

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Derry City and Strabane District Council held in the Guildhall, Derry on Thursday 28 June 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Members of the Committee - Councillor Boyle (Chair); Aldermen; Bresland, M Hamilton, R Hamilton, Kerrigan, McClintock, Ramsey Thompson and Warke; Councillors McCauley, McKnight, Campbell, McClintock, Carlin, Carr, Cooper, Cusack, Dobbins, Donnelly, Duffy, Fleming, Gallagher, Hastings, Jackson, C Kelly, D Kelly, P Kelly, Logue, McGinley, R McHugh, McMahan, O'Reilly, M McHugh, Reilly, J McKeever, Robinson and Tierney.

C205/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Mayor read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

C206/18 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Chief Executive completed the roll call.

Apologies were received from Alderman Devenney and Councillors Gardiner and McGuire

C207/18 Webcasting Notice

The Mayor read the Webcast Announcement for the Meeting.

Councillor Carlin entered the meeting at this point.

C208/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

C209/18 Suspension of Standing Orders

Councillor Duffy Proposed a suspension of Standing Orders Seconded by Councillor Tierney.

Councillor Gallagher Proposed that Members vote on the matter, Seconded by Councillor Donnelly.

After voting by a show of hands, the result was as follows:

For – 33; Against – 0; Abstentions 5.

The Proposal was carried and met the qualified majority threshold. The Mayor then invited Councillor Duffy to address the Chamber.

Councillor Duffy Proposed a Motion of No Confidence in Alderman Hussey Seconded by Councillor Tierney

That This Council believes that Alderman Hussey should step down from his position as both the Deputy Mayor of this City and District and as Chairperson of the PCSP. His repeated convictions for drink driving are not conducive with the role of PCSP Chair and his refusal to accept this has undermined the zero tolerance approach which public authorities must demonstrate towards this crime. As such, he has lost the confidence of this Chamber and the general public to represent them. The hurt and upset that this has caused local families who have lost loved ones as a result of drink driving has been immense and we would like to pay tribute to these families, who have bravely stood up to have their voice heard. We would ask that if Alderman Hussey does not agree to act on this request, that Council write to the Party Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and ask that he take action on this matter.

Councillor Duffy stated that Sinn Fein were calling on Alderman Hussey to step down as Deputy Mayor and to reconsider the nomination for position of Chair to the PCSP. She outlined that Sinn Fein had already objected to his appointment of Chair of the PCSP on the grounds that someone with repeated drink driving convictions should not be leading a body responsible for public safety matters. She stated that while everyone was entitled to a second chance it was clear that Alderman Hussey had been given several but continued to display the most atrocious disregard for public safety. She added that this had compounded the grief of families bereaved by the actions of drunk drivers who had campaigned for a zero tolerance approach to drink driving which had been undermined by Alderman Hussey remaining in such a senior, civic position. She paid particular tribute to the

families of the bereaved who were seated in the public gallery for their dignity and resolve shown over the recent days. She stated that the families had made their feelings clear on the matter and therefore felt it was inappropriate for Alderman Hussey to continue in the position of Deputy Mayor and Chair of the PCSP. She stated that the Motion did not compel Alderman Hussey to stand down, however they believed it symbolised support by Council to all families affected by drink driving. She called on Alderman Hussey to reflect on the strength of feeling regarding this issue and added that should he not listen to reason, that Mr Swann MLA, Party Leader, be called upon to show leadership on the matter.

Councillor Tierney stated it was important to recognise how difficult an issue this was. He stated that he had met with families who had been bereaved through the actions of drink driving and asked Alderman Hussey to reflect on the hurt felt by the families and consider his position.

The Mayor informed Members that a communication had been received from Mr Swann MLA, Party Leader, Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) in relation to the matter.

In response to a query regarding protocol, the Mayor stated that the communication would bring some clarity on the matter.

The Chief Executive then relayed the communication to Members wherein Mr Swann stated that the UUP wished to replace Alderman Hussey with Alderman M Hamilton, as a member of Derry City and Strabane PCSP and automatically nominate her to the position of Chair. Mr Swann outlined that Alderman Hussey had indicated that given his increased workload combined with his role of Deputy Mayor, membership of other committees and working groups and working as a Councillor to his own DEA, he has decided to step down from his position on Derry City and Strabane District PCSP of which he has been a member since its conception in 2015.

