

## Derry City and Strabane District Council

### Minutes of Meeting of the Health and Community Committee (Open) held in the Guildhall, Derry on Thursday 17 May 2018 at 4.00 pm

**Present:- Thompson (Chair); Aldermen ; Councillors Gallagher, Ald R Hamilton, Campbell, Cusack, Jackson, McGinley, Hastings, Duffy, Tierney and Gardiner.**

**In Attendance:- ;**

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#### **HC86/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting**

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

#### **HC87/18 Member Attendance and Apologies**

The Director of Health and Community recorded Members attendance. Apologies were received from Alderman McClintock and Councillor Carlin.

#### **HC88/18 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Councillor McGinley declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 12 – Advice Services Provision Update 2018/19.

Councillor Duffy declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 12 – Advice Services Provision Update 2018/19.

Councillor McTierney declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 12 – Advice Services Provision Update 2018/19.

Councillor O'Reilly declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 12 – Advice Services Provision Update 2018/19.

Councillor Jackson declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 12 – Advice Services Provision Update 2018/19.

Councillor Hastings declared an interest in the following agenda items:

- Agenda item 13 – PEACE IV One Community Programme – Update Report

- Agenda item 22 – Rural Community Development Support Programme 2018/19 – Tender Report
- Agenda item 23 – Additional Resource for Rural Community Support Service.

Alderman Thompson declared an interest in the following agenda items:

- Agenda item 13 – PEACE IV One Community Programme – Update Report
- Agenda item 24 – PEACE IV Youth Leadership Programme.

Councillor Gardiner declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 12 – Advice Services Provision Update 2018/19.

Councillor R McHugh declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 17 – Award from RDP to the Jack and Jill Community Playgroup Project, Plumbridge.

**HC89/18 Deputations - WHSCT: Western Area Outcomes Group - Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership**

Deputation by Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women and Children's Services, Western Health and Social Care Trust and Chair of Western Area Outcomes Group and Ms Ann McDuff, Assistant Director of Women and Children's Services.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Downey and Ms McDuff to the meeting. He then invited them to make their presentation to the Committee.

Councillor Gallagher entered the meeting at this point.

Mr Downey proceeded to deliver the presentation on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership highlighting the following:

- The purpose of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- The number of children in care in Northern Ireland had increased to 2,875 which included 628 from the Western Trust Area
- There were 2,500 children on the Child Protection Area, with 270 of those from the Western Trust Area
- The aim of the Partnership was to rewrite the Children's Plan for Northern Ireland
- Significant challenges were encountered regarding child poverty with 100,000 children in Northern Ireland currently living in child poverty

- Described the 'Three Obsessions' – Every child has the best start in life; Promote the safety of our children and work together to include the voice of children and young people
- Smoking during pregnancy was at 30% in deprived areas compared to 9% in other areas.
- In partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council, the City and District will be the first in the region to have a child friendly, youth participation network.
- Described the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) on a child's life into adulthood and that it was the largest public health challenge
- Illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes had an increased significant risk to adults who had not lead a normal childhood
- £5m to be spent developing cross border networks and hubs to support children and families
- Internal changes to be made on child protection processes
- Move away from blame, shame and punishment to nurturing, understanding and healing.

Mr Downey then congratulated Derry City and Strabane District Council on the focus it had given to young people in the Community Plan which was a brave and innovative step.

The Chair thanked Mr Downey on his informative presentation and invited comments from Members.

Councillor McGinley welcomed Mr Downey and thanked him for his presentation. He remarked on the increased focus of attention on children and young people particularly within community plans and programmes. He stated that there should be clear lines of governance over all the initiatives that included children and young people to avoid duplication or unnecessary bureaucracy.

Mr Downey gave assurance that work was being undertaken to ensure that all of the initiatives and programmes would complement each other.

Councillor O'Reilly referred to the statistics on child poverty and suggested engagement with young people to ascertain what poverty meant to them. He stated that those young people who were marginalised within their own communities were more frequently engaging with statutory agencies through no choice of their own. He further stated that communities should have the resources to become involved in the ACE project as a number of the community groups were working on the front line. He added that workers in these groups were working beyond their capacity and were in need of the extra resources.

