

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Health and Community Committee held in the remotely - Remotely on Thursday 11 February 2021 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Alderman Guy (Chair); Aldermen Devenney, and Warke; Councillors Burke, Duffy, Edwards, Farrell, Ferguson, Harkin, Logue, McHugh, Mooney and Reilly.

Non-members of Committee:- Aldermen Hussey, Kerrigan and Ramsey. Councillors J Barr, J Boyle, M Boyle, Carr, Doyle, Durkan, Gallagher and Kelly.

In Attendance:- Director of Health and Community (Mrs K McFarland), Head of Community Development and Leisure (Mr B O'Hagan), Head of Health and Community Wellbeing (Mr S Donaghy), Director of Legacy (Mrs O McGillion), PA to Health and Community Director (Mrs L Shields) and Committee Services Assistant (Mrs T Johnstone).

HC34/21 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

HC35/21 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Health and Community recorded Members attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor R Barr.

HC36/21 Statement for Remote Meetings

The Chair read the statement for remote meetings.

HC37/21 Declarations of Members' Interests

Aldermen Guy, Devenney and Hussey and Councillors Ferguson, Logue, Edwards, Mooney and McHugh declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 – Hardship Fund.

Alderman Devenney declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 16 – Draft Budget Consultation – Department for Communities.

Alderman Guy declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 18- Correspondence – Financial assistance for taxi drivers.

HC38/21 Deputation: To Receive Erin McFeely: Derry and Strabane Healthy City and District - World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities Network

The Chair welcomed Ms McFeely to the meeting and invited her to make the presentation to the Committee.

Ms McFeely, Chief Executive of Developing Healthy Communities presented the report to update Members on the work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network and seek support to maximise the impact of the Healthy Cities designation and brand for Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

The Chair thanked Ms McFeely for the presentation and invited comments from Members.

Councillor Ferguson thanked Ms McFeely for providing the detailed update to the Committee and the tremendous amount of work carried out over the past year. She stated that she endorsed the recommendation within the report and welcomed the positives that can be taken from the Covid-19 pandemic with health and the economy. She stated that she also welcomed the community led initiative and attempting to find that holistic approach which she felt was important.

Alderman Devenney thanked Ms McFeely on the informative report. He stated that he agreed wholeheartedly that sharing expertise and best practice was the way forward. He also welcomed the holistic approach to health and wellbeing, particularly when society begins the recovery period from Covid-19. He stated that the DUP were in full support of the WHO and

welcomed the Ideas Fund and the allocation of £3.29m from the British Science Association. He stated that he looked forward to attending the online conference in April 2021.

The Committee

Recommended	<p>That Members (i) demonstrate support for the Healthy Cities movement by maximising the visibility and the profile of the Healthy Cities brand, aligning it to local strategies and projects which support the '6 P's' Framework. The brand and the 'build back better' approach could be a useful means for the Council to refocus its plans on health & wellbeing following the COVID crisis; (ii) promote and support the development of an open, local, cross sector network of people within the city and district who can access the benefits of being part of the WHO Healthy Cities European Network; (iii) receive regular updates on the progress of Healthy Cities and relevant information coming from the WHO Network, including; approval of the Phase VII application and an annual report/presentation; (iv) Members to attend the Healthy Cities online Conference in April 2021; (v) endorse and promote the 'Ideas Fund' which offers the opportunity for community</p>
--------------------	---

led research projects linked to improving mental wellbeing, to be delivered in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

Chairperson's Business

HC39/21 Condemnation

The Chair expressed his condemnation at the recent attacks on Council staff at Skeoge Road and also the assault to a member of security staff at Pennyburn Recycling Centre. He stated no person should feel threatened when going about their normal daily life and work. He stated that hopefully the culprits will be apprehended and charged.

He also expressed condemnation at the recent brutal punishment attacks on two men in the Creggan area of the city. He stated that there was no place for guns in our society and noted that such incidents had recently increased. He felt that no matter what those persons have perceived to have done, it did not give anyone the right to carry out such reckless actions against another human being.

Councillor Harkin stated that People Before Profit sent a message of solidarity to Council workers who were unfortunately attacked. He stated that such attacks were unacceptable and felt that it highlighted what it meant to work on the frontline. He believed that, in his opinion, it emphasised the urgency to consider pay and conditions for such workers across the board.

HC40/21 Lack of Addiction Services throughout the City and District

Councillor Farrell thanked the Chair for allowing him to raise the issue regarding the lack of addiction services across the city and district. He stated addiction was a scourge on society with not many families being left unaffected by it. He stated that there had been renewed calls by young Tamzin White, who recently lost her mother, for a detox centre in the city. He felt that whilst such a facility would

not fix the problem of addiction, it would be a step in the right direction. He stated that Council should contact the decision makers such as the Minister for Health, Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) and the Health and Social Care Board to ascertain their plans to improve addiction services across the city and district, including a detox facility.

Continuing, he noted that the Mayor was part of a local commissioning group where he had raised this issue in recent days. He stated that he was also mindful of the UK Government's New Decade New Approach commitment for additional funding to support the Derry addiction centre. He advised that his Party colleague, Mark H Durkan, pressed the First Minister at a recent sitting of the Assembly on the matter. He proposed that Council contact the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Brandon Lewis, to ask what action was being taken regarding the implementation of addiction services for this Council area. He further proposed that representatives from the local addiction sector be invited to present to Members to hear the challenges faced by the sector on a daily basis and for any solutions they may have to the growing addiction problem faced by our society. He believed that mental health was the poor relation of health and addiction was the poor relation of mental health. Therefore, Council should play a key role in lobbying for improved addiction services for the people across the city and district.

Councillor Farrell Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Duffy

That Council write to the Department of Health, Western Trust, Health and Social Care Board, Public Health Agency and Western Local Commissioning Group to understand plans for enhanced addiction treatment provision in the council area, including detox services.

To write to the Secretary of State to understand progress in delivery of the New Decade, New Approach

commitment of additional funding to support the Derry addiction centre.

To invite representatives from the local addiction sector to appraise Council of pressures on existing services.