A short recess was requested by Alderman Thompson, seconded by Alderman Warke.

After the recess, Alderman Thompson stated that he had spoken to the families of the bereaved who wished to extend their thanks to Alderman M Hamilton on the tremendous work carried out by her as a member of the Road Safety Committee.

An Amendment was Proposed by Alderman Thompson,
Seconded by Alderman Warke

That This Council believes that Alderman Hussey should step down from his position as both the Deputy Mayor of this City and District and as Chairperson of the PCSP. His repeated convictions for drink driving are not conducive with the role of PCSP Chair and his refusal to accept this has undermined the zero tolerance approach which public authorities must demonstrate towards this crime. As such, he has lost the confidence of this Chamber and the general public to represent them. The hurt and upset that this has caused local families who have lost loved ones as a result of drink driving has been immense and we would like to pay tribute to these families, who have bravely stood up to have their voice heard. We would ask that if Alderman Hussey does not agree to act on this request, that Council write to the Party Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and ask that he take action on this matter.

That Council recognises the hurt and upset caused to local families who have lost loved ones as a result of drink driving. Furthermore Council recognises the hurt and upset caused to local families who have lost loved ones at the hands of others. While the electorate decides whom they want to represent them at the ballot box which bestows a responsibility on elected councillors, anyone convicted of a serious criminal conviction – that is a conviction which did or could have resulted in harming another human being – should not hold a senior position arising from their elected status.

Councillor Gallagher asked for clarification on the Proposal and could it contravene standing orders. In response, the Lead Legal Services Officer stated that the matter of positions of responsibility within Standing Orders had been set by statute, therefore the Motion would have no effect on what was written within Standing Orders.

Councillor Duffy referred to the correspondence from Mr Swann MLA. She stated that, in her opinion, it had compounded the hurt of the families in relation to this issue and that the communication was an act of arrogance. She then asked for a short recess to consider the Amendment put forward by Alderman Thompson. After the short recess, Councillor Duffy stated that Sinn Fein would not be supporting the Amendment to the Motion as she maintained that this was an attempt to rewrite the Good Friday Agreement and detract from the focus of the original motion.

Councillor Donnelly stated that Alderman Hussey had been convicted in 2016, his third conviction and nobody had approached him on the matter or had asked him to step down. He further stated that the Motion was an exercise in humiliation. He noted that Councillors had recently applauded Alderman Hussey at his appointment of Deputy Mayor. He addressed the Mayor and outlined that within the Mayor's speech he had stated that he had absolutely no doubt that Alderman Hussey would make a first class deputy and could count on him. He stated that the Mayor had also described Alderman Hussey as very respectable, very open and very honest. He asked how Council had managed to change its position so quickly and added that these actions were not assisting the families in any way.

Councillor Reilly stated that he would like to express his good wishes to Alderman M Hamilton should her appointment of Chair to the PCSP be approved. He stated that with regard to the Amendment to the Motion, he concurred with Councillor Duffy that the wording was contrary to the Good Friday Agreement, therefore the SDLP would not support the Amendment.

Alderman Thompson Proposed an Amendment Seconded by Alderman Warke was then put to the vote.

After voting by a show of hands the result was as follows:
For the Amendment – 8; Against – 25; Abstentions - 4.

Therefore the Motion fell.

Alderman Hussey stated that he was mindful of family members of those who had lost their lives to drink drivers being present in the public gallery. He extended his sympathies to the relatives and stated that he empathised and understood the trauma caused when a young person has lost their life. However, he respectfully said that he had not caused their fatality or any other fatality as a result of his actions. He stated that his actions were wrong and that he had apologised and had honoured all judgments delivered to him through the legal system. He trusted that he hoped those family members would understand that he did not seek to cause them any hurt by retaining his position as Deputy Mayor; a position afforded to him by the local electorate who had placed their substantial trust in his ability to represent them. He stated that the position had been selected over three years ago where it had been known since then that the UUP had selected the Deputy Mayoral post for the final term of Council. He added that having known these facts, Sinn Fein had decided to seek a notice of no confidence which was shameful political opportunism.

