

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Health and Community Committee held in the Guildhall, Derry on Thursday 19 July 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Members of the Committee - ; Councillor R McHugh (Chair); Councillors Cusack, McGinley, Donnelly, Robinson, Duffy, Tierney, Gardiner and McCauley.

HC146/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

HC147/18 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Health and Community recorded Members attendance.
Apologies were received from Aldermen R Hamilton and Thompson and Councillors Campbell and Carlin.

HC148/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Tierney declared an interest in the following agenda items:

- Agenda Item 15 – Policing and Community Safety Partnership Funding Update 2018/19
- Agenda Item 16 – Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Small Project Support 2018/19.

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

- Agenda Item 15 – Policing and Community Safety Partnership Funding Update 2018/19
- Agenda Item 16 – Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Small Project Support 2018/19.

HC149/18 Deputation - Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission - 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Travellers' Accommodation in NI'

The Chair welcomed the Mr Colm Caughey and Ms Hannah Russell from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to the committee meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

The representatives from the Human Rights Commission presented 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Traveller's Accommodation in NI' and highlighted the following:

- The focus of their investigation which included all Travellers throughout Northern Ireland and their accommodation needs which was human rights focused
- The investigation timeline from June 2016 to March 2018
- Evidence gathering from public authorities, civil society organisations and Travellers
- The design guide within the legal framework was outdated with lack of clarity with site licences
- Laws were not adequately implemented in practice
- Found evidence of discriminatory behaviours and attitudes from public authorities and the settled community
- Lack of structured race relations programmes
- Existing accommodation was insufficient to need
- Lack of departmental monitoring mechanism for funding
- Insufficient culturally adequate accommodation and provision of standard services and facilities due to a lack of effective management
- Travellers not engaging with or availing of the formal mechanisms that are available
- Recommendations to Councils included; adequate provision and regulation of services, undue planning delays, site licences and active membership on the Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and invited comments from the Committee. Councillor McGinley welcomed the representatives to the meeting and thanked them on a valuable piece of work. He stated that the report had highlighted systemic issues which highlighted why an investigation was required. He stated that it was useful for Elected Representatives to have a sense of how much progress has been made and what ongoing work was needed within the recommendations. He proposed that Officers bring a report to a future committee meeting highlighting what progress has been made in accordance with the

recommendations as it was important that Council implement the recommendations as soon as possible. Councillor Donnelly stated that as an elected representative he has dealt with problems faced by the Traveller community on numerous occasions. He further stated that they faced widespread prejudice, racism and discrimination. He welcomed the report and hoped that the recommendations were acted upon by Council.

Councillor Tierney also thanked the representatives for their presentation and on behalf of the SDLP welcomed the publication of the report. He referred to the site at Ballyarnett and stated that there were major concerns regarding the classification of the site. He stated that the Ballyarnett site was no longer used as a transient site as most of the users were residing there on a permanent basis with children attending the local schools. He expressed concern that the statutory agencies had recognised that Ballyarnett was no longer being used as a transient site but were not prepared to upgrade facilities as required and that Elected Representatives were in the process of attempting to have Ballyarnett classified as a permanent site.

He further stated that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in partnership with Council have stepped up and installed shower blocks at the site however, it still needs to be upgraded to a permanent site. He referred to the needs of Traveller accommodation within the report and stated that it was also important to look at the wider needs, such as adequate facilities for the traveller community. He felt that it was important for community facilities to be specifically tailored to the needs of Travellers was important as they had often felt anxious when having to attend a community facility given that the settled community had often deterred them from availing of that service.

He felt that in his opinion, that while working with some of the other statutory agencies on traveller issues they had taken a reserved approach and that the Traveller community was reluctant to highlight their plight due to fears of a backlash.

Alderman McClintock thanked Mr Caughey and Ms Russell for their very informative presentation. She remarked that the report encompassed the Traveller community throughout all of Northern Ireland. She

proposed that a specific report become available giving details on the recommendations being implemented by Derry City and Strabane District Council. She stated that as a Member of the Planning Committee, she hoped that applications were not being dealt with in any discriminatory manner.

