

Report on	Background - Syringes for Cuba/End the Blockade Campaign
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 12 th January 2022
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Assistant Director OD, Strategy & Performance
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide background on the Syringes for Cuba/End the Blockade campaign. This campaign was referenced in a letter from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council which came before October Council meeting. This report is for information.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper follows recent correspondence received by the Council from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on a motion they has carried regarding their support for a campaign on Syringes for Cuba/End the Blockade. As a result of the correspondence, Members requested that further info providing background on the Syringes for Cuba/End the Blockade campaign. The correspondence is attached as appendix A to this paper.
2.2	The United States embargo against Cuba prevents American businesses, and businesses organized under US law or majority-owned by citizens of the United States, from conducting trade with Cuban interests. It is the most enduring trade embargo in modern history and has been in place in some form since 1958.
2.3	Since 1992, the UN General Assembly has passed a resolution each year condemning the impact of the embargo and declaring it in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.
2.4	A recent Oxfam report detailed that the former US Presidential Administration imposed over 240 sanctions which has had the effect of strengthening the embargo policy, 55 of which were implemented with the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Covid-19 pandemic has created an increased worldwide demand for syringes; which consequently has led to a worldwide shortage in syringes and an associated significant price increases.

3.2	Reports emerged in Summer 2021 that Cuba was experiencing a significant lack of supply of syringes. So while Cuba has developed its own Covid-19 vaccines, it does not have enough syringes to immunise its population against the virus. Therefore the vaccination of those living in Cuba is being hugely hampered.
3.3	At that time it was estimated that the country required an estimated 20 million syringes for the administration of the second doses of the vaccine. Further information on the shortages of syringes in Cuba and wider campaign is accessible accessed from the following: https://cuba-solidarity.org.uk/ https://ghpartners.org/syringes4cuba/
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Not required for this report
	Rural Needs Implications: Not required for this report
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the content of this report providing background to the Syringes for Cuba/End the Blockade Campaign
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council <i>(previously taken at October 2021 Council meeting)</i>