Alderman Hussey stated that if the Motion was carried that nothing may change as the UUP would not be directed by Sinn Fein as to Ulster Unionist determinations and selections. He referred to the heightened media attention which had caused stress to all parties, including his own family, however he had been humbled with the numerous messages of support and encouragement that they had received from across the community. He stressed that no-one had condoned his past actions nor were they expected to. He noted that the hypocrisy of Sinn Fein's sudden moral dilemma was patently clear for all to see. He stated that Sinn Fein was a party where it was almost a rite of passage for some to have a past involved in past terrorist activities. He reiterated that although he had not been involved in the death of any person, he regretted this issue would have rekindled the pain of loss to those families of past victims. He concluded by stating that next year's election would determine who would return to this Chamber.

Alderman M Hamilton stated that as a member of the Road Safety Committee she totally condemned drink driving as it ruined lives and destroyed families. She

expressed her sympathies with everyone who had suffered loss due to drink driving.

Councillor Duffy thanked Alderman M Hamilton for her comments. She addressed Alderman Hussey and stated that in her opinion, his response showed great arrogance and misunderstanding to how victim's families and the general public felt on this issue and had not read the mood of the people of the City and District.

Subsequently Councillor Duffy Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Tierney

That This Council believes that Alderman Hussey should step down from his position as both the Deputy Mayor of this City and District and as Chairperson of the PCSP. His repeated convictions for drink driving are not conducive with the role of PCSP Chair and his refusal to accept this has undermined the zero tolerance approach which public authorities must demonstrate towards this crime. As such, he has lost the confidence of this Chamber and the general public to represent them. The hurt and upset that this has caused local families who have lost loved ones as a result of drink driving has been immense and we would like to pay tribute to these families, who have bravely stood up to have their voice heard. We would ask that if Alderman Hussey does not agree to act on this request, that Council write to the Party Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and ask that he take action on this matter.

After voting by a show of hands the result was as follows:
For – 25; Against – 1; Abstentions – 11.

The Original Motion was therefore carried and the Council

Resolved That **this Council believes that Alderman Hussey should step down from his position as both the Deputy Mayor of this City and District and as Chairperson of the**

PCSP. His repeated convictions for drink driving are not conducive with the role of PCSP Chair and his refusal to accept this has undermined the zero tolerance approach which public authorities must demonstrate towards this crime. As such, he has lost the confidence of this Chamber and the general public to represent them. The hurt and upset that this has caused local families who have lost loved ones as a result of drink driving has been immense and we would like to pay tribute to these families, who have bravely stood up to have their voice heard. We would ask that if Alderman Hussey does not agree to act on this request, that Council write to the Party Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and ask that he take action on this matter.

C210/18 Chairperson's Business

C210/18 Trade and Investment Visit to the United States of America

The Mayor reported on the recent successful trade and investment visit to the United States with the Chief Executive of Donegal County Council and Senior Officers of Derry City and Strabane District Council. He stated that they had attended many successful engagements in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and New York. He stated that this was an opportunity for investment throughout the City and District.

Councillor Gallagher stated that he had discussions with people from the Strabane area who had also taken part in the trade and investment visit. He stated that they had expressed disappointment that Strabane had not been mentioned at any of the events apart from when it was used in Council's official title. He stated that it was important to represent the entire district on such visits as Strabane and other areas badly needed investment and tourism.

The Mayor stated that he categorically refuted the allegation and assured Councillor Gallagher that Strabane and the entire region had been included in all presentations and discussions and had been well represented.

The Mayor further welcomed what he described as extremely good news that FinTrU Ltd are to invest substantially in Derry which showed a vote of confidence in the city and district.

C211/18 Congratulations

Councillor Dobbins thanked the Mayor for his kind invitation to the Foyle Cup welcome dinner. She suggested that a Mayor's reception would complement the event and also to congratulate the County Derry under 20's Gaelic team on winning the championship in Clones.

Alderman Hussey asked if the Mayoral office would recognise and celebrate the contribution and medals won by the Strabane Special Olympics Club with the Londonderry Bowling Club. He stated that the success level was very high and felt it was appropriate to celebrate their achievements.

Councillor Carlin wished to congratulate the team and workers who had organised and delivered the Summer Jamm event in Strabane. She stated that the event had been an immense success. She commended the efficient and prompt cleaning of the streets after the event.