In response, Mr Downey concurred with Councillor O'Reilly's remarks. He stated that the resources supplied through INTERREG would be transferred into the community. He outlined the fact that a community resilience was necessary and that community groups were given the resources to enable children and families to become more resilient. He informed Members that they had recently purchased the rights to a film based on Adverse Childhood Experiences and invited them to attend the screening or, if there was sufficient interest, a private screening could be facilitated.

Councillor Gardiner thanked Mr Downey for his presentation. She stressed the importance of the initial early years for children and expressed her concern that only one percent of babies were being breastfed at six months old. She further stated that more positive solutions were needed in going forward. She referred to a previous presentation by the Pioneer Community and asked if their work was linked with the ACE Programme.

In response, Mr Downey stated that the Pioneer Community had a particular focus on smaller communities and that this focus would not achieve the results needed across the entire North West region. He stated that the plan would broaden beyond Pioneer communities to create a Western Area Trauma Informed Community. He added that work on the plan had already begun and the learning gained from the Pioneer Community would be used for the entire region.

Councillor Gardiner expressed alarm at a trend she had noticed whereby parents tended to focus on devices such as smartphones rather than their children and suggested that a support group may be useful to encourage parents to give more attention to their children.

In response, Mr Downey stated that young parents have asked for assistance with play interaction with their children. He stated that they lacked the skills and, therefore it was important to return to basics and encourage and teach them how to interact and play with their children. He stated that whilst phones were important, they could be detrimental to interaction.

In response to a query by Alderman Hussey, Mr Downey stated that it was important to raise awareness, particularly regarding ACE's and to begin conversations to develop momentum in order to become a well-informed trauma, ACE aware community. He stated that schools, police, nurses, community workers and particularly sports clubs attended by children were the 'trusted adult' for a child to confide in. The Chair thanked Mr Downey and Ms McDuff for their presentation and stated that he looked forward to the implementation of the programme.

### **Chairperson's Business**

**HC90/18 Criminal Damage at Herdman's Mill Sion Mills**

Alderman Hussey thanked the Chair for permitting him to raise a matter under Chairperson's Business. He referred to ongoing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage within the Mill Complex at Sion Mills. He stated that it had been agreed at a previous meeting that measures would be applied to prevent any further incidents. He asked for an update on the matter as it needed to be urgently addressed to prevent further trauma experienced by the entire community.

Councillor Gallagher stated that using the term 'anti-social behaviour' would give a perception that young people were responsible for the arson attack.

In response, Alderman Hussey stated he did not infer that children were involved as anti-social behaviour could be undertaken by anyone.

The Director of Health and Community reported that the Chief Executive and Directors were made aware of the issue in Sion Mills and that the Director for Environment and Regeneration would provide an update on the matter. She stated that there were a number of initiatives led by Council with regard to the historic nature of the buildings in Sion Mills to ensure that these were preserved.

Alderman Hussey thanked the Director for the response, however he emphasised the urgency of addressing the situation and that all agencies need to be involved to prevent any further destruction.

**HC91/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 19 April 2018**

The open minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April (HC67/18-HC85/18) were confirmed.

On a matter of accuracy, Alderman R Hamilton and Councillor Duffy stated that their attendance had not been recorded.

**Matters Arising****HC92/18 Good Relations Grant Aid 2018/19 (HC76/18)- Catering Provision at Council Meetings**

Councillor Cusack raised the matter termed as 'biscuitgate' which had been widely discussed on social media. She stated that the Health and Community Directorate should take the lead on healthy eating and in

this regard she proposed that a donation box be placed beside the biscuits at meetings, with any monies raised going towards the Mayor's chosen charity.

Councillor Cusack Moved, Seconded by Alderman R Hamilton

**That a donation box is provided at Council/Committee meetings and anyone taking biscuits should make a donation to the Mayor's chosen charity.**

After voting by a show of hands the proposal was carried.

Alderman Hussey remarked that the issue regarding the biscuits had been generated from a recent councillor survey and that only two councillors out of forty had mentioned it.

**HC93/18**

**Riversdale Leisure Centre Opening Hours (HC79/18)**

Councillor Cusack referred to the opening times of leisure centres at Derry and Strabane over the bank holiday period. She stated that she had received feedback from a considerable amount of users who expressed concern that Templemore Sports Complex and Foyle Arena were closed on the bank holiday. She suggested that Officers conduct a trial of opening these centres for the July bank holiday as a large number of people had expressed a desire to use the facilities over the holiday period.

The Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that the opening hours had been inherited from the Legacy Council and the facility opening times at bank holiday periods were rotated. He reported that one Tier 1 leisure centre was open in the Derry area during bank holidays and the opening arrangements were always well publicised in advance. He stated that to conduct a trial period of new opening hours and future harmonisation would involve consultation with trade unions regarding staffing arrangements.

In response to Councillor Cusack's query on the timeframe for the consultation process, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that the opening arrangements for Tier 1 leisure centres had been a policy decision of Derry City Council and if the current provisions were to be reconsidered a financial assessment would be required. He stated that a detailed report on opening times at leisure centres within the City and District would be provided at a future Committee Meeting.

The Committee

**Recommended that a report be brought on the policy regarding the opening arrangements for Tier 1 leisure centres over bank holiday periods.**

**HC94/18 Consultation on Changes to the Fire and Rescue Services (NI) Order 2006**

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 advise Members that the Department of Health (DoH) had published a consultation paper entitled 'Changes to the Fire and Rescue Services (NI) 2006' and to approve the draft consultation response.

Councillor Jackson stated that Sinn Fein fully endorsed the consultation response to be submitted to the Department of Health. He stated that all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) should be considered as some properties had been adapted or converted to HMO's and these should be contained within the legislation. He referred to cost implications regarding the transfer of responsibility and asked for assurance that there would be no such cost implications to Council.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing reported that a HMO Project Board had been formed specifically for the transfer of the function. He stated that they were reviewing the fee structure of the licensing scheme and the income currently received by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) from their registration scheme and would be transferring the funds across to Council. He reported that the Department for Communities had confirmed that the transfer would be cost neutral. He added that Council would be responsible for agreeing the fees regarding the new licensing scheme and that a report to confirm such would be brought to a future committee meeting.

Councillor Hastings emphasised the importance of inspections being carried out on a regular basis on HMO's to ensure that requirements were fully met. He stated that a timeframe was needed before the transfer was implemented.

Alderman Hussey enquired if Building Control was aware of the consultation response as they would have responsibility for Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Councillor O'Reilly stated that it was important to liaise with Building Control and make them aware that some older properties were not registered as HMO's. He felt that these could cause a risk to adjacent properties such as terraced housing. He suggested that checks were carried out in this regard before sign off.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that April 2019 was the proposed transfer date, subject to legislation being passed. He referred to the current registration scheme and stated that NIHE staff located at Belfast and Coleraine would transfer to Council in April 2019. He stated that in the interim they would be responsible for carrying out any inspections or enforcement activities in relation to existing HMO's.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members approve the draft consultation response to be submitted to the Department of Health.**

**HC95/18 Extension of Public Analyst Contract and Appointment of an Additional Public Analyst**

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to request Members approval for the newly appointed person, and for the extension of the Public Analyst contract for a period of twelve months.

In response to Councillor Tierney's query, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing outlined that the extension made to Public Analyst Scientific Services Ltd was included in the recurring contract to appoint a number of different analysts.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members approve the appointment of the new Public Analyst and recommend that the**

**contract is extended for a period of twelve months.**

**HC96/18 Protocol at Hearings (Entertainment Licensing)**

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 seek Members' approval of the protocol at Hearings to deal with 'Representations' made in relation to Entertainment Licence applications in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) NI Order 1985 – (Article 3 and Schedule 1).

In response to Councillor Gallagher's query regarding the protocol, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that the protocol had not been approved prior to the last committee meeting, however the format had been agreed and Members were now being asked to ratify the Licensing Hearing Protocol.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members approve the Licensing Hearing Protocol.**

**HC97/18 Nominations to Affordable Warmth Scheme Working Group**

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 seek Members' nominations to the Affordable Warmth Scheme 'Task and Finish' Working Group.

The Committee

**Recommended that Aldermen Ramsey and Hussey and Councillors Hastings, Gallagher and McGinley be nominated to sit on the Affordable Warmth Working Group.**

**HC98/18 Advice Services Provision Update 2018/19**

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 seek Members' approval for funding allocations to Advice Service Providers for the 2018/19 financial year.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the additional funding towards advice services provision and remarked that their services were currently stretched to the limit. She offered her congratulations to all the providers who obtained the gold standard award.

Councillor O'Reilly requested clarification regarding those organisations that were unsuccessful in meeting the threshold due to budget cuts.

In response the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that a more detailed analysis report would be brought to a future committee meeting.

