

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee (Open) held in the Guildhall, Derry on Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Councillor Hastings (in the Chair), Aldermen Hussey, Kerrigan and Thompson, Councillors Cooper, Fleming, Gallagher, Gardiner, C Kelly, M McHugh and McKnight.

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Mr J Kelpie), Lead Finance Officer (Mr A Dallas), Lead Legal Services Officer (Mr P Kingston), Strategic Business Manager (Mrs R Craig) and Committee Services Assistant (Ms N Meehan).

GSP97/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Chief Executive read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

GSP98/18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Ramsey and Councillor Tierney.

GSP99/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of Members' interests.

GSP100/18 Deputation - To receive Professor Hugh McKenna, Dean, Medical School Development to update Members on the Progress of the Graduate Entry Medical School at University of Ulster

The Chairperson welcomed Professor McKenna, Dean, Medical School Development, Ulster University and Mr O'Neill, Provost, Magee College to the Meeting to update Members on the Progress of the Graduate Entry Medical School at Ulster University.

Professor McKenna advised Members that the University had submitted an Outline Business Case to the Department of Health for the establishment of a new Northern Ireland Graduate Entry Medical School at the University's Magee Campus. In parallel, the University had submitted an application to the General Medical Council (GMC)

under their New School Programme of Application process. He continued that the ambitious project would see the creation of a Graduate Entry Medical School in the North West, offering a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery medical degree which was unique in this country.

Professor McKenna said working with our partners in the community, in health and social care trusts, in GP federations and in the business sector, Ulster University's medical school proposal would help to address a number of long term issues relating to population health and wellbeing. He continued that from the severe shortage of GP's and the challenges of recruiting senior medical staff for hospitals in the North West and beyond, to the rising costs of locums and overtime, access to a new medical school would raise both the volume and quality of available knowledge and skills. He reminded Members that there was cross-party support for the medical school. He stated that considerable work had taken place with the GMC the body responsible for accreditation and educational standards for all new Medical Schools, the process of which had eight stages. He stated that the University's application was currently at stage 4. Stage 5 would involve the GMC visiting the proposed site. He stated that St. George's Medical School in London had referred one of their senior staff who had taken up a position with the University. She was working part-time in a general practice in the City and was also assisting the University with the Medical School. The University was also in the process of identifying facilities to provide a bespoke building. He stated that the application submitted to the Department would be rigorously assessed and comments had been received from the Department which were being addressed by the University in conjunction with the Strategic Investment Board.

He referred to the two main issues raised by the Department:

- (1) The need to determine a need for additional physicians in the North West.

He stated that the Department were seeking a robust case to justify the need for a medical school in this area. He referred to the review team set up by the Department to oversee the process and offer advice to applicants on which the university was represented. It had been anticipated that the Team would produce their interim report in December 2017 with their final report to be presented in March 2018. However, neither had been forthcoming and the deadline date had subsequently passed. He said their report was crucial to the University

as it would highlight specific areas of need. He said it had now been suggested that a report would be submitted to their final meeting on June 28.

(2) The need to clearly demonstrate value for money.

Professor McKenna stated that from a value for money perspective Belfast would feature strongly given its existing Medical School at Queen's University. However, the application was not entirely monetary based and the University were concentrating on monetary and non-monetary issues.

Professor McKenna stated that the GM would welcome the opening of the medical school at the Magee Campus in September 2019. However, this would not be achievable if the required funding was not forthcoming.

Mr O'Neill referred to the fact that the value for money issue had featured significantly in the local media. He also referred to the catalytic nature of the medical school and how this would assist in the development of the University in its entirety. He stated that the University remained steadfast to the expansion of the Magee Campus the first aspect of which would be the medical school.

Mr O'Neill pointed out that the University had four faculties and four Deans all of whom worked under the stewardship of the Vice Chancellor to develop a plan to expand Ulster University, the first part of which would be the development of the medical School. He stated that every effort was being made to ensure that this was granted approval for the Magee Campus which was the preferred location. He referred to the excellent Nursing College and allied health courses currently available at the Magee Campus all of which supported the argument for a Medical School at this site.