Councillor Donnelly remarked on the hugely successful event, Relay for Life which raised in excess of over £150,000 for cancer research. Council staff and Members had taken part in the event with Council officers and staff giving up their time to ensure that it was a success.

The Mayor extended his congratulations to everyone involved in all of the events and stated that Members could make requests for civic reception via the appropriate protocol for consideration.

C211/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Derry City and Strabane District Council held on Thursday 31 May 2018

The Minutes of the Open Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 31 May 2018 (C167/18-C198/18) were submitted.

Councillor Dobbins Moved, Alderman Bresland Seconded and the Council.

Resolved **that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting**

C212/18 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

C213/18 **Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on Monday 4 June 2018**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 4 June 2018 (AM1/18-AM9/18) were submitted.
Councillor Hastings Moved, Councillor Dobbins Seconded and the Council

Resolved **that the above minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting**

C214/18 **Adoption of the Open Minutes of the following Committees**

C215/18 **Special Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2018**

The Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 29 May 2018 (SP13/18-SP17/18) were submitted.

Alderman Bresland Moved, Alderman McClintock Seconded and the Council

Resolved **that the above minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting**

a **Monthly Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on Tuesday 5 June 2018**

The Minutes of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on 5 June 2018 (GSP97/18-GSP107/18) were submitted.
Alderman Thompson Moved, Councillor Hastings Seconded and the Council

Resolved that the above minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Alderman Thompson referred to GSP106/18 Leadership Programme for Elected Members and nominated Alderman Ramsey to the Programme.

b Monthly Planning Committee held on Wednesday 6 June 2018

The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 June 2018 (P98/18-P111/18) were submitted.

Councillor D Kelly Moved, Seconded by Alderman McClintock and the Council

Resolved that the above minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting

c Monthly Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on Thursday 7 June 2018

The Minutes of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on 7 June 2018 (AAR64/18- AAR72/18) were submitted.

Councillor McMahan Moved, Seconded by Councillor Hastings and the Council

Resolved that the above minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting

d Monthly Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 12 June 2018

The Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 12 June 2018 (BC128/18 – BC144/18) were submitted.

Councillor McKeever Moved, Seconded by Councillor McKnight and the Council

Resolved that the above minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting

e Monthly Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 13 June 2018

The Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 13 June 2018 (ER127/18 – ER149/18) were submitted.

Councillor Tierney Moved, Seconded by Councillor C Kelly and the Council

Resolved that the above minutes as amended, be adopted as a true record of the Meeting

Matters Arising

C220/18

Annual Blessing of the Graves Ceremony at Strabane

Councillor Gallagher thanked Council staff for the effective clean-up of Strabane Cemetery in preparation for the annual Blessing of the Graves ceremony. However, he stated that the lack of traffic management in place had caused major congestion in the area. He stated that if emergency services were required they would not have been able to gain access to the cemetery. He asked Officers to put in place an effective traffic management scheme for next year.

Councillor P Kelly referred to the comments made by Councillor Gallagher and noted that traffic had been well managed at a similar event at the City Cemetery in Derry and asked that the same measures be put in place for Strabane.

Alderman Ramsey stated that grass cutting services were required at Glendermott Cemetery, Church Road.

Councillor Carlin remarked that there was no safe access to the cemetery and unfortunately a lot of people, particularly the elderly, were unable to attend the event.

C221/18

Roll Out of Brown Bin Provision (ER149/18)

Councillor Cusack expressed her disappointment that a number of recent bulky lifts had been re-scheduled without the information being communicated to Members who represented their constituents. She stated that this was a public service and information should be made freely available to everyone. She added that matter needed urgent consideration as it would have a serious affect on Council's customer service reputation.

Councillor P Kelly concurred with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Cusack. He added that residents from the Strabane and rural areas had not yet received a brown bin but had received literature regarding the bins. He enquired when the roll out of the brown bins for the rural areas of Strabane would take place.

Councillor O'Reilly referred to the point raised by Councillor Cusack and reaffirmed that if there were any arrangements for bulky lifts there was a requirement for information to be distributed to all Members so they can furnish the communication to the electorate.

