



Subject:	Notices of Motion Update – February 2026
Date:	10 th February 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales - Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Vivienne Roach - Executive Support Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

☐

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance allocated to the People and Communities Committee.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>It is recommended that People and Communities Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance that People and Communities Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and • Agree to the closure of 17 Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance, as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted in paragraph 3.5 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members will recall that the previous Notices of Motion update was presented to People and Communities Committee in August 2025.</p>
3.2	<p>This report provides an overview of the progress on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remained open following the February 2025 update, and those Motions and Issues which have since arisen.</p>
3.3	<p>Notice of Motion Updates</p> <p>There are currently 54 active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which the People and Communities Committee is responsible for. An update on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remain active on the live database is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance</p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 - Notices of Motion which contained an action that has been completed. All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Notice of Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. These additional actions are not contained in this report but will be noted in the live database moving forward. • Category 2 - Notices of Motion have become Council policy or absorbed in to a strategic programme of work. These Notices of Motion did not contain a specific task that could be complete. Instead, they were more strategic in nature and required changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process. <p>Following an update of those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance on the live database, it is recommended that Members approve the following Motions/Issues for closure.</p>

Category 1 Recommended Closures:**Dilapidated Buildings (Ref: 379) Cllr Brooks**

At the request of Councillor R. Brooks, the Committee agreed to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) urgently seeking the Minister to bring forward a Dilapidation Bill.

At the request of Councillor de Faoite it was agreed to also write to the Department of Finance and Department for Communities seeking the allocation of a package of funding to address derelict building in the city.

It was further agreed that officers would submit a report to a future meeting detailing the number of derelict buildings on arterial routes throughout the city.

A Committee report taken to P&C Committee in April 2025, detailing the work done to identify the derelict properties that currently existing on arterial routes and to outline proposed approach to tackle these properties.

This Issue can now be closed.

Provision of toilet facilities at Falls Park (Ref 387) Cllr Donnelly

At the request of Councillor M. Donnelly, the Committee agreed to assess if the bowling pavilion at Falls Park could be made accessible for the use of its toilet facilities for users of Falls Park.

At the request of further Members, the Committee also agreed to submit a report to a future meeting considering the provision of toilet facilities at other parks throughout the city, to include Woodvale Park and at Shaws Bridge.

Councillors engaged in August 2025 and measures are currently in place in Falls Park.

This Issue can now be closed.

Knockbreda Road Crossing (Ref: 399) Cllr Maghie

At the request of Councillor Maghie, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure seeking an update as to when works would commence for the Knockbreda Road crossing and agreed to ask DfI how it could expedite the public consultation process for further applications.

The Council are undertaking an additional survey of residents as per the February 2025, committee.

This Issue can now be closed.

Pitch Bookings at Sally Gardens (Ref: 405) Cllr Garrett

At the request of Councillor Garrett, the Committee agreed that officers would liaise with teams and service users at the Sally Gardens Playing Fields to ascertain the underlying reasons for recurring pitch cancellations with a view to enabling other teams and clubs to maximise use of the facility in the event of such cancellations.

It was noted that a report in this regard would be submitted to a future meeting.

An update report was presented to committee in October 2025.

This Issue can now be closed.

Vital Role of Trees (Ref: 422) Cllr Abernethy

The council recognised the vital role of trees in enhancing the health and wellbeing of people and communities, addressing climate change, and supporting biodiversity; committed to raising awareness among residents about these benefits and to actively support efforts to plant and protect the right trees in the right places and for the right reasons, ensuring that everyone can share in the benefits trees provide; and, will commit to exploring how we can educate and raise awareness of trees, the role they play in all our lives across Belfast.

In addition, the committee agreed that officers would submit a report which would provide the following: an update on the Tree Strategy including the 'One Million Trees' initiative; seek to identify possible sites within the Council's estate where additional trees and plant could be maintained; and an outline as to how communities and electoral areas could become involved further in the life of trees in our city."

A committee paper was submitted on the 13th of January 2026 regarding questions raised at the meeting on tree numbers planted and community orchards, DfI replacement planting to be returned directly to elected members. Tree Strategy updates will be reported into committee.

This Issue can now be closed.

Dilapidated/Dangerous Buildings in Belfast (Ref: 427) Cllr Brooks

An initial assessment had been undertaken by Council officers regarding the damage caused to properties in the city because of Storm Éowyn on 24th January. It was noted that a further report in this regard would be submitted for consideration in due course

A report was taken to committee in April 2025, detailing the work done to identify the derelict properties that currently existing on arterial routes and to outline a proposed approach to tackle these properties. The Committee noted the report and the approach to be taken. The Director of Planning and Building Control is continuing to work on this area, convening a further workshop with stakeholders to agree the way forward for these properties identified.

This Issue can now be closed.

Council Dog warden Service (Ref:443) Cllr Brooks

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would outline the work of the dog warden service and would provide also information on its activity and volume of work. The report would include details on the current staffing levels and an overview of the fines currently levied (including previous decisions in this regard). In addition, information would also be provided on the Council's byelaws and their effectiveness, across the city and in parks and dog runs; together with an outline of the opportunities for a multi-agency approach being adopted to address the issue of dog fouling; and consideration of several options at a resourcing level.