Mr O'Neill referred to frustrations regarding the delays in progressing this development however he reiterated the University's commitment to promoting this and ensuring a successful outcome. He stated that the development of the medical school was intertwined with a potential City Growth Deal, in respect of which, work was currently ongoing in terms of preparing a case and lobbying central government. He invited Members' comments and looked forward to working to ensuring the delivery of the Medical School at the Magee Campus.

Members raised the following issues:

- Expressed concern at the interest expressed by Queen's University.
- Queried if the report being prepared by the Review Team would show clear examples of need within the region?
- Referred to the obvious need which existed and to the fact that a number of Consultants at Altnagelvin Hospital were operating evening clinics in order to meet current demand.
- Referred to the increasing cost of locum doctors and the savings which could ultimately be derived from the siting of a medical school at the Magee Campus.
- Enquired if a site had been agreed for the proposed development?
- Expressed concern at suggestions that the development of the medical school was regarded as a precursor to any further development taking place at the Magee Campus.
- Queried if it would be worthwhile giving consideration to courses not delivered at Queen's University which would remove the current obstacle being presented.
- Raised concerns regarding the interest being shown by Queen's University and the impact this would have on the expansion of Magee.
- In the event of the application being refused, enquired if it would be possible to advance towards other more appealing courses.
- In relation to the expansion of the Magee Campus, expressed concern that in recent years a number of Health Professional Courses had been transferred from Magee to the Coleraine Campus.
- Given that the accreditation process was now at stage 5, queried if a site had yet been identified for the proposed development.

Professor McKenna referred to the excellent work carried out by Doctors in Northern Ireland but agreed there were simply not enough. He stated that in working with partners in the community, in health and social care trusts, the GP federation and the business sector, Ulster University's medical school proposal would help to address a number

of long-term issues relating to population health and wellbeing. He continued that Northern Ireland was facing an unprecedented medical workforce shortage that would continue to impact negatively on the care of patients, their families and communities. A new medical school would help to ease such challenges and futureproof the health service. He pointed out that currently £17 million of the Western Trust's budget was spent on locum doctors. He stated that this was an extremely complex situation and referred to the importance of being able to present to the Department the great need which existed for this facility within this region.

Professor McKenna pointed out that temporary accommodation had been identified at the Magee Campus and stated that it would be possible to begin with a temporary site and move to a permanent location further down the line. He stated that work was ongoing with the Strategic Investment Board to consider possible options. He stated that the Magee Campus was the preferred location however, a number of options would be identified.

In relation to Queen's University, Professor McKenna stated that they currently had 260 students per year and giving them an additional 60 students would not solve the current problems in terms of need. He referred to the number of students who were based in Altnagelvin for placements who tended however, to return to Belfast. He stated that it was hoped to recruit locally and to do this would require placements, fifty percent of which would be within the Western Trust. He referred to the need to create a sense of belonging quoting the 80:20 rule which suggested that eighty per cent of doctors worked within twenty miles of the area in which they had studied.

In terms of space on campus, Mr O'Neill stated that the new Teaching Centre had created a number of options in relation to the relocation of the administrative and academic departments. The agreed twenty new generic teaching areas would enhance existing and future provision. He stated that the Magee Campus was well positioned to take accommodate sixty to one hundred students as early as 2019. He continued that there were various options to be considered however there was one preferred site. He stated that the University was in the process of preparing a Master Plan in respect of the Magee Campus and he was working closely with the four Executive Deans in this regard.

Mr O'Neill advised that he was making a strong case to have as many allied health courses as possible at the Magee Campus and if the medical school was delayed he would continue to lobby in this regard.