Councillor Doyle advised that he would be presenting a motion to full Council in relation to the matter. He noted that the First Minister had advised that the commissioning of the service was a matter of prioritisation. He stated that dual diagnosis was a significant issue and that guidance on this was under the purview of the Health and Social Care Board. He advised that this would also be included in the motion. He stated that he fully supported the proposal by Councillor Farrell and hoped that the SDLP and other Parties would support his motion on the matter.

Councillor Duffy stated that she was in full agreement with Councillor Farrell's proposal. She stated that it was an emotive and important issue for this city and district and one that Council had worked on over a number of years and would continue to do so. She referred to the commitment within the New Decade, New Approach document and believed that it needed to be explored further. She suggested that the Civic Forum be reconvened as a number of partner agencies were part of that group who were involved in addiction and mental health services and also with various voluntary bodies throughout the city and district.

The Chair stated that he also supported Councillor Farrell's proposal. He referred to comments made by Councillor Duffy and advised that the matter had been raised at a recent meeting of the mental health working group where it was agreed that the Civic Forum was the most suitable arena to bring this matter forward. He further advised that it had been agreed at that meeting that representatives of the Civic Forum be invited to present to Members.

Alderman Devenney stated that the DUP fully supported the proposal. He stated that any assistance in relation to

addiction problems and mental health issues was to be welcomed. He stated that it was important to continue to lobby with MLAs on the matter and concurred that the Civic Forum should be reconvened as soon as possible.

Councillor Ferguson stated that addiction services were needed throughout the city and district for a long time. She welcomed that Councillor Doyle had mentioned that dual diagnosis was also a significant factor. She stated that people had been turned away from services due to them having a dual diagnosis. She referred to Tamzin White's story and how she felt that if Derry had a detox centre, her mother would still be here.

The Committee

Recommended

That (i) Council write to the Department of Health, Western Trust, Health and Social Care Board, Public Health Agency and Western Local Commissioning Group to understand plans for enhanced addiction treatment provision in the council area, including detox services; (ii) write to the Secretary of State to understand progress in delivery of the New Decade, New Approach commitment of additional funding to support the Derry addiction centre; (iii) invite representatives from the local addiction sector to appraise Council of pressures on existing services; (iv) that a meeting of the Civic Forum be reconvened as soon as possible; (vi) That this Council, in support of many families and communities in this District who have lost loved ones due to alcohol or substance addictions, calls on the NI Executive to immediately bring forward proposals for the capital and recurring resource funding of

an addiction centre as outlined in New Decade New Approach; (vii) Acknowledges the need for NICE guidance NG65 on coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse to be supported by fully funded community and social care services and (ix) will seek an urgent meeting with relevant Executive Ministers to discuss how the addiction centre and service proposal will fulfil the needs of our constituents.

HC41/21 On the Street Youth Work/Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Ferguson stated that the coronavirus pandemic had been tough on everyone, particularly young people as they had lost their support networks and ability to socialise. She stated that over the past year there has been a significant increase in anti-social behaviour as youths were coming together in an attempt to find a 'new normal'. She stated that villages and areas struggled to engage with them online and there was a real sense of digital fatigue. She stated that over the weekend, parents had expressed concerns regarding a group of approximately 40-50 teenagers who had gathered in her local area. She stated that they were suspected to be drinking and putting themselves into dangerous situations. She reported that there had also been a recent fire by the railway lines and gatherings at old farm barns.

Continuing, she stated that the community groups have attempted to engage online and were also trying to train volunteers to engage with young people on the streets. She further stated that Community Safety Wardens are out on the streets on numerous occasions and the police have also been called. She felt that the support of the Education Authority was needed and the intervention of youth workers. She expressed concern that youth workers had recently been stood down, which was worrying. She commended the youth workers who did fantastic work

with the youth of the city and district. However, some rural areas did not have the required structures in place compared to urban areas, therefore relied on the Education Authority (EA) to step in at times of crisis. She felt that it was important that intervention teams should be available to engage with those young people and should also be designated as an essential service.

Councillor Ferguson Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Mooney

That Members write to the Minister of Education and the Education Authority, expressing a need for on the street youth work and in particular areas currently dealing with high levels of anti-social behaviour, and areas like rural villages which rely on the support of the EA.

And we ask the minister to consider designating crisis and intervention youth workers as essential.

Councillor Duffy stated that as a point of information, there was work ongoing in the Ballyarnett DEA in that regard. She advised that provisions were being made for bespoke youth work which included on street work. She stated that there was a programme of work with plans that had to be sent through on a weekly basis to the EA for approval and suggested that this be explored.

Councillor Ferguson advised that unfortunately, the rural areas had not been able to be explored. She stated that youth workers had attempted to engage with the EA and there was an EA community centre which was currently trying to provide some online training to volunteers. However, they have been unable to obtain that bespoke package. She advised that after contacting youth workers in the Ballymagroarty area, she was informed that they would be stood down. She stated that attempts had been made to have a bespoke programme introduced in the rural areas and through community workers. She advised that the intervention team had been available on a weekly basis prior to the current lockdown period.

Councillor Edwards thanked Councillor Ferguson for bringing forward the proposal. He stated that anti-social behaviour was a major issue across the entire city and district. He stated that in relation to the Derg area, he had met with representatives from the EA in December who advised that they had workers in place in the Strabane town area. However, there was no provision throughout the rural areas. He stated that he and other Elected Representatives from the Derg DEA had met with the PSNI on the matter and urged the EA to place its' officers into the rural areas. However, no action has been taken in that regard.

Alderman Hussey stated that he concurred with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. He stated that he appreciated the comments made by Councillor Duffy regarding projects in the urban areas. He felt that there was a greater capacity within those rural areas for voluntary community workers being employed. In respect of Community Safety Wardens, he felt that there was very limited rural access to that service. Therefore, any assistance towards engaging and intervening with those involved in anti-social behaviour on the streets was to be welcomed. He felt that education through the EA Youth Service regarding providing available alternatives during the current circumstances was important.