Alderman Ramsey stated that due to technical issues the lorry designated for carrying out bulky lifts was not currently operational. He stated it was important to have the matter resolved as soon as possible as residents were leaving out waste items in the street for collection which could cause numerous hazards.

Councillor Cooper stated that Sinn Fein had distributed leaflets to all houses in the Glen area which had been affected by the issue raised by Councillor Cusack. He stated that Sinn Fein had requested the bulky lift operation to take place over a four day period and in fact, the majority of items had been collected in three days. He asked that the information regarding changes were displayed on the Council website and social media page to help address the issue.

Councillor Carlin referred to the issue regarding the roll out of brown bins and stated that it was not confined to rural areas, as residents in Strabane town had also not received a brown bin. She stated that many urban based households did not accept the brown bin as there were no green areas in their outdoor space. She suggested that a wider request be issued to those properties advising them that the brown bin could also be used for food waste. She added that some of the brown bin collections resulted in food debris left in residential areas which could pose a health hazard.

In response, the Chief Executive stated that all comments would be taken into consideration particularly in relation to communication and how it could be improved. With regard to Cemetery Sunday in Strabane, Officers would liaise with other relevant agencies to improve traffic management for future events. He stated that any issues regarding waste collection would be tabled at a future Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting. He added that Members would receive updates on plans and dates for future roll outs of the brown bins across the Council area.

f Monthly Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018

The Minutes of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018 (HC120/18-HC138/18) were submitted.

On a matter of accuracy, Alderman McClintock referred to HC123/18. She stated that she welcomed the allocation of funding. However, her comment that it was good to see the benefit of the Confidence and Supply funding coming to the country had been omitted from the minutes.

Councillor Tierney Moved, Seconded by Alderman McClintock and the Council

Resolved that the above minutes as amended, be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

C223/18 Nomination of Chairperson for the Derry and Strabane Policing and Community Safety Partnership (HC129/18)

Councillor R McHugh is to replace Councillor M McHugh on the Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

C216/18 Corporate Plan and Improvement Plan 2018/19

The Chief Executive presented the report which had been previously circulated to Members. He reminded Members of the statutory obligation under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 to publish a performance improvement plan no later than the end of June.

He stated that the purpose of the report was to seek Members' comments and approval for the Corporate Plan and Improvement Plan 2018/2019.

The Chief Executive referred to Section 3.3 of the report which set out the four key improvement objectives;

- To increase employment opportunities and economic growth through a range of measures including creating new business start-ups, supporting existing business and delivering visitor growth as a destination of choice.
- To help people develop long, healthy and fulfilling lives by increasing participation in high quality leisure, sport and healthy living activity.
- To protect and enhance the environment through creating and supporting a culture of environmental stewardship.
- To deliver improved customer satisfaction by improving customer support services and processes.

He stated that each of those four overarching improvement objectives contained the detailed work plan to be rolled out throughout the year and audited by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO).

Councillor Reilly Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Hastings and the Council

Resolved That Council endorse the Corporate Plan and the Improvement Plan 2018/19

C217/18 Notices of Motion

C225/18 Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Campaign

Councillor Tierney Moved, Seconded by Councillor Reilly

That This Council acknowledges the joint Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association campaign highlighting deep concern about the impact of the current definition of terminal illness used for eligibility for benefits including Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in Northern Ireland.

Council notes that PIP has special rules for applicants with terminal illnesses, which allows people to access payments quicker and without a face-to-face assessment. However, this avenue is only open to those who have been given a prognosis of six months or less. This restriction is unfairly excluding many people with terminal illnesses, including those with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), chronic heart failure and COPD, as they fail to access PIP under the special rules, meaning they have to wait much longer for their payments and undergo face-to-face assessments.

Council affirms that this is unfair and denies people the best quality of life during the time they have left and calls on the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to follow the lead of the Scottish government and implement the call from

Marie Curie and the MND Association for a fairer definition of terminal illness that is based on clinical judgement and patient need, not a time-restricted estimation of life expectancy.

This Council will write to all of the other Councils in NI asking them to support this campaign.