Alderman Hussey stated that on a few occasions he had to intervene when issues arose between travellers living within the settled community and that the interaction between both communities could be fractious at times and asked;

- Was there any indication of what the Traveller community was doing towards being proactive in their engagement with the settled community
- how many indigenous and transient travellers were currently residing in the DCSDC area
- Have the necessary resources for the implementation of the recommendations within the report been identified.

In response, Mr Caughey stated that regarding proactive engagement with the travelling community, a number of new traveller groups had been emerging that focused not only on traveller accommodation but also broader issues encountered by Travellers. He stated that as with all community groups and organisations, resources were important and it was imperative that those individuals felt supported by public authorities and others. He reported that the Commission was in the process of implementing a traveller community work forum to include representatives from public authorities along with members of traveller communities and support groups. With regard to resources that are required, he stated that recommendations had been made to the public authorities to identify the necessary resources as there were a range of issues which needed to be addressed. He further stated that a few of the recommendations had indicated that some of the current resources had to be reviewed to ensure their effectiveness. He added that a racial equality strategy was brought into place in 2017 which included groups to deal with issues such as travellers' rights.

Ms Russell referred to comments regarding the Ballyarnett site. She stated that the Commission was

aware of issues regarding the categorisation of the site at Ballyarnett. She indicated that Council had the authority to refuse a licence for that site until they were satisfied with the standard of the facilities and the site could not operate until it was fully licensed. She referred to Alderman Hussey's comments and stated the following:-

- In relation to the amount of travellers within DCSDC area, this was not known and was a matter that needed to be addressed.
- With regard to the traveller community being proactive, it was important to look at the causes of the fractious relationships.
- Wider discussion was needed to gauge what the traveller communities, Council public authorities and the settled community were doing regarding being proactive.

She added that Council as a public authority has a responsibility to monitor, guide and to protect the rights of the settled community and the traveller community. She felt that proactive steps from travellers within settled communities was needed.

Councillor Gallagher stated that travellers had expressed a sense of erosion of their culture particularly from public bodies. He stated that it was important to make attempts to eradicate that feeling within the Traveller community. He stated that he concurred with comments made by Councillor Donnelly on the importance that the recommendations outlined in the report were implemented.

Councillor Robinson stated that Members were dealing with issues at the Ballyarnett site as part of a community forum in an attempt to come to a resolution. He concurred with Councillor Tierney's remarks regarding the reluctance of the statutory agencies in dealing with travellers issues on the lack of facilities. He stated that in his opinion, the agencies were using legislation and red tape to block the provision of proper facilities. He stated that by using sustained pressure at the forum, some of those issues had been partially resolved. He enquired what help the Human Rights Commission could provide to a forum to deal with these issues.

Mr Caughey stated that the Commission held an advice clinic to enable people to receive advice on specific issues

and also to provide guidance to community groups for advice or training. He stated that the Commission did not have a specific training or capacity based department within the organisation. However they were keen within the resources they had, to assist organisations and to keep them informed in terms of actions to be taken towards the implementation of the recommendations within the report. He stated that the proposed forum would encourage public authorities and local councils to take ownership and provide best practice within that group which could be shared in other areas.

Councillor P Kelly thanked the representatives for their report and asked what engagement they have had with the NIHE and Council regarding the Greenbrae site at Strabane. He stated that it would be extremely costly to make the site fit for purpose as it has been derelict for quite some time.

In response, Ms Russell stated that part of the implementation plan would be to liaise with the public authorities, Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. She reported that the Commission had met with the NIHE and they had raised all concerns regarding the site at Greenbrae. She stated that from a human rights point of view there is an urgent need for services to be provided. She further stated that the report clearly outlined the obligations and it was the responsibility of stakeholders including Council as a public authority to inform them of their obligations as a housing provider on these matters and to provide a resolution.

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing reported that approximately four of the recommendations directly related to Strabane and Derry and that Greenbrae and Daisyfield had closed. He stated that applications had been received for a site licence, however these were returned to the NIHE as they were incomplete. He reported that a number of meetings with NIHE have taken place to discuss proposals and the NIHE had commissioned a consultant to review traveller sites across Northern Ireland and this report has been completed. He further stated that Council will process any applications for a site licence from the NIHE and that no planning applications have been received.