Alderman Devenney concurred with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers regarding the rural areas. He felt that there had always been an issue regarding parity between urban and rural. He stated that his Party fully supported the proposal as it was important to get as much assistance as possible for those people living in the rural area due to the increase in anti-social behaviour.

Alderman Warke stated that all youth workers were classed as essential workers and were all currently working above and beyond. He stated that there was a difference between urban and rural areas and concurred that more youth sector provision was needed throughout rural areas. He advised that the EA had tasked youth

workers to different areas throughout the city and district. He suggested that the local EA office be contacted requesting them to send out local youth workers to particular areas.

In response to Alderman Warke, Councillor Ferguson concurred that the work carried out by the youth workers was fantastic and did view them as essential workers, however, it was a policy matter. She advised that the local EA office had stated that the Minister for Education had instructed them not to interact with young people. She further advised that when certain services were requested, they had been informed that they had to abide by the policies coming down from the Minister for Education and the Education Authority.

Members were asked to vote on the proposal, the result of which was unanimous.

The Committee

Recommended	That Members (i) write to the Minister of Education and the Education Authority, expressing a need for on the street youth work and in particular areas currently dealing with high levels of anti-social behaviour, and areas like rural villages which rely on the support of the EA and (ii) ask the Minister to consider designating crisis and intervention youth workers as essential.
--------------------	---

Alderman Warke referred to the Community Safety Warden Scheme and suggested that the PCSP be requested to provide provision for the Strathfoyle area.

In response, Councillor Ferguson stated that the Community Safety Wardens patrolled the area on a daily basis, particularly over recent days.

HC42/21 Recent Remarks made by Mr Gregory Campbell MP

Councillor Harkin referred to the recent racist statement made by Gregory Campbell. He felt that Members should be collectively outraged that Mr Campbell had reiterated that he had nothing to apologise for. He asked that Council join with the North West Migrants Forum in calling for an apology from Mr Campbell and for the DUP and the House of Commons to hold him accountable for his comments. He noted that Council recently unanimously passed a motion regarding standing up against racism and discrimination. Therefore, he felt that Council was expected to respond, particularly due to the increased number of reported hate-crimes. He referred to the statement issued by the North West Migrants Forum which stated that it was deeply worrying that Mr Campbell could confidently display such clear bias without fear or accountability. He referred to the Black Lives Matter protests held in Derry and Belfast in June 2020, where demonstrators had been assaulted. He stated that very few people spoke out to express condemnation and believed that those who now condemned Mr Campbell had been silent at the time of those demonstrations. He believed that, in his opinion, Sinn Féin and the SDLP had been particularly silent but had been loud in its condemnation of Mr Campbell.

Continuing, he felt that Mr Campbell assumed he could make such remarks due to the events that took place at the BLM demonstrations and the subsequent support from the Executive to what happened to people of colour. He called on the Executive Parties to reflect and demand that the fines and prosecutions of the Black Lives Matter protestors to be immediately dropped. He also urged Council to schedule the agreed meeting with the North West Migrants Forum and other anti-racist campaign groups as quickly as possible.

Councillor Duffy stated that she supported the proposal by Councillor Harkin. However, she felt that a number of his comments was an attempt to rewrite history. She stated that Sinn Féin had spoken out regarding the Black

Lives Matter protests and had also raised the matter at meetings with the PCSP, PSNI and publicly. She advised that her Party had also voted in favour of the motion brought before Council by Councillor Harkin. She stated that in terms of the issue at hand, she fully supported the proposal. She stated that the comments made by MP Gregory Campbell were disgusting, racist to the core and had screamed racism. She advised that she and numerous Party colleagues had signed the letter of support by the North West Migrants Forum.

Councillor Reilly stated that he concurred with the sentiments expressed by the previous speaker. He stated that when Councillor Harkin started speaking regarding comments made by Mr Campbell, SDLP were in full agreement with those remarks in that regard. He stated that the SDLP had made calls for Mr Campbell to apologise for his comments. However, but when he did not apologise and in fact doubled down on those comments, the Party had called for the wider DUP to consider his offensive remarks. He advised that the matter had been reported to the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner. However, he believed that Councillor Harkin proceeded to use language that he felt was wrong. He described it as strange that he had talked about the importance of Mr Campbell reflecting on his comments, however, he then attempted to rewrite events that took place in June 2020. He advised that at the time of the BLM protests, the SDLP had supported Councillor Harkin's motion. Therefore, to say that the Party had been silent on it was patently untrue.

Continuing, he advised that SDLP Party Leader, Colum Eastwood MLA had been interviewed on local radio the next day in relation to the issues that had been raised. He further advised that the Party had also raised them with the PSNI at a senior level and indeed locally with the PCSP. He believed that for Councillor Harkin to project that every other Party was silent on the issues raised was totally inaccurate. However, on the issue raised in relation to Mr Campbell, the SDLP endorsed the comments made on the matter.

Alderman Devenney stated that the DUP was not a racist Political Party. He stated that people were calling for this issue to be brought to the fore, however, he felt that the Party Leader had been very much to the fore. He noted that the actual wording by the First Minister, Mrs Arlene Foster, was that they were sentiments that she would not identify with and she enjoyed watching Songs of Praise. He concurred with some of the comments made by the previous speakers in relation to Councillor Harkin's comments being an attempt to rewrite history regarding the Black Lives Matters protests. He stated that the DUP supported equality and fairness for everyone and condemned the violence carried out at those protests in June of last year.

Councillor Ferguson supported the comments made by Councillor Harkin in relation to Mr Campbell. She stated that words did matter and the context in which they were used did have an impact on members of society. She concurred that the words used by Mr Campbell were racist and that she had also signed the letter by the North West Migrants Forum. She believed that, in her opinion education was also an issue and that the Alliance Party had interacted online with a number of BAME activists. She advised that an internal diversity poll had been carried out in an attempt to improve on all aspects of racial diversity. She stated that she hoped Mr Campbell would apologise for his remarks and for the DUP to acknowledge that the comments were of a racist nature.

Councillor Harkin encouraged everyone to sign the petition from the North West Migrants Forum and urged that a Council meeting would take place with representatives from the Forum and other groups. He welcomed that Members had agreed to the call for accountability.