After voting by a show of hands the result was unanimous and the Council

Resolved **That this Council acknowledges the joint Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association campaign highlighting deep concern about the impact of the current definition of terminal illness used for eligibility for benefits including Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in Northern Ireland.**

Council notes that PIP has special rules for applicants with terminal illnesses, which allows people to access payments quicker and without a face-to-face assessment. However, this avenue is only open to those who have been given a prognosis of six months or less. This restriction is unfairly excluding many people with terminal illnesses, including those with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), chronic heart failure and COPD, as they fail to access PIP under the special rules, meaning they have to wait much longer for their payments and undergo face-to-face assessments.

Council affirms that this is unfair and denies people the best quality of life during the time they have left and calls on the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to follow the lead of the Scottish government and implement the call from Marie Curie and the MND Association for a fairer definition of terminal illness that is based on clinical judgement and patient need, not a time-restricted estimation of life expectancy.

This Council will write to all of the other Councils in NI asking them to support this campaign.

C226/18 Legislative Reform on Abortion

Councillor Duffy Moved, Seconded by Councillor Carlin

That this Council welcomes the 'yes' vote to Repeal the 8th Amendment; believes that full information and non-directive pregnancy counselling embodying all choices should be freely available to women, and calls for a compassionate human rights compliant approach to healthcare, acknowledges that women should have access to safe and appropriate healthcare and thus endorses legislative reform and the decriminalisation of abortion.

Councillor Gallagher requested a recorded vote.

Following a request for a recorded vote the voting was as follows:

For the Proposal – Councillors Boyle, Campbell, Carlin, Cooper, Donnelly, Duffy, Fleming, Gallagher, Jackson, C Kelly, D Kelly, Logue, McCauley, McGinley, M McHugh, R McHugh, McKnight, McMahan, O'Reilly, Reilly, Robinson and Tierney – 22.

Against the Proposal – Aldermen Bresland, M Hamilton, R Hamilton, Hussey, Kerrigan, McClintock, Ramsey, Thompson and Warke; Councillors Carr, Dobbins, Hastings and McKeever – 13.

Abstentions – Councillor Cusack – 1.

The Proposal was therefore carried.

Subsequently Councillor Duffy Moved, Seconded by Councillor Dobbins and the Council

Resolved **That this Council welcomes the 'yes' vote to Repeal the 8th Amendment; believes that full information and non-directive pregnancy counselling embodying all choices should be freely available to women, and calls for a compassionate human rights compliant approach to healthcare, acknowledges that women should have access to safe and appropriate healthcare and thus endorses legislative reform and the decriminalisation of abortion.**

C227/18

Medical Cannabis

Alderman Hussey Moved, Seconded by Councillor

Dobbins

That Derry City & Strabane District Council supports the use of Medical Cannabis when its use is assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient and then prescribed by the recipient patient's General Practitioner for such use. This Council, being particularly concerned in regard to the immediate plight of Billy Caldwell, therefore urges the Home Office to

withdraw its prohibition on such use of Medical Cannabis and the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same.

Alderman Hussey was then permitted by Council to amend the Motion due to a recent change in circumstances on the matter.

That Derry City & Strabane District Council supports the use of Medical Cannabis when its use is assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient and then prescribed by the recipient patient's General Practitioner for such use.
This Council, being particularly concerned in regard to the life threatening condition endured by Billy Caldwell, therefore urges the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on such use of Medical Cannabis and the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same.

Councillor O'Reilly proposed an Amendment, Seconded by Councillor Robinson

That Derry City & Strabane District Council supports the use of Medical Cannabis when its use is assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient and then prescribed by the recipient patient's General Practitioner for such use.
This Council, being particularly concerned in regard to the life threatening condition endured by Billy Caldwell, therefore urges the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on such use of Medical Cannabis and

the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same. That this campaign is taken forward by all eleven Councils.

After voting by a show of hands the result was unanimous and the Amendment was carried.

A further Amendment was Proposed by Councillor Gallagher, Seconded by Councillor Donnelly

That Derry City & Strabane District Council supports the use of Medical Cannabis when its use is assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient and then prescribed by the recipient patient's General Practitioner for such use.
This Council, being particularly concerned in regard to the life threatening condition endured by Billy Caldwell and all others within the district in a similar position, therefore urges the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on such use of Medical Cannabis and the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same. That this campaign is taken forward by all eleven Councils.

After voting by a show of hands the result was unanimous and the Amendment was carried.