Ms Russell referred to Councillor P Kelly's comments regarding Greenbrae. She stated that the approach of the

Commission was to consider Greenbrae as a business case. She stated that after discussions with Travellers, they want accommodation that is appropriate to their culture and tradition therefore there was an obligation to consider their needs, however one must also look at the obligation to the wider community. She stated that to build houses for those who wished to move back onto the traveller site would have a significant cost. She stated that a major issue was that sites had not been properly managed which had led to additional costs.

Councillor Gallagher stated that the NIHE spend millions of pounds on the building and maintenance of social housing because they owned the properties. However, Greenbrae is also owned by them therefore they should be building on and maintaining the site.

The Chair thanked Mr Caughey and Ms Russell for their presentation and on behalf of the Committee was happy to hear that Council was active in meeting some of the recommendations, however the report had highlighted that further work was necessary. He added that the Officer report would provide details on how Council could be even more supportive in terms of the recommendations within the Commission's report.

HC150/18 Chairperson's Business

HC150/18 Congratulations

The Chair extended congratulations on the success of local athlete Sommer Lecky who won a silver medal in the high jump at the World Athletics Championships. He stated that it was appropriate that committee acknowledge this success by sending a letter of congratulations.

Alderman Hussey endorsed the remarks expressed by the Chair and requested that Council would also recognise her achievements.

HC151/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018

The open Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2018 (HC120/18 –HC138/87) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

HC152/18 Matters Arising

**HC152/18 Additional Funding Request for Foyle Cup 2018
(HC130/18)**

Councillor Cusack requested an update regarding the additional funding request for Foyle Cup. Councillor Cusack stated that on behalf of the SDLP she wished to congratulate everyone involved with the fantastic and hugely popular tournament. She stated that she had met some of the participating teams who had travelled from America who had been overwhelmed by the welcome they had received from the people of the City.

The Director of Health and Community informed Members that the Head of Community Development and Leisure had been working with Foyle Cup organisers to identify their specific shortfall. She stated that Members would be provided with an update if required, however the amount of funding should be significantly less given the 'in-kind' contributions from the Everybody Active Programme.

Councillor Donnelly concurred with the remarks made by Councillor Cusack. He stated that he had attended a reception for the teams at the Guildhall and had met the organisers of the Foyle Cup and congratulated them on this good news story which portrayed a positive image for the City. He added that the reception was well attended by Elected Representatives, even those who opposed the recommendation to provide extra funding to the Foyle Cup.

Councillor Duffy stated that she had met with the organisers of the Foyle Cup who are aware of Sinn Fein's full support for the tournament. She congratulated them on another successful Foyle Cup with a spectacular opening parade. She noted that meetings had been scheduled with Tourism Ireland, Tourism NI and the Department for Communities with a view to securing a full funding package for next year.

Councillor P Kelly also expressed his congratulations to the organisers of the Foyle Cup which was a great success for the entire City and District. He commented that he

had met with Dutch referees who were taking part in the tournament at their own expense.

Alderman McClintock concurred with the remarks made. She stated that she had watched the parade on the local news and felt so proud of what was taking place in the City. She added that a debt of gratitude was owed to Mr Hutton for all his tremendous work and commitment on bringing such a tournament to the City.

Echoing the previous sentiments, Alderman Hussey described the Foyle Cup as a fantastic competition. He expressed his appreciation at the inclusion of girls' football and disabled football in this year's tournament. He added that there were American visitors staying in the Castleberg area who had expressed delight at the reception that they have received from everyone.

HC153/18 Youth 19

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to invite Members' views on the Youth 19 project.

The Chair invited Claire Lynch, Children's and Young People's Co-ordinator to make a presentation to the Committee on the Youth 19 Project.

