



Subject:	Motion – Community Impact of Needle Finds
Date:	10th September, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Louise McLornan, 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"/>
Some time 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 bring to the Committee's attention the Motion in respect of the Community Impact of Needle Finds which was referred to the Committee by the Council on 2nd September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council, at its meeting on 2nd September, considered the following Motion which had been moved by Councillor McLaughlin and seconded by Councillor Donnelly:

3.2	<p>“This Council notes with alarm the increased volume of needles found on streets in inner city surrounding communities, both used and otherwise. The safety ramifications for families who reside in such areas are extensive and obvious.</p>
3.3	<p>This Council has a duty of care to the citizens of Belfast including assisting them in fulfilling their ambitions and striving towards the goals of the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.4	<p>Urban inner city surrounding communities are lived in neighbourhoods, not fully part of the City Centre but neither are they suburbs. Such localities face problems associated to air pollution, high volumes of commuter car parking, dense housing developments, fractured infrastructure and historical failings associated to place and space planning.</p>
3.5	<p>One contemporary impact of such failings resides in limited usable green and natural safe play sites.</p>
3.6	<p>The evidenced needle finds across urban inner city surrounding communities are ordinarily in sites of overgrown shrubbery, vacant green sites, beside hedge rows and alongside well used play and walking areas.</p>
3.7	<p>This Council cannot and should not accept increased street needle finds as a natural and inevitable consequence of a growing City. Such an acceptance is a direct contradiction to the aims and visions of the Belfast Agenda. This neither supports those at risk of addiction or resident families.</p>
3.8	<p>Whilst we recognise the massive value of the work undertaken by the Council’s Community Safety structures and the Sharp Removal Programme, this motion seeks a report focused on the immediate areas surrounding the city centre in the contemporary context, detailing the volume of finds, associated costs of removal, correlations if and where they exist, site contexts and recommendations moving forward based on good practice elsewhere.”</p>
3.9	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>