



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Pilot Drug and Pill Testing Facilities at Major Events and Festivals held in Belfast
Date:	24th March, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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> <p>After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sometime in the future <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Never <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

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 April, 2026 in relation to Pilot Drug and Pill Testing Facilities at Major Events and Festivals held in Belfast.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure or falls within the remit of a particular Committee must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that a subsequent report will be brought to Committee, if that Committee so agrees, outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that this motion will be referred on the first instance to the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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> (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> (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) <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>

3.2	<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>
3.3	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Pilot Drug and Pill Testing Facilities at Major Events and Festivals held in Belfast</u></p> <p>That this Council supports harm reduction approaches to drug use, particularly in the context of festivals and nightlife events.</p> <p>That this Council acknowledges the rising public concerns around drug-related harm, and notes that traditional approaches focused solely on enforcement have not eliminated the presence or use of illicit substances a major events.</p> <p>Therefore, I move that this Council:</p> <p>Supports the introduction of a pilot drug and pill testing facilities at major events and festivals held in Belfast.</p> <p>Calls on relevant public bodies, including Public Health Agency and Belfast Trust, to explore the feasibility of piloting such a service, alongside those in the community and voluntary sector with a proven track record of harm reduction.</p> <p>Requests an internal report on the role of Belfast City Council in supporting and facilitating such harm reduction services, including legal and regulatory considerations.”</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Mickey Murray</p>
3.4	<p>Seconded by Cllr Brian Smyth</p> <p>The motion asks that any music festivals and large-scale events using council owned sites will have drug testing and harm reduction facilities in place The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the large-scale events in Council owned sites, and the motion will be referred to that Committee in the first instance.</p>
3.5	<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 associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>

	None.
--	-------