becoming a “Council of Sanctuary” and supports the initiative to have Belfast recognised as a “City of Sanctuary – can be adopted by the Committee, referred to the Council for debate (with or without restrictions) or rejected.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>