The Chair concurred that the remarks made by Mr Campbell were totally inappropriate and would distance himself from that type of language at any time.

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2021 (HC1/21 –HC29/21) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

HC44/21 Playing Pitches Strategy Options (HC24/21)

Alderman Hussey referred to the Playing Pitch Strategy and expressed concern regarding the adequacy of private club pitches, however the report had outlined that no budget had been confirmed. He asked if it was envisaged that a budget would be confirmed and when clubs could engage with Council Officers on the proposed funding that may be available. He noted that the recommendations for a capital investment programme for clubs was up to £50,000 per year and asked for clarification on the matter. He stated that within the report it had noted that Council was prepared to work with high profile clubs and asked if high-profile clubs could be defined.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that as one of the high level strategic recommendations, it was suggested that there would be a budget of £250,000 and that up to five clubs could receive a maximum of £50,000. He stated that it could also comprise of ten clubs receiving £25,000. He advised that detailed criteria on this would be presented to Members at a future Committee meeting. He stated that the recommendation, in terms of addressing issues around private clubs, was that currently there was a grant aid programme. However, there was currently no budget available. He advised that details of the recommendations would firstly be considered by the Capital Working Group. He further advised that outside of what was agreed to date through leisure underspend, monies would be allocated towards essential maintenance works on pitches as there is no identified budget. He stated that this would be a matter for Members to prioritise going forward.

Alderman Hussey further queried if this was included within the current rates budget considerations.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that the only spend to date was towards the enhancement of existing facilities such as pitch maintenance, changing facilities and storage and that all of the key strategic recommendations would be for a future date.

In response to a further query from Alderman Hussey, the Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that the work would not commence until April 2022. He further advised that it was a decision for Members in terms of identifying budgets and providing the required budget regarding the key strategic recommendations.

HC45/21 Dog Control (HC13/21) - Walkway Lighting

Councillor Logue advised that she wished to raise an issue regarding walkways. She referred to the lack of lighting along Foyle Embankment from Craigavon Bridge to beyond Coshoven on the Foyle Road. She stated that she had been contacted by a large number of people regarding no lighting in that area. She felt that it was a health and safety issue, therefore it was important that adequate lighting was available in that area to make it safe for people to use and would be grateful if Officers could take this forward. She stated that a lot more people were out walking due to the pandemic restrictions and highlighted a recent appeal by the Mayor for people to avoid the city centre quayside walkway due to concerns around congestion.

In response, the Director of Health and Community stated the comments were noted and she would forward the request to colleagues in the Environment and Regeneration Directorate.

HC46/21 Electromagnetic Fields from 5G Base Stations (HC21/21)

Councillor Farrell requested an update on the 5G masts at Carnhill and Strand Road and queried whether or not they have been tested.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing advised that to date no reports have been received in relation to the monitoring data at those two sites. He further advised that correspondence has been

issued to OFCOM to request the data and once received, Committee would be provided with the information. He stated that information had been received today in relation to a Member briefing in relation to 5G. He noted that the event would be held on 4 March 2021 and that information would be circulated to Members.

As a point of information, Councillor Gallagher advised that an email communication had been sent to Members on the matter.

HC47/21 Deputation: from UNISON, re: Council Motion on Healthcare Workers Pay (HC17/21) - (Seagate Workers Rights)

Councillor Harkin felt that Council had previously spoken at length on workers' rights, social justice and trade unions. He expressed disappointment at the recent treatment of NI port workers and their trade unions. He stated that employees were withdrawn from work on the basis of supposed communication from unions which did not come from unions. He felt it was a situation where people were trying to use trade unions and workers as pawns.

Continuing he stated that he wished to raise a health and safety issue regarding workers in the district. He advised that he had been contacted by workers from Seagate who were experiencing difficulty accessing sick pay whilst self-isolating. He stated that Seagate was a very important and major employer in the area, whose share value had increased during the pandemic. He advised that Seagate employees had continued to work throughout the pandemic and were identified as essential workers. He stated that management were putting pressure on staff to come into work and that employees did not have a recognised trade union, therefore could not have discussions with management of the company on an equal basis on the matter.

Councillor Duffy stated that she was unaware of specific details of the matter, however had received information from an employee at Seagate regarding issues that were being raised. She stated that she was content to second

the proposal, as the letter would request clarity on the situation.

The Chair advised that he had also been contacted by an employee of Seagate. He stated that it was his understanding that at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic that self-isolation would be considered as a separate matter of sick period from work.

Councillor Harkin Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Duffy

That Council write to Seagate management to ask for clarification on workers' ability to access Company Sick Pay (CSP) while self-isolating and for information on the implementation of public health guidelines in their facility.

Alderman Devenney stated that he fully agreed with the sentiments of the proposal. He stated that if there were concerns in the workplace regarding staff in isolation and not being able to access sick pay, it would cause financial hardship.

Members were asked to vote on the proposal, the result of which was unanimous.

The Committee

Recommended **That Council write to Seagate management to ask for clarification on workers' ability to access Company Sick Pay (CSP) while self-isolating and for information on the implementation of public health guidelines in their facility.**

The Director of Legacy presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with the recommendations from the Welfare Reform Working Group with respect to the Hardship Fund.

She advised that with regard to fuel poverty, some Members had indicated that there was still a need in respect to fuel, particularly in the rural areas. She stated that Officers have undertaken further investigation in relation to this. She stated that the Officer team were also attempting to estimate the approximate number of people who had currently accessed support, whether from DfC support administered through neighbourhood partnerships and local growth partnerships, or Bryson Energy and St Vincent de Paul and other local charities who had provided this type of support within local communities. She stated that Officers were also attempting to identify a proxy indicator to give some level of understanding in terms of need. She advised that at this point, there was insufficient information available in order to give a level of quantification in terms of need and that level of quantification was required in order to make a recommendation on a sum of money for audit requirements. Therefore, she advised that without that level of detail, they were unable to provide a recommendation at this point.