The committee report was presented on 3rd June 2026. Members noted that new requests for information regarding enhancing services of the Dog Warden and OSS services have been forwarded for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's as part

of the rate setting process. Any updates on these will be decided via the future rate setting and efficiency decisions by SP&R.

This Issue can now be closed.

One Million Trees' Initiative (Ref: 444) Cllr Maghie

The Committee noted that, in accordance with its decision a report would be submitted regarding the 'Vital Role of Trees'. It was noted further that the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department would consult with the Council's Climate Unit, in its role as the Council's lead on the 'One Million Trees Initiative', and the report in this regard would include an update on this initiative.

A committee paper was submitted on the 13th of January 2026, with Vital Role of Trees also included in the report.

This Issue can now be closed.

Lagan Gateway – Pedestrian Crossing (Ref:462) Cllr de Faoite

In relation to Lagan Gateway and the need for a pedestrian crossing on Annadale Embankment to access it, the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Active Travel Unit to formally support the call for a crossing under Phase 2 enabling works for safe access to the Lagan Gateway.

Committee wrote to DfI, and response received and reported to Council on the 4th Nov 25

Alley-gate Update (Ref 463) Cllr Doran

In response to Councillor Doran's concern in relation to the length of time it was taking to install alley gates in various entries in North Belfast, the Committee noted the update provided and further funding installation request to the Department of Finance and that a report be submitted to a future meeting to provide a further update

An update report was presented to the committee in October 2025.

This Issue can now be closed.

Management of Invasive Species in Council Parks and Open Spaces (Ref:470) Cllr Flynn

At the request of Councillor Flynn, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would outline the Council's policy for the management and removal of invasive plant species, in particular Himalayan Balsam, and how such work might be undertaken in partnership with local communities.

Increased volunteering for Himalayan Balsam hand pulling is at the planning phase for upcoming growing season. Operational teams will continue to identify and treat invasive species as per their regular work programme.

This Issue can now be closed.

Use of Cutts Recycling Centres by Belfast Residents (Ref: 473) Cllr McCann

Use of the Cutts Recycling Centre was addressed at the meeting, and it was suggested that the Council should consider entering into a short-term agreement with Lisburn and

Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) to enable the use of the Cutts Recycling Centre by Belfast residents whilst the Blackstaff Recycling Centre was closed for repair work.

The Operational Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that, since the item had been added to the agenda, officers from LCCC had contacted him to advise that its Environment and Sustainability Committee, and, in turn, its full Council, would, given the timing of its committee meetings, be unable to consider any request within the timescale anticipated for the temporary closure of Blackstaff Recycling Centre.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted also the comments of several Members in relation to the matter, particularly the inability of Belfast residents living in the Twinbrook, Poleglass and Lagmore areas to use the Cutts Recycling Centre. It was pointed out that the issue dated back to the Reform of Local Government in 2014, and that the Council should seek again to raise the matter formally with LCCC with a view to finding a mutually beneficial resolution.

This was answered at committee on the 7th of October 2025. Further request will be considered under NoM 354.

This Issue can now be closed.

Levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre (479) Cllr Beattie

Councillor Beattie outlined his concerns regarding the ongoing levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre. After discussion, the Committee agreed that a multi-agency meeting be convened to address the levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre and to consider the short-term actions and long-term strategy to alleviate the issues across the city.

As requested, a multi-agency meeting was held on the 8th of Dec 2025.

This Issue can now be closed.

Environmental Health - Staffing and Capacity (Ref:480) Cllr Brooks

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted for consideration which would outline the current staffing and capacity levels relating to Environmental Health Officers, particularly regarding roles associated with responding to planning consultations; and that the report would include reference also to the role of the Building Control Service in enforcement matters

An update report was presented to committee on the 13th of January 2026, meeting.

This Issue can now be closed.

Provision of Sustainable Burial Options (Ref: 484) Cllr Abernethy

This Council acknowledged the growing public interest in more sustainable, dignified, and low-carbon alternatives to conventional practices, such as natural (green) burials, tree pod interment, and other emerging end-of life methods. Natural burial, which involves the use of biodegradable materials, avoids embalming, and often takes place in woodland or meadow settings with minimal ongoing maintenance, has already been successfully implemented elsewhere as a simple and ecologically restorative option.

Accordingly, this Council agrees to 1. Explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries, including the designation of natural burial grounds

	<p>or woodland burial areas within our district; and 2. Provide an update report on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the motion, proposed by Councillor Abernethy and seconded by Councillor T. Brooks, would be referred, in the first instance, to the People and Communities Committee.</p> <p>An update report will be presented to committee on the 10th of February 2026.</p> <p>This Issue will be closed after the February 10th, meeting.</p> <p>International Day for Persons with Disabilities (Ref:487) Cllr Brooks</p> <p>The Committee noted information which had been provided regarding the Council's plans to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the 3rd of December 2025.</p> <p>An update report was presented to the Special NIHE, People and Communities Committee on the 18th of November 2025.</p> <p>This Issue can now be closed.</p> <p>Archaeological Excavation at Woodvale Park (Ref: 488) Cllr Verner</p> <p>At the request of Councillor Verner, the Committee agreed to receive a presentation in respect of the recent community archaeological excavation at Woodvale Park, which had been carried out in conjunction with The Queen's University of Belfast.</p> <p>The presentation was received from Queens on the 2nd of December 2025.</p> <p>This Issue can now be closed.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Category 2 Recommended Closures:</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix to Follow