Ms Lynch made her presentation to the Committee and highlighted the following points;

- The Youth 19 project in line with the Strategic Growth Plan Commitment would engage and empower young people through their participation in the development of an inclusive programme of events and initiatives for Year of Youth 2019
- Youth 19 was a year dedicated to young people aged between 12 and 24
- It aims to promote the voices, needs priorities and rights of young people and highlight the positive contributions young people make to our community

- The project would support young people to take a leading role and make change happen and provide partners with the opportunity to work to improve outcomes for young people
- Build effective cross border co-operation in the development and delivery of youth participation programmes
- Council and its partners are asked to support and facilitate a series of projects and events suitable for everyone
- The Project is being supported by the PEACE IV Children and Wellbeing Programmes and the Change Something Fund
- More opportunities for young people to take part in programmes which have been shaped by them
- Young people will be better able to realise their potential and become active, responsible citizens

The Chair thanked Ms Lynch for her presentation and invited comments from the Committee.

Councillor McCauley thanked Ms Lynch for her presentation. He felt that every year should be a year of youth and through his work in the youth sector he had witnessed the continuous impact and benefits such projects provided. He congratulated everyone involved in the project and stated that a lot of youth and community centres were looking forward to its implementation. He added that he looked forward to an exciting and positive year for young people. He stated that in terms of suggestions on the project, he felt that in his opinion such should be left to the young people.

Alderman McClintock thanked Ms Lynch for her presentation on an exciting programme for young people who were all being encouraged to participate. She stated that the project highlighted the positivity of our youth and the contributions that they can make adding that the Change Something Fund was giving young people the opportunity to develop an idea and make it happen. She stated that the youth being involved in every aspect of the programme was very encouraging and added that she looked forward to the implementation of the project.

Alderman Hussey also thanked Ms Lynch for the extremely welcomed presentation. He referred to the disappointment of the bid for EYC and appreciated that Council had superseded this with the Youth 19 Project. He added that the programme was something that the entire youth population of our City and District would be looking forward to.

Councillor McGinley stated that he had the privilege to attend the launch of a new initiative on board the Unicef Clipper which had taken part in the Foyle Maritime Festival. He said that young people who attended the launch had been given the opportunity to steer the vessel which was appropriate as it was crucial that young people steer this project into success. He said that the project would go towards Council attaining the UNICEF Child Friendly Community status and encouraged all young people to become involved in the project.

Councillor Gardiner thanked Ms Lynch on her presentation. She stated that co-design was an integral element to the project. She referred to the recent events that had taken place in the City which showed young people who were disengaged from society. She emphasised the importance on engaging with them and encouraging them to become involved in this or similar projects. She stated that the young people who participate in these projects do not necessarily need them. She enquired if there had been any plans on how to engage with the marginalised youth in the City as they were in need of guidance to try and get them to re-engage and take ownership of their community.

Ms Lynch stated that there was indeed an element of the PEACE IV Children and Young People's Programme specifically tailored for marginalised youth and tenders for this would be released in the coming months. She stated that two steering groups had been created to work with young people who have been traditionally identified as being on the margin of society. She referred to comments on the UNICEF child friendly community launch which took place which was attended by the Commissioner for Children and Young People. She stated that a meeting had been arranged with the Children and

Young People's Partnership and the youth workers from all areas of the City including the Bogside and Fountain to discuss how the youth in those areas were being supported.

Councillor Donnelly concurred with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Gardiner. He stated that the images portrayed over recent weeks showed an increased number of young people who have been alienated and marginalised in their communities. He commented that he had participated in the Local Democracy Week and noticed a decrease in the number of young people taking part each year. He stated that there were young people and children throughout the City and District who were hard to reach and would like to see how Council proposed to engage with them.

The Committee

Recommended that a progress report is provided at a future Committee meeting once the programme has been finalised.

HC154/18 Bank and Public Holiday Opening Hours for Leisure Facilities

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide an update to Members on the current arrangements for bank and public holiday opening of Council Leisure Facilities, and potential financial and Human Resource impact of extending these.

Councillor Cusack thanked the Director of Health and Community and all those involved in collating the information. She stated that she had initially brought the matter to the attention of Council given the pressure by the general public regarding the alternative opening hours during Public and Bank Holiday periods. She stated

that people did not have the facts regarding the cost and staffing implications, however, the information was now available therefore an informed choice can be made on its feasibility.