She advised that further recommendations from the Welfare Reform Working group had suggested that Council write to the Northern Ireland Executive regarding uncommitted funding and request that consideration be given to an allocation to the hardship fund and a request to work with Council in terms of Stage 2 of the process.

The Chair thanked the Director of Legacy for a very detailed report. He stated that as Chair of the Committee and the Welfare Reform Working Group, he extended his thanks for all the work and effort taken to present to Members on the matter in such a short space of time. Councillor Burke echoed the sentiments expressed by the Chair. She referred to the external synopsis and research piece for Stage 2 of the fund and asked where this related to the work undertaken as part of the research carried out by the DfC Anti-Poverty Strategy and the Advisory Panel. She stated that there were local pieces of research that

had been undertaken, particularly by the Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership and asked if this would be considered as part of the research as she felt it would ensure that no duplication would take place.

Continuing, she asked for confirmation that the synopsis would present an analysis of the level of poverty and the support available. She stated that if so, the hardship fund could be used to identify potential gaps. She further queried if the synopsis would consider elements such as educational under-attainment, low levels of employment and other factors related to poverty, hardship and economic inactivity in Derry and Strabane. She then asked if the external synopsis or elements of it could be compiled in-house by Council Officers. She explained that the reason for asking was due to Councillor M Boyle being approached by Job Directions in Strabane. She stated that this organisation was not included within the education remit, therefore had not been able to avail of assistance during the pandemic. She advised that the organisation had approached Councillor M Boyle requesting assistance for items such as computer hardware and essential skills and qualifications training. She suggested that some elements of funding could be saved by moving in-house, with savings directed towards this type of project, or if other funding could be available to alleviate some of the pressures the organisation was dealing with.

In response, the Director of Legacy advised that in relation to the synopsis, she had recently spoken to the Lead Policy Officer at DfC on the matter. She stated that he had indicated that whilst the expert panel report was completed, it was currently with the Minister for consideration. She advised that DfC was fairly confident that it would keep to the original timeline which indicated that the report would be ready for December 2021. She advised that it was not the intention of DfC to complete a detailed synopsis to the one currently under consideration by the Council and further advised that they did not have any information for Council officers to access. She advised that information from our own synopsis would be detailed to this Council area rather than across all council regions and that the DfC had indicated that they would work with Council in terms of

providing whatever information they had access to in terms of statistics etc.

Continuing, she stated that she was conscious of the DfC Anti-Poverty report and wished to ensure that Council was aligned as much as possible in relation to that.

However, Council's piece of work will be completed in advance of that. She felt that ideally, that piece of work should be able to influence DfC in terms of the consultation process. She advised that Council had a piece of analysis bespoke to this Council area which would be extremely important. She concurred that it was important not to duplicate anything already in place. Therefore, she asked Members to pass on any information to the Officer team. She advised that in terms of the educational aspect, it was recognised that poverty was multi-dimensional and that a single event had not led to someone being in poverty.

She noted that the first section of the report had given an overall context of poverty with the key indicators of poverty and did not draw-down specifically to any one of those elements. She stated that to do that would be a very detailed piece of work and outside of the set timescale. However, the Officer team were aware of work undertaken by labour market partnerships and the social clauses work set up in relation to work being carried out by the anti-poverty working group. She advised that those pieces of work were collated to help form the overall details of the report. She stated that given the fact that it has the potential to be so comprehensive, in-house work would be carried out which would reduce the costs of going out to an external partner.

In relation to Councillor Burke's comments regarding Job Directions. She advised of the Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Programme. She advised of the project by Mr Owen Barr, who had requested donations of used hardware. She noted that he had received considerable donations, however there was obviously considerable demand and suggested contacting him on for some assistance.

Alderman Devenney commended the Director of Legacy and Officers for the substantial piece of work carried out and the swift turnaround. He stated that at the meeting of the Welfare Reform Working Group, Members had agreed to target those areas where gaps in provision was

evident. He stated that Council had £35,000 to spend before the end of the financial year and Officers considered the issues reported by Members. He stated that most issues had been identified and highlighted within the report. However, there were still issues regarding fuel poverty in the rural areas that perhaps could be identified at a later date. He welcomed the recommendation in the report for funding towards the Advice Services and felt that this would be needed as they would become the frontline services once the pandemic came to an end.

Councillor Ferguson also thanked the Director of Legacy and the Officer team on an intensive piece of work. She commended Officers who were asked to consider funding for £35,000. However, they reported a substantial figure of £73,000 funding required with a number of different aspects being taken into consideration. She welcomed that the Churches' Trust have been included in that funding allocation.

Alderman Hussey thanked Officers for the work undertaken in what was clearly a very fluid situation. He particularly welcomed the recognition that a significant number of students from the Derg area and areas in Sperrin, e.g. Plumbridge, attended school in Omagh. He referred to Sacred Heart College in Omagh and believed it was a school with one of the smaller intakes of pupils from the Derg area, therefore he felt that the figure within the report was underestimated. He referred to schools such as Loreto Convent, Christian Brothers, Omagh Integrated, Omagh Academy, Omagh High and Omagh College, and stated that there were a number of pupils that attended those schools from the Derg area.

Nonetheless, he stated that the recognition was extremely welcomed. He stated that he hoped the additional money towards Advice Services would include the ability to contact people from the rural areas as it was important to have outreach in those areas from the Advice Services. He referred to the Anti-Poverty Training Programme and asked if this could be made available to Elected Representatives throughout the rural areas. He stated that the original motion passed at Council regarding the Hardship Fund, had asked that local businesses be approached in regard to contributing to the fund. He asked if any businesses had contributed thus far.

In response, the Director of Legacy stated that this would be considered as part of stage 2 of the fund. She advised that the design of stage 2 would be to identify those priority groups that required support and a campaign would go out to businesses and other potential grant bodies that would be able to provide support. She advised that the £50,000 allocated to the Hardship Fund was primarily for immediate support to carry out a number of interventions, given the level of need that had been identified before Christmas. She advised that stage two was considered more as a longer term intervention. Councillor Harkin referred to the statistics within the report for this Council area, particularly, relative poverty at 23% compared to 18% across the North, absolute poverty at 21% compared to 15% and 50% of the youth living in the 20% most disadvantaged and deprived areas. He described the figures as startling, particularly as they were pre-pandemic. He stated that Officers had undertaken a lot of work to try and establish where money could be spent. However, he felt that the reality was that a lot more money could be spent due to the level of need which was significant across the city and district. He believed that in his opinion, Council had taken this course of action due to the failure of the Executive and the Conservative Government to protect people.

