

## **Blood Transfusion Service**

Councillor Cunningham to move:

“This Council recognises that, each year, 26,000 people require blood transfusions in the North. The Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service needs 8,000 new donors to come forward every year (due to people becoming ineligible) to maintain their service and each week the Service needs 1,500 donations. It is of great concern, therefore, that currently only 6% of the eligible population in Northern Ireland chooses to give blood.

A blood transfusion can be the difference between someone living or dying during emergency surgery, but it can also make the difference in helping treat long-term illnesses, like cancer or support maternity care. Approximately 40% of blood transfusions are to those suffering with various cancers. *Once a person becomes* a blood donor, if their platelet count is high enough, they can then become a platelet donor (you can't give both at the same time).

This Council agrees to make every effort to raise the profile of the Blood Transfusion Service and, to that end, encourages all Elected Members to sign up as blood donors and to use their public profile to raise awareness and encourage their constituents to consider giving blood.

With the decline in the number of people signing up, there is a real risk that hospitals could suffer significant shortfalls in blood stocks, so this is an absolutely vital campaign. Belfast City Council has been a supporter of this campaign in the past and commits itself to continued support by hosting a large-scale Blood Donation Event which will be open to Councillors, Staff and members of the public.”