The Committee

Recommended that the review of public and bank holiday opening hours for Leisure facilities be referred to the Leisure and Sports Services working group for consideration.

HC155/18 Melvin Sports Complex 3G and Arena Pitch CCTV

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members' approval of the Privacy Impact Assessment in relation to Melvin Sports Complex 3G and Arena Pitch area and approval for the installation of additional cameras in line with Council's CCTV Policy and Operating Procedures.

In response to Alderman Hussey's query regarding capacity, the Director of Health and Community confirmed that this was not an issue.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the Privacy Impact Statement and the installation of additional CCTV cameras at

HC156/18 Business Case Development for Sport and Leisure Capital Projects

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members' approval to appoint consultants to carry out Feasibility Studies and Business Cases in relation to

the development of sport and leisure facilities at Melvin Sports Complex, Prehen Boathouse and Daisyfield site.

Councillor McGinley proposed the acceptance of the recommendations and remarked on the logical progression from the previous recommendations of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillor Tierney stated that through working with the Capital Development Working Group and subsequently with Governance and Strategic Planning, he welcomed this as the next stage for the developments.

Councillor Gallagher welcomed the report and it's progression to a further stage. He stated that Melvin Sports Complex now had the potential to become the jewel in the crown for outdoor activities in the Strabane area.

The Committee

Recommended	That Members approve the commissioning of a consultant to undertake the development of three separate Business Cases for sports capital projects at Daisyfield, Melvin Sports Complex and Prehen Boathouse.
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HC157/18 North West Sports Development Programme

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members' endorsement for expenditure from the North West Development Fund for costs associated with

the proposed North West Sports Development Programme.

Councillor McGinley proposed to accept the recommendations. He said that these programmes will add to and further enhance the programmes already delivered by Council.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members endorse the expenditure from the North West Development Fund to the value of £222,746 towards the delivery of the North West Sports Development Programme.**

HC158/18 Procedure for Passing, Rescinding or Varying of Designating Resolutions Under the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the "Procedure for passing, rescinding or varying of designating resolutions under the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001", which procedure will be used when it is proposed to pass, rescind or vary a designating resolution in relation to street trading.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members approve the Procedure for passing, rescinding or varying of designating**

**resolutions
under the
Street Trading
Act (NI) 2001.**

HC159/18 Licensing Activity from 1 April - 30 June 2018

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of Licensing Activity from 1st April – 30th June 2018 and to seek approval of road closure applications received, subject to no objections being received.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the licensing activity and approve the road closure applications received, subject to no objections being received by the relevant deadline.

HC160/18 Policing and Community Safety Partnership Funding Update 2018/19

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the current situation in relation to external funding support secured by the Derry and Strabane Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP).

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

HC161/18 Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Small Project Support 2018/19

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the allocation of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Small Project Support Grant for 2018/19.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

HC162/18 Leisure Re-Investment Update

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the re-investment delivered across the leisure service.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

HC163/18 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Council Dog Summary Statistics

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Council Dog Summary Statistics report. This statistical report provided information on a wide range of topics including: dog licences, complaints regarding stray dogs, dog attacks and dog warden enforcement actions.

Councillor Cusack congratulated the department for their work on improving statistics regarding matters such as dog licencing. She commented on the tremendous amount of work undertaken by pet charities and the responsibilities that they take on regarding the rehoming

of pets. She enquired if Council could support these types of organisations as they were under considerable financial strain whilst being totally reliant on fundraising to enable them to care for pets that would otherwise be put down. She reported that she had been contacted by members of the public regarding the penalty for not renewing their dog licence on time. She stated that although Council had an obligation to notify dog owners on the renewal of their licence, she felt that there had to be a more efficient method to send notifications. She stated that some dog owners had not received correspondence, for various reasons, instructing them to renew the licence and had subsequently received notification of a fine. She asked for consideration of other communication options for dog licensing renewals in order to avoid fines being imposed.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report and consider other communication options regarding dog licensing renewals

HC164/18 Consultations

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of consultation documents received by Council and for Members to note these for information.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

HC165/18 Correspondence

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise

Members of correspondence documents received by
Council and for Members to note these for information.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the
contents of the report.**

The Meeting went into Confidential Business