

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Health and Community Committee (Open) held in the Council Chamber - Strabane Council Offices on Thursday 7 December 2017 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Members of the Committee - Thompson (Chair); Aldermen ; Councillors Gallagher, McClintock, Campbell, Carlin, Jackson, McGinley, Hastings and Gardiner.

Non-Member of the Committee:-

In Attendance:- .

HC250/17 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Director of Health and Community read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

HC251/17 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Health and Community recorded Members attendance. There were apologies from Alderman R Hamilton and Councillors Cusack, Duffy and Tierney

HC252/17 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

HC253/17 Deputations

There were no deputations.

HC254/17 Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's Business

HC255/17 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 16 November 2017

The open Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2017 (HC227/17 –HC246/17) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

As a matter of accuracy Councillor Carlin referred to HC238/17 Grant Aid Programme where the minute had stated - *SDLP had not supported any budget or striking of the rate* – and stated that it should say the Independent Member had not supported the striking of the rate.

It was agreed that the minutes be amended accordingly.

HC256/17 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

HC257/17 Draft Street Trading Policy

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented Members with the above report, a copy of which had been previously circulated. The purpose of the report was for Members to consider the development of a Street Trading Policy for the district, incorporating reviews of the designated streets within the district and the licensing fees.

Councillor Gardiner welcomed the report and that discussions would be held with stakeholders as in previous years street traders had been trading from outside shops which sold identical items resulting in a loss of trade to the shop owners. She asked that Council take the matter into consideration as part of the consultation process.

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that they would be consulting with businesses across the City and District, particularly within the designated streets. He added that any concerns would be taken into consideration as part of that engagement process.

Councillor Gallagher welcomed the report and stated that he hoped it would deal with some of the anomalies that had been identified in the Strabane area. He referred to traders not being able to trade on site at Melvin Sports Complex although he understood this did not occur at Council owned facilities in the Derry area and hoped the matter would be taken into consideration.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that the Street Trading Policy had referred to: *“street” includes: any road or footpath within the meaning of Article 2(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995; any “public place”; and any*

part of a street, which would not cover the anomaly. He further stated it was a matter outside of the Policy but would be taken under consideration.

The Director of Health and Community stated that where there had been individual representation, Officers had met with traders in an attempt to reach solutions. She added that it would be good practice from a Council perspective if all facilities and properties were taken into consideration within the review regarding roads and lands and the processes if trading were permitted on same.

Councillor Campbell referred to item 3.7 within the report regarding the standard, non-refundable charge for each application. He enquired if this was a new element within the Policy.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that this was a new element to the Policy. He explained that the initial fee was to process the application and, if granted, the applicant would then pay the licence fee.

Councillor Hastings welcomed the revised, concerted Policy. Alderman McClintock congratulated Officers on their work which gave an opportunity to regulate street trading activities and complement the regulations already in place. She added that the street traders brought a vibrancy to the area and added to Council's tourism offering.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) that Members agree to the proposed consultation of the Street Trading Policy, currently in draft form; (ii) agree to commencement of a consultation exercise with key stakeholders as part of the review of designated streets and (iii) agree to a review of the fees and charges for the scheme as part of the consultation.

HC258/17 Consultation on Changes to the Affordable Warmth Scheme

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members that the Department for

Communities (DfC) had published a consultation paper entitled 'Changes to the Affordable Warmth Scheme'.

Alderman McClintock stated that the Affordable Warmth Scheme was a lifeline to many people within the City and District and expressed concern at the reduction to the number of properties for the scheme due to the proposed increase to the income threshold. She enquired if any action could be taken regarding the properties that could be included in the scheme.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that a number of meetings had been held with the Department for Communities where it was emphasised that demand for the scheme in this Council area was much higher than in other Council areas. He further stated that the officers' response in terms of the consultation recommended that this Council area makes more referrals to the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Councillor McGinley welcomed the increase in the threshold for households from £20,000 to £23,000. However, he expressed concern that some households would barely reach the £20,000 limit as a large proportion of people within the City and District were between the £18,000 - £20,000 range. He stated that more resources were needed to combat the lengthy waiting list and also in terms of administering the scheme and putting the appropriate personnel in place. He referred to the report which stated that funding had been evenly distributed across all Councils and stated that Members had predicted through the course of the scheme that there would always be an increased demand throughout the City and District. He added that Sinn Fein looked forward to robustly contributing to the response to the Department for Communities.

Councillor Gallagher welcomed the report and stated that he had attended a recent consultation event where concerns had been expressed regarding the reduction to £18,000, however the increase to £23,000 may assist the working poor. He reported that a bid would be entered to continue the Affordable Warmth Scheme for the next five years and would include beneficiaries such as Council and Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Councillor Gallagher proposed that if the bid was successful that the Committee set up a working group comprising of Elected Members, Council Officers and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to ensure the smooth running of the scheme.

Councillor McGinley seconded the proposal. He referred to procurement of services within the scheme and asked if Members could receive more details as it had been suggested that there would be one contractor for each household.

Councillor Gallagher confirmed that a single provider would be responsible for work at each household.