Continuing, he stated that people were living in poverty because of a welfare system that was not fit for purpose and that punished people rather than helping them. He further stated that a lot of people in employment were also in poverty and that this number has dramatically increased. He expressed his lack of confidence in the Executive's ability to present a strategy to address those issues. He felt that Council was trying to help people as much as possible and it was necessary to lobby the Executive to start to address the matter systematically. Councillor Edwards stated that he appreciated and welcomed that fuel poverty in the rural areas has been recognised in the report and requested details on future provision in this regard. In terms of digital poverty, he stated that it was a major issue that had been raised within the Derg Growth Partnership. He stated that RAPID would be introducing an application process and asked if Council would be engaging with schools to

identify eligibility. He stated that the Minister for Education had a scheme in place. However, only certain year groups could apply for digital devices and asked if there was also a timeframe involved.

In response, the Director of Legacy stated that RAPID would receive the funding and would work with the three rural growth partnerships to identify the best approach in terms of allocating the funding and the eligibility criteria. She advised that the organisation would then present their recommendations to Officers for approval.

Therefore, there was time before now and the full Council meeting on 25 February. She further advised that Officers would contact RAPID, obviously pending approval of Committee and Council. She stated that she could not currently comment on the process as RAPID would be engaging firstly with the three local growth partnerships. The Committee

Recommended that (i) Members approve the allocations within the report; (ii) St Vincent de Paul be granted an extension for expenditure to the end of March 2021 for the sum of £15,000 as previously approved in their letter of offer and (iii) write to the Northern Ireland Executive, asking them to identify any budget underspends and direct them to Stage 2 of the Hardship Fund.

HC49/21 Food Fraud Activities - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

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 the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in relation to food fraud activities between Local Authority Food Teams in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and The National Food Crime Unit (NFCU), part of

the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and to approve the signing off this MOU by the Head of Health & Community Wellbeing.

Councillor McHugh endorsed the recommendation within the report. He stated that any process that ensured the quality of food standards was to be welcomed. He stated that whilst he welcomed the collaboration with other councils in England and Wales, he queried if consideration was given in terms of collaboration with counterparts South of the border. He felt that this would be more in focus, given the recent developments regarding Brexit.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that there would be ongoing informal liaison with Environmental Health colleagues across the border. However, the Food Standards Agency NI would also liaise with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

The Committee

Recommended **That Members approve the signing of the MOU by the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing.**

HC50/21 Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland - DAERA Public Discussion Document

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 Members' views on the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Public Discussion Document on a Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland. Members are also asked to consider and approve the draft responses as contained within the report.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the draft responses to the questions posed in the Clean Air Strategy for Northern

HC51/21 Pavement Café Licensing Scheme - Continued Support for Hospitality Businesses

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 Members' approval to extend the period during which an application may be made for a pavement café licence, free of charge until 31 August 2021; for the extension of the licence period of existing pavement café licences with a new expiry date of 31 March 2022.

The Committee

Recommended	that Members (i) approve to extend the period during which an application may be made for a pavement café licence, free of charge until 31 August 2021 and (ii) Approve the extension of the licence period of existing pavement café licences with a new expiry date of 31 March 2022.
-------------	---

HC52/21 Department for Communities Make the Call Wraparound Service - Data Sharing Agreement with Home Safety and Affordable Warmth Teams

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 Members' approval for Council's Home Safety and Affordable Warmth Services to enter into a Data Sharing Agreement with the Department for Communities Make the Call Wraparound Service.

The Committee

Recommended	that Members approve for Council's Home Safety and
-------------	--

Affordable Warmth Services to enter into a Data Sharing Agreement with the Department for Communities Make the Call Wraparound Service.

HC53/21 Dog Control Update

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 and seek Members' views on the implementation of actions raised previously at the Health and Community Committee and Council meetings and provide an update on the responsible dog ownership awareness campaign by Council departments in order to combat dog fouling in this Council area.

Councillor Ferguson endorsed the recommendation within the report. She stated that dog fouling has been a major issue and welcomed the Mayor visiting hotspot areas with the dog wardens. She expressed disappointment that the suggested DNA testing would prove difficult particularly if it was not compulsory. However, dog licensing was compulsory but some dog owners still did not apply to have their pet licensed. She welcomed the 3,500 text messages sent to dog owners outlining the importance of responsible dog ownership. She queried if there was a target audience in this regard as her dog was licensed, but she did not receive any communication from Council. She noted that dog bins were mostly located along main roads and pathways and asked if they could be also made available in the quieter areas of villages.

Councillor Logue thanked Officers for the detailed report. She stated that the issue of dog fouling had been raised over a long number of years and welcomed that more employees have been given authorisation to issue fines. She felt that it was important that Officers engaged with all community groups as their input would be invaluable and had proved successful in the past. She advised that in recent years the Bogside Brandywell Initiative had engaged in a successful project with a partnership approach with Council. She referred to the specific,

high incident areas highlighted within the report and expressed surprise that a number of streets that she had reported to officers on numerous occasions had not been included in the report. She felt that going forward, given that it was a topical issue, that once the new measures had been incorporated that monthly or bi-monthly reports be brought to Committee.

Councillor Logue Proposed, Seconded by Councillor McHugh

That Council engage with community groups and that a monthly or bi-monthly report be brought to this committee.

Alderman Hussey welcomed that staff within the leisure services section would be brought off the furlough scheme to assist with dog control patrols and associated initiatives. He expressed disappointment with regard to the DNA project and that it was unlikely that irresponsible dog owners would avail of such a scheme on a voluntary basis. He asked if there was any possibility that the registration of DNA could be combined with the microchip process.