Subsequently the Amendment became the Substantive Motion. After voting by a show of hands the result was unanimous.

Subsequently Councillor Gallagher Moved, Seconded by Councillor Donnelly and the Council

Resolved Derry City & Strabane District Council supports the use of Medical Cannabis

when its use is assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient and then prescribed by the recipient patient's General Practitioner for such use. This Council, being particularly concerned in regard to the life threatening condition endured by Billy Caldwell and all others within the district in a similar position, therefore urges the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on such use of Medical Cannabis and the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same. That this campaign is taken forward by all eleven Councils.

The Chief Executive left at this point in the meeting.

C228/18

Education System in Northern Ireland

Councillor Cusack Moved, Seconded by Councillor

Hastings

That This Council recognises local schools are at breaking point and that the current funding situation is unsustainable with per pupil funding being slashed year on year; believes that an investment in educating children is an investment in our economy; further recognises that in the absence of radical investment or reform, the education system in Northern Ireland will be unaffordable, socially immobile and unfit for purpose; calls for reform in the form of a comprehensive, expert-led review, to ensure our education system is structured and resourced in a way that allows all our schools to deliver high quality education for all children; and will write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education outlining this call.

Councillor Cooper Proposed an Amendment, Seconded by Councillor Campbell

That This Council recognises local schools are at breaking point and that the current funding situation is unsustainable with per pupil funding being slashed year on year; believes that an investment in educating children is an investment in our economy; further recognises that in the absence of radical investment or reform, including the ending of academic selection, the education system in Northern Ireland will be unaffordable, socially immobile and unfit for purpose; calls for reform in the form of a comprehensive, expert-led review, to ensure our education system is structured and resourced in a way that allows all our schools to deliver high quality education for all children; and will write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education outlining this call.

After voting on the Amendment by a show of hands the result was as follows:

For – 26; Against – 7; Abstentions 2.

Subsequently the Amendment became the Substantive Motion. After voting by a show of hands the result was as follows:

For – 27; Against – 7; Abstentions 1. The Substantive Motion was carried.

Subsequently Councillor Cusack Moved, Seconded by Councillor Hastings and the Council

Resolved The Council recognises local schools are at breaking point and that the current funding situation is unsustainable with per pupil

funding being slashed year on year; believes that an investment in educating children is an investment in our economy; further recognises that in the absence of radical investment or reform, including the ending of academic selection, the education system in Northern Ireland will be unaffordable, socially immobile and unfit for purpose; calls for reform in the form of a comprehensive, expert-led review, to ensure our education system is structured and resourced in a way that allows all our schools to deliver high quality education for all children; and will write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education outlining this call.

C229/18

Conversion Therapy

Councillor McCauley Moved, Seconded by Councillor

McKnight

That This Council recognises the harm and stress placed on young people who are forced, against their will, into so called “conversion therapies” and condemns any practice or treatment by any person that seeks to change, suppress and/or, eliminate another person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

This Council accepts the reports from the U.N. Committee Against Torture (C.A.T.), UK Council for Psychotherapy, NHS and all the major psychological professional bodies in the U.K. in their condemnation of these so-called therapies and their conclusions that conversion therapy is unethical and harmful. Therefore, this council supports the call for a ban on

“conversion therapies” across the U.K and Ireland.

After voting by a show of hands the result was as follows:

For – 26; Against – 0; Abstentions – 6. The Motion was carried.

Subsequently Councillor McCauley Moved, Seconded by Councillor McKnight and the Council

Resolved This Council recognises the harm and stress placed on young people who are forced, against their will, into so called “conversion therapies” and condemns any practice or treatment by any person that seeks to change, suppress and/or, eliminate another person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

This Council accepts the reports from the U.N. Committee Against Torture (C.A.T.), UK Council for Psychotherapy, NHS and all the major psychological professional bodies in the U.K. in their condemnation of these so-called therapies and their conclusions that conversion therapy is unethical and harmful. Therefore, this council supports the call for a ban on “conversion therapies” across the U.K and Ireland.

C230/18

Temporary Closure of Derry Courthouse

Councillor McKeever Moved, Seconded by Councillor

Tierney

That This Council calls on NICTS to reverse its decision to completely close Derry Courthouse and transfer Court business to Coleraine and Omagh respectively for the purpose of carrying out essential

maintenance work for a period of 8 weeks.