Mr O'Neill referred to the benefits for both the University and the City from the siting of the medical school at the Magee Campus and assured that all steps were being taken to ensure a positive outcome in this regard. He said he felt there were a number of factors which placed the Magee Campus in pole position. He referred to possible advances in the International Studies course and to a new science app. in respect of business and enterprise. He referred to a recent trip to Dalian in China to celebrate a 15 year partnership and a subsequent meeting had been arranged to discuss how this could be developed. He advised that the University had ratified a new programme on artificial intelligence and had held a recruitment programme around data analysis. He concluded that all possible steps were being taken to ensure as broad a curriculum was delivered at the Magee Campus. Professor McKenna advised that the proposed medical school for the Magee Campus would not be in competition with Queen's University and differed from the course currently offered at Queens. He stated that a good relationship existed between Ulster University and Queen's University and this was not a personal issue. He said the University was working closely with the Department of Health to ensure that approval was granted to the outline business case. He assured that no animosity existed between the Department and the University and both had a similar focus to deliver the best for the North West.

Councillor Cooper stated that the proposed medical school together with the under expansion of the Magee Campus were at the top of his Party's agenda. He acknowledged that progress had been made in regard to the latter however there was still a considerable amount to be achieved. He said his Party had suggested that whilst pursuing the medical school the University should continue to work towards the delivery of additional courses at the Magee Campus and welcomed the fact that this was being addressed and that the medical school was not being considered in isolation of any other developments. He referred to unnecessary obstacles created by civil servants under the former Stormont Executive and as such expressed little surprise that the long awaited report from the review team had not been forthcoming. He referred to the need for continued lobbying to ensure that approval was granted to the siting of a medical school at Magee. In terms of need and value for money he referred to the severe shortage of GP's and the challenges of recruiting senior medical staff for hospitals in the North West and beyond and referred to the positive impact of a medical school at the Magee Campus on both the University and the region. He stated that gaps still existed to be filled by Queen's University. He referred to the obvious economic need given the

striking economic differences apparent between Derry and Belfast. He referred to the wider lobbying being carried out in relation to siting of the medical school at the Magee Campus through which it was hoped to progress this as far as possible. He said he believed the building blocks were in place and it was now a matter of achieving a consensus of political support regarding the proposed development. He concluded that this was essentially a political decision.

Professor McKenna welcomed Members' comments. He urged Members to take whatever action possible in pursuance of this objective.

Mr O'Neill stated that there was general agreement regarding the benefits for the University and the region of siting the medical school at the Magee Campus. He referred to the need for a unified voice from this region in favour of the proposal. He anticipated that any action required which might influence a positive outcome would be pursued and the University would remain steadfast in its commitment to the siting of the medical school at the Magee Campus.

Alderman Hussey expressed concern at the potential catalytic impact on the University and the region if the application were refused. He endorsed the work being carried out by the University in relation to the siting of the medical school at the Magee Campus.

The Chairperson thanked Professor McKenna and Mr O'Neill for their address and expressed Council's support for the proposed development.

Mr O'Neill thanked Members for their support, energy and enthusiasm.

Chairperson's Business

GSP101/18 Congratulations

With the permission of the Chairperson, Alderman Hussey congratulated Councillor Hastings on his election to Chairperson of the Committee and wished him success in his position during the incoming year.

Members from all Parties concurred with the above comments.

GSP102/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on Tuesday 8 May 2018

The Open Minutes of Meeting held on 8 May 2018 (GSP77/18-GSP94/18) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

GSP103/18 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

GSP104/18 Year End Financial Outturn

The Lead Finance Officer presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was for Members to approve the financial outturn of Derry City and Strabane District Council, including proposed transfers to reserves, for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Councillor Fleming commended and thanked the Lead Finance Officer and his staff for the above report and acknowledged the hard work and efforts involved in the preparation thereof. He welcomed the work carried out by each of the Directorates particularly given the challenges and cuts facing Council at the present time and said this was a remarkable achievement in the midst of such obstacles. He referred to the impact of the flooding incident on homes, businesses and Council property which had been addressed within the context of the report. He expressed his Party's support for the recommendations contained in the report and agreed with the need to make provision in relation to job evaluations/appeals. He also made reference to monies set aside in respect of works carried out internally and a potential growth deal in moving the City and region forward.