Councillor Edwards concurred with Alderman Hussey that it was disappointing to see the challenges with DNA testing and noted that Councils in England faced similar challenges. He referred to CCTV and asked if the cameras would be similar to those used to combat issues such as illegal dumping. He further enquired how many extra staff would be redeployed to dog control and would they be trained in enforcement and be authorised to issue fines. He stated that he welcomed the Mayor's initiative of visiting hotspot areas with the dog wardens. He stated that he has extended an invitation to the Mayor to also visit the Derg area. He referred to comments made by Councillor Logue, regarding hotspot areas that had not been mentioned in the report. He stated that there were also areas within the Derg area that were

not mentioned in the report and asked that they be included

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that in relation to CCTV provision, there were two cameras available. He advised that prior to installation, signage would be erected for a period of several days as per policy requirements. However, signage has been erected in problem areas though no footage was obtained in relation to dog fouling offences. He felt that this was to be welcomed as it meant that local dog walkers were adhering to the legislation. In terms of furloughed staff, he advised that approximately 20 staff were currently involved in this initiative and liaison was being carried out with HR on an ongoing basis and it was hoped to increase that number over the coming weeks. He stated that he would be happy to include those areas outlined by Councillors Logue and Edwards onto the scheduled patrols.

Alderman Devenney stated that dog fouling was an ongoing issue throughout the entire Council area. He welcomed the report and the extra patrols being introduced throughout the city and district. He also congratulated the Mayor on his promotional activities. He stated that Council had attempted several initiatives including the issuing of 40,000 dog fouling bags at a cost of £2,000 and also the inclusion of bins and signage. However, he felt the issue was due to irresponsible dog owners. He expressed disappointment regarding the DNA testing, adding that for those dogs that were not microchipped or licensed it would be impossible to have DNA tracing available. He noted that all other costs would be covered by existing budgets and penalty receipts. He stated that an increase in the number of penalties issued would assist in covering some of those costs.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing advised that a number of staff have been authorised to issue fixed penalties across the Environment and Health and Community Wellbeing sections. He stated that the staff who will be

assisting from the Leisure section, would be trained to liaise with members of the public on dog control requirements. However, they would not be authorised to issue fixed penalty notices. He stated that if they did have evidence in relation to offences, they reported it to the dog wardens or any other authorised officers to take it forward.

Councillor McHugh concurred with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers and noted that Alderman Hussey had requested that Mitchell Park in Castlederg be included and asked that Castlefin Road, Castlederg also be included as it was a particular hotspot.

The Chair queried if park rangers were included and authorised to issue fixed penalties. He suggested that Community Safety Wardens who worked in the evenings could also be authorised in this regard.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing advised that Officers would liaise with line managers on the matter. He stated that the park wardens would be critical in enforcing dog control orders, not only for fouling but dog exclusion and dogs on leads. He advised that an update on all of the matters raised by Members would be provided at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee

Recommended	That Members (i) note the measures being taken and future initiatives being planned to help address dog fouling throughout the Council area and (ii) monthly or bi-monthly update reports be presented to the Committee.
-------------	--

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the process and timelines for the 2021/22 Grant Aid Programmes within the Health and Community Directorate.

Alderman Devenney welcomed the report and the good work carried out by Officers. He stated that it was vitally important to have the funding allocated to the relevant grant aid programmes as they needed the support.

Councillor Burke stated that there was no doubt that part of the community recovery programme will be projects and initiatives being assisted by the funding. She felt that this would help restore normality for communities following a tough and challenging 12 months for both the groups and the communities.

The Committee

Recommended	that Members approve the proposed process and timelines for Community Support, Community Centre Venues and Good Relations Grant Aid programmes for 2021/22.
-------------	---

HC55/21 Sport Northern Ireland Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2025

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise Members of and seek views on the Sport Northern Ireland draft Corporate Plan 2020-2025 which is open for consultation in addition to promoting the opportunity for feedback through the Citizens Space survey.

Alderman Devenney stated that anything related to the promotion of sport had to be welcomed. He stated that issues with Covid-19 meant that sporting activities had to be postponed or cancelled. Therefore, any initiative brought forward was appreciated. He further welcomed that sport would be promoted in rural and disadvantaged areas of the city and district as sport was something that united everyone.

Alderman Hussey referred to an issue that has been previously highlighted regarding the designation of club levels. He stated that in December 2020, the Championship Association Football clubs had sought definition as elite sports clubs. He stated that the GAA clubs had at one stage been designated as elite and now designated as non-elite. He stated that there was funding from Sport NI via the governing bodies which also created an issue. Therefore, clarity was needed from Sport NI in consultation with the sporting governing bodies as to the designation of the level of clubs.

Councillor Mooney concurred with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. He stated that officers should take the opportunity to recognise all types of sporting clubs throughout the past year for keeping the clubs going through these challenging times. He commended the resilience of local clubs and local junior members who were attempting to keep juniors interested using various online platforms. He asked if Council could use its media channels to show support to sports clubs throughout the city and district throughout this difficult year.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that he was happy to pass on Councillor Mooney's comments to Council's marketing team. In terms of Alderman Hussey's comments, he was aware of the particular queries and noted that those clubs at championship level for football had not been designated elite status. He also advised that the Irish Government had stated that Gaelic county games were no longer

deemed elite sport in the South of Ireland. However, that was not the case in Northern Ireland.

Councillor McHugh stated that historically, angling clubs had not been considered as a recognised sporting club. He believed that angling clubs should be considered as such because they provided angling activities and asked if this could be considered with the relevant governing bodies.

The Committee

Recommended	That (i) a draft response is prepared incorporating Members' Comments and (ii) that local sports clubs be recognised and commended through Council's social media platforms.
--------------------	---

HC56/21 Draft Budget Consultation - Department for Communities

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 following the decision of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee of the consultation period, which closes on 25 February 2021, of the open consultation process for the draft 2021/2022 budget for the Department for Communities (DfC).