That Council recognises the impact that this decision will have on people's access to justice, on victims, witnesses, court staff, legal professionals and police resources.

That this Council writes to NICTS requesting that they identify suitable alternative accommodation within the Council area.

After voting by a show of hands the result was as follows:

For – 21; Against – 8; Abstentions – 2. The Motion was carried.

Subsequently Councillor McKeever Moved, Seconded by Councillor Tierney and the Council

Resolved That this Council calls on NICTS to reverse its decision to completely close Derry Courthouse and transfer Court business to Coleraine and Omagh respectively for the purpose of carrying out essential maintenance work for a period of 8 weeks.

That Council recognises the impact that this decision will have on people's access to justice, on victims, witnesses, court staff, legal professionals and police resources.

That this Council writes to NICTS requesting that they identify suitable alternative accommodation within the Council area.

Councillors Carr and Donnelly left the meeting at this point.

The Mayor informed Members that he had written to the NICTS to advise them of the concerns expressed by constituents in the City and District on the matter. He stated that a reply had been received which would be distributed to Members.

C218/18 Responses to Motions

The Chief Executive presented the above report, a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of correspondence received in relation to Motions passed by Council.

Members noted the content of the report.

C219/18 Seal

Alderman M Hamilton Moved, Councillor Hastings Seconded and the Council

Resolved that the seal of the Council be affixed to the following documents

Sealing List June 2018

Documents Sealed 1st June 2018

Contract:- Department for Infrastructure and Derry City and Strabane District Council relating to Purchase of Freehold Reversion at Lisnagelvin Leisure Centre, Derry.

Documents Sealed 26th June 2018

Grants of Right of Burial in Ballyoan Cemetery

Mr David Sung, 54 Salmon Leap, Castlerow Road, Coleraine, BT51 3TW.

Mr John Hetherington, 11 Brunswick Road, L'derry, BT47 5SZ.

Mrs Bridget Edwards, 12 Fergleen Park, Derry, BT48 8LF.
Mrs Christine Monteith, 207 The Fountain, L'derry.

Grants of Right of Burial in City Cemetery

Mrs Jean Gallagher, 55 Upper Nassau Street, Derry, BT48
0EY.

Mrs Patsy McLaughlin, 3 Carmoney Court, Eglinton, BT47
3FX.

Mr Declan McDonough, 36 The Meadows, Derry.

Mr Ward Devine, 35 Woodbrook West, BT48 8PZ.

Mr Paul McGill, 176 Carnhill, Derry, BT48 8BD.

Mr Billy McCauley, 295 Carnhill, Derry, BT48 8BD.

Mr Barney McColgan, 1 Westland Terrace, Derry, BT48
9JD.

Mr John Hughes, 23 Belmont Crescent, Derry, BT48 7RR.

Mrs Margaret Porter, 47 Cashelhill Park, Derry.

Mrs Roisin Henderson, 16 Bracken Hill Crescent, Belfast,
BT8 2ZU.

Mr Pat Devine, 10 Rathlin Gardens, Derry, BT48 9UE.

Mrs Mary McLaughlin, 35 Rosskeen Park, Derry, BT48
0RH.

Mr Thomas Carlin, 24 St John's Park, Derry, BT48 0LB.

Mrs Veronica McShane, 1 Glenabbey Cottages, Derry,
BT48 8LP.

Mrs Margaret Johnston, 79 Grangemore Park, Derry, BT48
0RZ.

Mrs Pauline Doherty, 4 Academy Terrace, Derry, BT48
0AQ.

Mrs Mary Lynch, 76 Westway, Derry, BT48 9NX.

Mr Patrick Coyle, 17 Brookhill, Culmore Road, Derry,
BT48 8PJ.

Mr Edems Deery, 66 Lisfannon Park, Derry, BT48 9DX.

Mr Cecil McGlinchey, 79 Drumard Park, Derry, BT48 0FL.

Grant of Right of Burial in Claudy Cemetery

Mrs Joan Halcrow, 19 Gorse Road, Claudy, BT47 4HY.

The Meeting went into Confidential Business

Signed: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____