Councillor O'Reilly reported that a number of advice providers were offering advice on a voluntary basis, due to the fact that people seeking advice were turned away because of the shortfall in funding. He emphasised that resources needed to be directed into advice services provision.

Councillor Tierney stated that advice centre providers were inundated with requests for help and support because of changes to the benefits system. He stated that the SDLP constituency office had also been inundated with people seeking specialist advice and that some people had not received any benefit payments for up to ten weeks. He then suggested that Officers engage with independent advice providers in the area to ensure that people could be offered as much help as possible. He added that whilst he welcomed the funding increase, it was not sufficient enough to address the need.

Councillor Gallagher concurred that advice service providers were currently inundated by people seeking advice and support. He stated that people were overwhelmed by the application process for benefits and particularly the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). He added that mitigating measures from the Department for Communities was not working as demand had outweighed the services being provided.

The Committee

**Recommended**      **that (i) Members approve the annual allocations in respect of Advice Services Provision and Welfare Reform Support for 2018/19 (ii) Officers engage with advice funders to establish if funding to alleviate waiting lists**

**could be made available (iii) an analysis report be provided to a future Committee meeting.**

**HC99/18 PEACE IV One Community Programme - Update Report**

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 seek Members' approval of the One Community Programme to be delivered in each of the Local Community Planning areas.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members approve the One Community Programme to be delivered**

**HC100/18 Tender for the Supply and Installation of Automatic Flushing Units to Sports Pavilions**

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 inform Members that Derry City and Strabane District Council has a requirement to install automatic flushing shower units to sports pavilions located within the Council District.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members approve the tender submission from Grahams for the installation of the T-Safe systems within the Council's pavilions, allowing the properties to remain compliant with L8 regulations and that in HSG 274**

**HC101/18 Change Something Fund**

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 seek Members' approval of the Change Something Fund at costs of £125,900 and to approve the administration costs of £10,000 for the Acorn Fund to deliver the programme.

In response to Alderman Hussey's query, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that the costs would be split over 2 calls.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members (i) approve additional costs of £125,900 for the delivery of the programme and (ii) approve the Acorn Fund to deliver the programme and the associated administration cost of £10,000**

### **HC102/18 Ulster University Medical School**

Councillor Gardiner thanked the Chair for permitting her to include an additional item for discussion. She referred to the plans to open a new medical school at Ulster University, Magee and that the University was keen to progress the process in order to accept student admissions in 2019. She reported a hindrance in the process and that Queen's University had also submitted a bid to open a medical school. She proposed that representatives from Ulster University, Magee are invited to committee to provide Members with an update on the progression of their business case. She emphasised the importance of keeping political pressure on the situation as the North West required those valuable student places.

Councillor Duffy advised that Elisha McCallion MP had met with the Secretary of State and the Permanent Secretary regarding the issue.

The Director of Health and Community said that the Chief Executive would designate an appropriate committee, such as Governance and Strategic Planning Committee.

### **HC103/18 Court Decision in Relation to Dog Control Offence**

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 advise Members of the decision of the court in respect of an Appeal by Lisa Fugill against the decision of Derry City and Strabane District Council to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for a dog straying under (Article 22(1) of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 as amended) in respect of a dog straying.

The Committee

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|                 | <b>Recommended</b>  | <b>that Members note the outcome of the legal case to dismiss the appeal and uphold the offence and associated fines.</b> |
| <b>HC104/18</b> | <b>Award from RDP to the Jack and Jill Community Playgroup Project - Plumbridge</b> |   |

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 Rural Development Programme Village Renewal Scheme award of £35,000 towards the development of a facility in Plumbridge for the Jack and Jill Community Playgroup.

The Committee

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|                 | <b>Recommended</b>  | <b>that Members note the content of the report .</b> |
| <b>HC105/18</b> | <b>Partial Closure of Riversdale Leisure Centre to Accommodate Reinvestment</b> |  |

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 requirement for a partial closure of Riversdale Leisure Centre swimming pool, health suite and changing rooms from 30 July until 26 August 2018 to accommodate reinvestment and essential maintenance works at Riversdale Leisure Centre.

The Committee

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|                 | <b>Recommended</b>    | <b>that Members note the partial closure of Riversdale Leisure Centre to accommodate refurbishment works.</b> |
| <b>HC106/18</b> | <b>Correspondence</b> |   |

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.**

**HC107/18 Consultation List**

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 terminated at Time Not Specified**