She referred to the Special Meeting of Council held on 8 February 2021, where Council agreed a second phase of the motion in terms of writing to the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Communities to respond to the DfC consultation in relation to its budget allocation, particularly regarding Advice Services. She stated that the clarification provided noted that resolution would supersede that of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee which had yet to be ratified. She advised that after discussion with the Lead Finance Officer, correspondence had been issued in terms of the wording of the motion. She advised that Members comments were now sought for inclusion of a detailed response. She further advised that a draft and equality impact assessment was open for consideration in respect of DfC funding with 92% being allocated towards set expenditure and the other

8% considered as variable. She then invited additional comments from Members.

Councillor Duffy noted that the Minister for Communities had expressed disappointment in terms of the budget allocation and had specifically asked that people respond to the consultation. She also wished to note that pressures had arisen due to the fact that two, three-year budgets had been proposed. However, at this late stage, the British Government instigated a one-year budget which had meant that money could not be carried over. She stated that in terms of New Decade New Approach, funding commitments had not been realised. She felt that all those issues must be taken into consideration. She noted that it was important to understand that the budget is in draft form, therefore, it was important to make our feelings and views heard. She stated that the Minister had advised that in terms of importance of Advice Services, she wished for these to continue.

She advised that the Minister had also stated her commitment to the continuation of the mitigations, but also wished to address the loopholes identified in terms of the bedroom tax and other benefit gaps. She is considering implementing additional measures to support those who have been struggling on a long-term basis with cuts and asked that these issues also be included within the draft consultation. She stated that her Party supported the scrapping of the six-month rule and that Minister Hargey had stated that she was pursuing the matter. She urged Members to respond to the consultation as everyone was aware of the importance of the budget and the Department for Communities services towards vulnerable people throughout the city and district.

Councillor Harkin described the draft budget as disastrous and completely unacceptable. He stated that it was also unacceptable to hear from Sinn Fein that Members had to do the work set up by their Minister. He felt that it was important to note that the Political Parties who said they were leading the fight against welfare reform and then delivered it. He stated that there was never funding agreed from the New Decade New Approach discussions, which he described as a failure. He stated that Members now had to deal with the legacy of this failure. He referred to the unspent money by the Executive and expressed concern that a draft budget consultation had now been issued that once again dealt with the legacy of welfare reform brought in by Parties unnecessarily. He stated that Council should state in the

strongest possible language that the budget was unacceptable and that the Executive must find the money to ensure that these proposed cuts did not come to fruition. He referred to a recent article that documented the impact of the potential funding cut in the Belfast Telegraph from Advice NI and recommended that people read it.

Councillor Farrell noted Councillor Duffy's comments that the Minister for Communities was disappointed with the draft budget and stated that communities across the North would be equally disappointed. However, it was important to remember that it was in draft form and had yet to be finalised. He stated that the matter had been discussed at length at previous meetings and that there was £60m of New Decade New Approach commitments regarding welfare protections that were not there at all. He noted the £1.5m of funding cuts for the independent advice services which would severely impact this Council and local service provision and people's ability to obtain free, impartial and professional advice. He stated that society was currently in a pandemic and should be enhancing this service instead of stripping it away. He stated that although the budget was in draft form, the Minister needed to take ownership and whatever the final outcome, it was the decision of the Minister and therefore, she would be held accountable for the impact on local communities.

Alderman Devenney stated that although everyone expressed disappointment at the draft budget, it was currently in draft form. He stated that all Parties needed to respond to the consultation and raise their concerns. He advised that the DUP would be raising their concerns to their MLAs.

The Committee

Recommended that Council respond to the Department for Communities consultation on the equality impact assessment of the draft budget.

HC57/21 Legal Proceedings Instigated in respect of Deer Carcasses - Outcome Update

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, details of which were previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the outcome of legal proceedings which Council instigated in respect of food related offences pertaining to deer carcasses found at domestic premises in Ashleigh Court, Castlederg, Co Tyrone.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the content of the report.

HC58/21 Correspondence

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report, details of which were previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on correspondence received by Council.

Councillor Edwards noted his frustration regarding correspondence from Royal Mail. He advised that the Mayor had also recently received additional correspondence informing him that the relocation of Castlederg Sorting Office to Strabane would take place at the end of February. He stated that the company had disregarded the views of Elected Representatives, MLAs and the union on the matter which was deeply disappointing.

Alderman Hussey felt that the degree of arrogance from Royal Mail management on this issue was astounding. He stated that he concurred with Councillor Edwards that the Mayor and the Director of Health and Community had written to the company on several occasions noting Council's concerns. He advised that a meeting was scheduled with Royal Mail, CWU and Members on 21 December 2020, but Royal Mail did not attend. He felt that this was a complete snub of Elected Representatives of the Council area at all levels.

Alderman Devenney stated that the DUP concurred with the sentiments expressed with the previous speakers

regarding the sheer arrogance and a snub by Royal Mail to public representatives. He stated that Royal Mail would go ahead with the closure of the sorting office at Castlederg without considering the major concerns raised which was disgraceful.

Councillor McHugh stated that when he initially raised the matter last year, Sinn Féin and their Party MP for West Tyrone had met with representatives from Royal Mail on that issue. He stated that after the meeting had taken place, they felt that it was a *fait accompli* and expressed disappointment that with the involvement of all parties, they were still met with the same arrogance.

Councillor Harkin noted the response from the Department for the Economy regarding taxi drivers. He stated that further action had been taken as more help was being provided, but there was also gaps in the process. He stated that Taxi drivers have been one of a group of workers that have been allowed to fall through the cracks and have struggled. He welcomed that they were to receive some financial assistance but expressed concern that not everyone could avail of it.

The Chair noted that the second financial assistance scheme would be available in the coming days for taxi drivers. He believed that although there were changes made to the scheme, the £250 penalty for drivers who took a payment holiday in their insurance was unacceptable.

The Committee

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

HC59/21 Consultations

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report, details of which were previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on consultations received by Council.

The Committee

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

**HC60/21 Matters Arising from the Confidential Minutes of the Health and
Community Committee held on Thursday 14 January
2021**

HC61/21 Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh - Extension/Renewal of Lease of Lands

The meeting terminated at 6.45 pm