

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

20th October, 2023

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet as a Hybrid Meeting (both remote and in person) in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 24th October, 2023 at 5.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Motions

- (a) Notice of Motion - Arts Cuts (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Notice of Motion - Childcare Provision (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Mental Health Accessibility Audit (Pages 9 - 12)
- (d) Notice of Motion - Pay Awards for Health and Social Care Trust staff (Pages 13 - 16)
- (e) Notice of Motion - Rugby World Cup (Pages 17 - 20)

- (f) Notice of Motion - Secure Needle Drug Waste Bins (Pages 21 - 24)



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Arts Cuts
Date:	24th October, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
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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 November in relation to Arts Cuts.
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
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Arts Cuts</u></p> <p>“Belfast City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is alarmed at proposed 5% cut in funding to arts organisations funded by the Department for Communities through the Arts Council NI;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commends Equity NI, the arts community, its supporters, and the community at large for resisting these proposed cuts, including over 12,500 individuals signing Equity’s petition which asked for more investment in the arts, not less; • Notes that Arts Council NI funding has decreased, in real terms, by 30% over the last decade, despite evidence that investment in the arts has a real terms economic benefit for the city and the North as a whole; • Further notes that the Department for Communities has indicated that it may implement further cuts in arts funding in the financial year 2024/25; • Recognises that Stormont Permanent Secretaries are being forced to take, without mandate, difficult decisions that should be taken by locally elected Ministers and a devolved Executive and Assembly; • Further recognises that too often the Council is forced to step in and financially support arts and cultural organisations which have lost funding from Stormont Departments, putting pressure on our ability to deliver existing arts and cultural schemes; • Calls for a reversal in cuts to the arts and agrees to join as a signatory to Equity NI’s latest open letter to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities; • Further calls for the restoration of a reformed Executive and Assembly to take decisions which can future-proof the arts sector and protect funding in the future.” <p>Proposer: Councillor Séamas de Faoite</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Dónal Lyons</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council, amongst other things, to reject the Arts Cuts - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Childcare Provision
Date:	24th October, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Never									

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 November in relation to Childcare Provision.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the Motion will be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Childcare Provision</u></p> <p>“That this Council recognises childcare as vital social and economic infrastructure, a crucial form of early intervention, early education, an anti-poverty tool, and a means by which to improve productivity and gender equality in the labour market across the Council area; believes childcare should be child-centred, high quality and accessible to all children; and commits to reviewing how the Council can support childcare</p>

	<p>provision in the area, including reviewing whether schemes supported by the Council during school holidays can be expanded.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Jenna Maghie</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Christine Bower</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to review how the Council can support childcare provision in the area. There is currently a motion in the system on a childcare strategy, which falls within the remit of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. That Committee, at its meeting on 20th October, agreed it should remain open. Therefore it is proposed that the motion be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Mental Health Accessibility Audit
Date:	24th October, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports									
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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 November in relation to the Mental Health Accessibility Audit.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the motion will be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Mental Health Accessibility Audit</u></p> <p>“Northern Ireland (NI) has the highest prevalence of mental health problems in the UK.</p> <p>It is estimated that only 40% of people in NI who seek help can access effective mental health care and 79% of those do not receive the service they need.</p>

	<p>This council will conduct an online survey open to everyone who lives in the council district to assess accessibility to mental health support within each DEA.</p> <p>The survey will include but not be limited to assessing stakeholders' ease of access to mental health support, sample stakeholders' understanding of their rights regarding mental health, document the source of stressors, and the number of services perceived to be providing mental health and well-being support in the district.</p> <p>As leaders in the field of mental health provision, this council will work with MindWise in co-designing and hosting the survey. The council will invite a representative from MindWise to give deputation to the relevant or interested committee or committees.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Matt Garrett</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Andrew McCormick</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to undertake a survey to ascertain ease of access to mental health support. Whilst the council has no statutory responsibility for mental health services, it does, in the Belfast Agenda, under Theme 1: Our People and Communities – Health inequalities, have a strategic intent to promote and improve positive mental health and emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of support and services available and actions that can be taken at an individual level to improve or maintain good mental health. The motion should be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Pay Awards for Health and Social Care Trust staff
Date:	24th October, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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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 November in relation to Pay Awards for Health and Social Care Trust staff.
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
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Pay Awards for Health and Social Care Trust staff</u></p> <p>“Belfast City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes with concern the recent letter from the Chief Executives of the six Health and Social Care Trusts to the Secretary of State to emphasise in the

3.3	<p>strongest possible terms the need for concrete action on pay awards for HSC staff;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses frustration that a pay offer for HSC staff has not yet been tabled for the financial year 2023/24; • Recognises the toll on HSC staff by severe pressures on services and significant issues with recruitment and retention; • Condemns the refusal by the DUP to participate in the reform and reformation of the Executive, which would allow for local decisions on HSC pay to be taken with haste; and • Calls for a fair pay offer for HSC staff to be tabled immediately.” <p>Proposer: Councillor Paul Doherty</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Séamas de Faoite</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to back the Pay Awards for Health and Social Care Trust staff - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p>
3.4	<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>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Rugby World Cup
Date:	24th October, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Never									

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 November in relation to Rugby World Cup.
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
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Rugby World Cup</u></p> <p>“This council recognises the historic success of the Irish rugby team in the Rugby World Cup 2023 and agrees to hold a civic reception in their honour.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Dónal Lyons</p>

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>Seconder: Councillor</p> <p>The motion calls upon the Council to hold a civic reception for the Irish Rugby World Cup team - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the provision of hospitality and, also, if the Council is minded to agree there will be cost implications – therefore the motion should 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>

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Secure Needle/Drug Waste Bins
Date:	24th October, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 5%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision		After Council Decision		Sometime in the future		Never	
After Committee Decision									
After Council Decision									
Sometime in the future									
Never									

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 November in relation to Secure Needle/Drug Waste Bins.
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
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>(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>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Secure Needle/Drug Waste Bins</u></p> <p>“This Council notes with concern the rising number of needles being discarded and drug paraphernalia waste in Belfast City Centre from intravenous drug use. Since the city has come out of the pandemic it has seen an increase in the number of vulnerable people suffering from addiction issues in the City Centre. With this increase it has seen that needles and syringes are not only being discarded in public places, but also in</p>

	<p>some standard public waste bins in the City Centre, potentially putting the public and Council staff at increased risk of a sharps injury.</p> <p>It also notes that Glasgow has recently installed a new secure disposal bin to reduce drug related litter and for service users to positively discard of needles after they have finished injecting and improve collective community safety in it's city centre.</p> <p>This council will commit to working with relevant partners, including the Public Health Agency, Government Departments, PSNI, BIDs, businesses and organisations supporting the vulnerable in the City Centre core, towards the installation of specific needle/drug waste bins, in key locations that are known to have high incidences of needle finds.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Paul McCusker</p>
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to back the Secure Needle/Drug Waste Bins - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
	<p>None.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>None.</p>

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