Councillor Cooper referred to the creation of the new Waste Management post, many of the duties of which dealt with illegal dumping and targeting potential offenders. He anticipated that the successful applicant would deal with the afore-mentioned issues and referred to the subsequent savings to be made from funding this post.

Councillor Gallagher welcomed the report. In terms of efficiency savings he referred to the need to strike a balance and reassure ratepayers particularly given the ongoing increases in the district rate. In this context he questioned the decision to place the surplus of £97k in reserves.

Alderman Hussey referred to two major issues – the aftermath of the flooding and the City Growth Deal both of which he anticipated would

be brought to conclusion as soon as possible, particularly in terms of community facilities.

In response to a query from Councillor Gardiner, the Chief Executive explained that it was necessary to have a sum of money held in reserves to cover unforeseen costs/claims and it was felt that the suggested £97,000 would meet such requirements. He stated that in addition the money had been set aside to cover appeals, if required. However, if this was not required these could be reallocated.

Subsequently the Committee

Recommended **that Members approve the financial outturn as detailed above, including the proposed transfers to reserves of £3,509k and the remaining surplus of £103k to be carried as a surplus into Councils District Fund.**

GSP105/18 Proposal to Develop a New Local Government Resilience Resourcing Model

The Chief Executive presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was to seek agreement from Members to endorse a new local government resourcing model for the civil contingencies function.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members note the attached report and agree the proposed way forward, subject to funding. This includes the agreement of a single employing authority and the need for the development of a service level agreement between the employer Council and the other 10 Councils.**

GSP106/18 Confirmation of Members to External and Internal Bodies 2018/2019

The Chief Executive presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was to confirm membership of Elected Members on External and

Internal Bodies for the year ending June 2019 of for the period specified.

Members accepted the recommendations of the report with the following changes:

CoDA replace	Councillor Reilly to Councillor Boyle
IESE	Councillor Hastings (as Chairperson of the Committee)
Capital and Corporate Projects replace Planning Group	Councillor Tierney to Councillor Boyle

Alderman Hussey referred to the existing membership of the Capital and Corporate Projects Planning Group and enquired if there was provision for observers to this Group.

The Chief Executive advised that there was currently no observer status and pointed out that this was not a decision making Group.

Alderman Hussey acknowledged that this was not a decision making Group however it was regarded as an extremely important advisory Group.

Subsequently the Committee

Recommended that Membership on the External Bodies for the year ending June 2019 be confirmed incorporating the changes to Membership noted.

GSP107/18 Leadership Programme for Elected Members

The Strategic Business Manager presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of the report was to seek approval and expressions of interest for Members to participate in the NILGA Leadership Programme for Elected Members.

Councillor C Kelly advised that having been discussed by the Member Development Group the previous week it was felt that this Programme would prove extremely positive particularly following the awarding of the Charter Plus. He stated that this provided a wonderful opportunity for Council.

The Committee

- Recommended**
- (a) that Councillors O'Reilly and C Kelly be nominated to participate in this course;**
 - (b) that the following condition is applied: If a Member fails to complete the programme, or show satisfactory progress, or fails to sit an examination for some unacceptable reason, the Member would be required to refund the full amount of financial assistance paid by Council in relation to their participating on the programme; and**
 - (c) that the SDLP, DUP and UUP if interested to submit their nominations at the June Council Meeting.**

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Strategic Business Manager confirmed that NILGA had agreed to rotate each of the sessions across all participating Council areas.

GSP108/18 Strategic Growth Partnership Update

The Strategic Business Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of this report was to provide Members of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee with an update on the most recent meeting of the Strategic Growth Partnership/Community Planning Partnership – held on Thursday 24 May 2018.

Members noted the content of the report.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

The Meeting went into Confidential Business

Signed:_____
(Chairperson)

Date:_____