Councillor Hastings stated that the scheme provided affordable warmth for families in the area and provided employment to small contractors within the City and District. He further stated that the differential between a single person was almost the equivalent to households with more than one person and asked for this to be taken into consideration.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) a draft consultation response is presented for Committee consideration; (ii) approve retrospective Member attendance to a suitable consultation event and (iii) that if the bid for the scheme to run for five years is successful, an all Party plus 1 Independent Member working group be set up to ensure the smooth running of the scheme.

HC259/17 Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) reports which fulfil the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management process as set out in the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.

Councillor Carlin referred to the Legacy Strabane District Council which had been very proud of their record in addressing poor air quality in terms of home heating fuel and bonfires. She stated that Strabane should take pride in the glowing report in what was once called a 'dirty old town' due to the bad air quality. She added that it showed what good civic leadership and management by a very able council team had been able to achieve in a relatively short period of time. Councillor

Carlin then referred to the attitudinal change regarding the use of fossil fuels. She stated that Council had to adapt a more flexible and compassionate approach as prices had been very high within the global market which resulted in householders finding it difficult to heat their homes economically.

Alderman McClintock welcomed the fact that Council was closely monitoring the areas affected by pollution and looked forward to the action plan being implemented across the entire City and District.

Councillor Hastings referred to Dale's Corner in the Waterside area of the City and other areas where there was a heavy flow of traffic. He stated that nothing could currently be done to reduce pollution in that area and suggested that hopefully in future designs for the city, that pollution issues be taken into consideration.

Councillor Gardiner also referred to Dale's Corner and queried how far into the Limavady Road the assessment extended to. She asked that further monitoring be carried out on that route as new schools were due to open in the area which would increase traffic flow and pollution levels.

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that that there were no proposals for further monitoring at this stage. However, there had been suggestions regarding the potential for mobile monitoring equipment being used to take samples from various hotspots in the City. He further stated that in relation to the area at Dale's Corner, this required installation of an receptor at properties.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) under Article 12(4) of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, Council revoke the AQMA's declared for Strabane, Newtownstewart and Castlederg in relation to exceedances of the air quality objectives for Particulate Matter (PM10) and that the Smoke Control Areas shall be maintained and enforced, (ii) that the extent of the Spencer Road AQMA is reduced and that the Strand Road AQMA is revoked and (iii) Officers within the Health and Community Wellbeing Service produce a

draft Air Quality Action Plan for public consultation which shall outline measures that will work towards achieving air quality objectives within the remaining AQMAs.

HC260/17 CCTV at Community Centres (Council Owned Community Managed)

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the above report, which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the current status of CCTV cameras in operation at Council's community centres in line with the introduction of the Council's new CCTV policy and seek Members approval for the Privacy Impact Assessment in line with Council's CCTV Policy and Operating Procedures.

Councillor Jackson thanked Officers for the report and stated that Sinn Fein would endorse the Privacy Impact Assessment. He referred to CCTV provision currently in place and stated that such provided a safe and secure environment for staff and service users and also acted as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour. He added that with the protocols in place for transferring images from the data controller, the integrity of any CCTV system would not be questioned and would only have a positive impact.

Alderman McClintock supported the recommendation and queried if CCTV would extend to all Council facilities.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that CCTV would be considered for all new Council facilities and for current buildings it would depend on footfall and the risk of anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Hastings stated that Pilot's Row was one of the first centres to have CCTV provision in the City and was successful in reducing the amount of vandalism and break-ins. He added that it had proved its worth over the years as it protected staff and users of the facility.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) the Committee note the level of existing CCTV provision currently present in all four sites and monitor the need for installation in additional sites if required,

(ii) endorse the Privacy Impact Assessment completed for all four centres.

HC261/17 Request for Additional Funding to Carry Out Site Works at the Glebe and Victoria Bridge

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the above report, which had been previously circulated to Members. The report was to seek Members approval for a financial contribution of £45,000 to carry out required site works, M and E works and other service works at both the Glebe and Victoria Bridge areas.

Councillor Carlin welcomed the report and stated that it was a continuation of the good work already undertaken in providing 2 portacabins in the area. She extended her thanks to Officers for liaising with the local community and for being very responsive to practical ideas brought forward by community groups on how to provide support in the area. She stated that it displayed the good working relationship between rural villages and Council and had allayed fears that the new 'super' Council would have been remote from the rural community.

Alderman McClintock supported the recommendations and stated that it was welcomed to that the rural communities being were supported in this way.

Councillor Hastings concurred and stated that it had given the opportunity for those communities to meet and build their capacity towards providing further services.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) the Committee approve the additional allocation of £45,000 for the associated works to be carried out at Victoria Bridge and the Glebe.

HC262/17 Children and Young People's Programme

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the above report for information, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the work streams within the Children and Young People's programme.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

HC263/17 Correspondence

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report for information, previously circulated to Members regarding correspondence received by Council.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

HC264/17 Consultations

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report for information, previously circulated to Members regarding consultation papers received by Council.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

The Meeting went into Confidential Business

**Signed: _____
(Chairperson)**

Date: _____